



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Council Cabinet
15 February 2011

Report of the Strategic Director of
Neighbourhoods

ITEM 20

Review of the Leisure Management Agreement with Derby College

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council currently manages sport facilities at Derby College, as part of a usage agreement, to enable weekend and evening usage. In 2010 the college announced plans to relocate to new premises at Pride Park. The relocation has had an impact on the current agreement and therefore it's necessary to review the council's position.
- 1.2 Officers from Leisure Facilities have met with the College to identify alternative options to maintain levels of usage of the facilities that would be at no cost to the council. Further meetings will take place to agree future arrangements for the management of the College sport facilities.
- 1.3 As part of the condition of the usage agreement the council are obliged to give three months notice to withdraw from the agreement. The report recommends that the council give notice to terminate the usage agreement and continue to explore viable options to maintain usage of the college facilities.
- 1.4 The College facilities have an established programme of sport clubs and group bookings on weekends and evenings, providing a regular level of custom to the college. The level of staff supervision to maintain the current levels of usage needs to be reviewed including options for the College to revert to a similar staffing operation to those adopted by schools who manage their own sports facilities.
- 1.5 Further options on how the facilities could be managed have been discussed with the College and the Council and further meetings are planned to identify a preferred option that is acceptable to both organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council to serve notice to Derby College to withdraw from the current usage agreement with Derby College.
- 2.2 To meet with the College to discuss and agree the preferred route for maintaining community use of the sports facilities at the college.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The current agreement needs to be reviewed to take in to account the relocation of the college, the costs to the council for managing a non council facility and alternative options for sustaining the levels of usage of the college facilities.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council currently manages Derby College as part of a usage agreement with the college to ensure the sports facilities are available for the local community. These facilities consist of a sports hall, a full size floodlit artificial turf pitch with changing rooms.
- 4.2 The artificial turf pitch was funded by Sport England and the college and council are obliged to maintain the pitch under the conditions of the grant. The original grant agreement with the Sports Council signed in 1995 stipulates that each organisation would 'provide a contingency or sinking fund for major maintenance, repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed term life elements of the facility.' The council could be vulnerable for claw back if it was not prepared to contribute to the up keep and withdraw, however it is unlikely given the time that the agreement was in 1995 and a number of similar outdoor pitch developments have taken place.
- 4.3 The Derby College campus has relocated to an alternative site; however the sports facilities will remain for an extended period of time.
- 4.4 Under the terms of the partnership agreement the council will manage and operate the college sports facilities during the evenings and weekends to ensure the facilities are available by the local community. The council does not operate any other agreement of this type with any other education organisations.
- 4.5 The sports facilities have an established programme of club and block bookings for the use of the college sports hall and outdoor synthetic pitch.
- 4.6 Since 1995 the city has increased the number of synthetic full size football pitches. The Facilities Planning Model from Sport England highlight that the city has an over supply of outdoor synthetic pitches, however Mackworth is a deprived area of the city with significant health and well being issues.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The college have considered, following past meetings with the Leisure Officers, the option of them managing the community use of the facilities on evening and weekends, in the same way that schools and other education establishments are managed.
- 5.2 A further option to pay the City Council a management fee for the running of the College facilities has been discussed. The management fee would mean that the cost of managing the college sport facilities would be cost neutral to the Council.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Stuart Leslie Toni Heathcote Claire Davenport
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Andrew Beddow 01332 641230 e-mail Andrew.beddow@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The net cost to the Council for managing and operating evening and weekend usage of the College facilities is approximately £30,000. A £65,000 reserve for the replacement is held as part of the original Sports Council grant condition.

Legal

- 2.1 The original grant agreement with the sports council stipulates that both the Council and the College will fund lifecycle replacement and repair costs for the synthetic pitch.

Personnel

- 3.1 Staffed employed at Derby College have been included in the leisure centre staff restructure.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising

Health and Safety

- 5.1 Options to manage the facility will have to fulfil health and safety requirements including inspection and operation procedures.

Carbon commitment

- 6.1 None directly arising

Value for money

- 7.1 Options to maintain the level of usage of the college sports facilities at a reduced cost to the council is an efficient use of the council's resources.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 8.1 None directly arising