

Executive Committee

9 August 2016

Scrutiny review of council support for Bridport Leisure Centre

For Decision

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Mary Penfold - Enabling

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

M Hamilton, Strategic Director

Report Author:

N Thornley, Head of Economy, Leisure & Tourism

T. Hurley, Leisure Commissioning Manager

C Evans, Financial Performance Manager

Statutory Authority

Localism Act 2011 – ‘general power of competence’.

Purpose of Report

1. To present to the Executive Committee the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee’s review of council support for the operation of Bridport Leisure Centre.

Officer Recommendations

2. That the Executive Committee notes the Overview & Scrutiny Committee’s recommendation that the council’s offer of future support to the Bridport & West Dorset Sports Trust for the operation of Bridport Leisure Centre and that the matter is considered as part of the forthcoming budget setting process for 2017-18.

Reason for Decision

3. The decision of the Executive Committee is required in order to inform discussions with the Bridport & West Dorset Sports Trust with regard to future council support for the operation of Bridport Leisure Centre.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

4. At its meeting on 19th January, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a more thorough review of the operation of Bridport Leisure Centre and the council’s financial support, through the establishment of a member working group with the aim developing detailed recommendations for the Committee to submit to the Executive Committee.

5. The member working group comprised: Cllr Peter Shorland (lead member), Cllr Sandra Brown, Cllr Dominic Elliott, Cllr Ros Kayes and Cllr Daryl Turner. Cllrs Mary Penfold and Ronald Coatsworth also attended the meetings as observers.
6. The working group met on three occasions following a site visit to the Leisure Centre. As part of its review the working group met with representatives of the Trust and reviewed information on the management and performance of other leisure centres in the area. The working group's report is set out in the report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (**Appendix A**) and the committee's discussion and recommendations are set out in the minute extract (**Appendix B**).
7. It is recommended that the Executive Committee notes the recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and considers the matter further as part of the forthcoming budget setting process for 2017-18.

Implications

8. **Corporate Plan.** *Empowering Thriving and Inclusive Communities:* Actively promote health choices and lifestyles with our health partners so that people are able to improve their health and well-being.
9. **Financial.** Decisions on the future level of financial support to the Trust will have implications for the council's budget setting process for 2017-18. Any offer of financial support to the Trust should be considered in the context of council's need to make significant reductions across all services in order to reduce its annual revenue expenditure by £4.32 million by the end of the decade. This reduction in expenditure is required to achieve an annual balanced budget.
10. **Equalities.** The centre provides a range of activities that are accessible to the community, particularly those with disabilities and other specific needs.
11. **Economic Development.** The Bridport & West Dorset Sports Trust is a significant local employer and the Trust claims to employ approximately 100 people in full and part-time roles.
12. **Risk Management (including Health & Safety).** The primary risk is the council's ability to make a long-term commitment of financial support for Bridport Leisure Centre which it may not be able to afford in future years, given that leisure centres are discretionary services and the council's need to reduce its annual revenue expenditure by £4.32 million before the end of the decade.
13. If the Trust was unable to continue operating the centre in future and relinquish its lease from Palmer's Brewery, then the district council would, under the terms of the lease, be given 6 months to nominate another charitable body to become the new tenant.

Consultation and Engagement

14. In undertaking the scrutiny review, the working group engaged with the Bridport & West Dorset Sports Trust.

Appendices

15. **APPENDIX A** – Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th July 2016 – *Review of council support for Bridport Leisure Centre – report of member working group.*

APPENDIX B - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2016 – Minute Extract.

Background Papers

16. Report to Efficiency Scrutiny Committee 19th January 2016 – *Financial Support for Bridport Leisure Centre.*

Footnote

17. Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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