

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CLLR PHILLIP BRIGHTMORE

KEY DECISION: YES

PORTFOLIO AREA: LEISURE & RECREATION

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: LEISURE SERVICES

WARDS AFFECTED: BIDSTON AND ST JAMES

SUBJECT: BEECHWOOD RECREATION CENTRE

1.RECOMMENDATION:

- 1.1 That the Assistant Director Community Services be authorised to undertake a procurement process to seek a provider to run the leisure offer from Beechwood Recreation Centre. The contractor would deliver a leisure service from Beechwood Recreation Centre through a 5-year concession contract accompanied by a lease which will seek an appropriate rental offer. The contractor is expected to operate a full management and operational approach.
- 1.2 Award of contract will be brought to Cabinet or Cabinet Member for decision.

2. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 In December 2015, Cabinet approved a budget option for the financial year 2016/2017 for Leisure Services to seek an alternative provider for Beechwood Recreation Centre with associated savings of £73k. Public Consultation findings were reported to Cabinet on 22nd February 2016.

A soft market exercise was undertaken in March 2016 supported by the then Cabinet Member Councillor Meaden. This comprised of all key stakeholders receiving either an email or written communication informing them of the intention to explore an alternative provider for the Beechwood Recreation Centre.

An Expressions of Interest exercise was undertaken in May 2016 which comprised of an advert on the Wirral Council website and written communication with all key stakeholders, an application and business plan document, floor plans, condition survey and a financial breakdown for the Beechwood Recreation Centre. The process invited interested parties to submit an interest by 24th June 2016.

As a result of the projected building work costs (£876k) attached to the condition survey (to establish cyclical planned maintenance/future

replacement costs over a 10-year period) of the Beechwood Centre, interested parties were unable to submit a financially viable application.



- 2.2 A capital bid was submitted in December 2016 for the value of £500k, to undertake the essential works identified within the conditions survey in order to make the building sustainable.
- 2.3 Some scheduled works have been undertaken and other works are due to be undertaken.
- 2.4 In September 2018 the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Recreation, Councillor Brightmore, requested a briefing paper setting out the options for the future approach to Beechwood Recreation Centre. Councillor Brightmore agreed that the option to contract out Beechwood Recreation Centre to an alternative provider be progressed. This provides for a management and operational approach to the new provider while the physical asset remains with the Council.
- 2.5 The proposal is that Council seeks to contract an alternative provider within a management and operation approach under a concession contract of up to 5 years. Capital works have been progressed and will be completed. The alternative provider would be required to deliver a leisure service from Beechwood Recreation Centre. Any financial losses or surpluses made by the alternative provider would be their responsibility as would all capital works on the building and allow for the expected £73,000 saving to be achieved by the Council.
- 2.6 Whilst Council wishes to have a leisure facility in the area, a budget saving was agreed in December 2015 and this proposal supports the delivery of that saving.

Members should note pricing control will not be sought as the contractor will need flexibility in order to make a return.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

<p>Signed:</p> <p>Executive Member:  PHILIP BRIGHT</p> <p>Date: 17/01/2019</p> <p>Also present:</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p>Chief Officer:  ANDREW CLOUSTON</p> <p>Date: 17/01/2019.</p>
<p>Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s):</p>	

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer:

Date:

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:

