

AGENDA ITEM NO 7

TITLE: Leisure Centre & Sport Facilities Service Level Agreement Funding 2015-16

Committee: Commercial Services Committee

Date: 3rd March 2015

Author: Martin Grey, Sport and Health Development Officer [P197]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To agree grant funding allocations for leisure centres and sport facilities for 2015-16.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Approve the annual grant contributions for the 2015-16 Service Level Agreements (SLA's) as set out in the proposed funding allocation column in the table in paragraph 3.3

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 At 13th January 2015 Commercial Services Committee meeting, Members agreed to a revised motion deferring consideration of grant funding to leisure centres, until Officers had been able to assess the implications of the East Cambs Indoor Sports Facility Strategy and Action Plan. This is to ensure that the Council's grant funding is being targeted at those facilities most in need.

3.2 Officers therefore wrote to leisure centres on 15th January 2015 inviting them to submit a request for SLA funding through an application form process, by 6th February, and to justify their requested level of funding. The application form sent to the centres is attached at Appendix 1.

3.3 The table below sets out the funding that has been provided to leisure centres and sports facilities for 2014-15; the application form requested funding from individual centres; and Officer proposals for grant funding for 2015-6.

Leisure Centre or Sport Facility	Geographical Area	Current Funding Allocation 2014-15	Application Form Requested SLA Funding	Proposed Funding Allocation 2015-16
Burwell Sport Centre	Burwell	£4,539	£4,539	£4,539
Bottisham Sport Centre	Bottisham	£2,723	£10,000	£2,723

Ellesmere Sport Centre	Stetchworth	£2,723	£4,000	£2,723
Mepal Outdoor Centre	Mepal	£2,723	£7,000	£2,723
Littleport Leisure Centre	Littleport	£4,539	£6,000	£4,539 - Subject to another Committee decision
Paradise Sport Centre	Ely	£2,723	£0	£0
EOSA	Ely	£4,539	£4,539	£4,539
Ross Peers Sport Centre	Soham	£2,723	£4,000	£2,723
		£27,232	£40,078	£24,509

3.4 It was very difficult to assess from the information the centres provided, which were in greatest need of grant funding support from the Council. It was evident from the application process that many centres could benefit from more business planning support to help develop their priorities and their justification for additional funding to improve their viability.

3.5 As a consequence, Officers propose to keep SLA grant funding for the same for 2015-16 for all centres, apart from Paradise Sports Centre. The Paradise Sports Centre's application declined the need for grant funding from the Council for 2015-6. Littleport Leisure Centre's SLA funding allocation is subject to the outcome of another paper discussing the future of the centre at Commercial Services Committee on 3rd March 2015.

4.0 ARGUMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Centres are in need of financial support and many rely on getting SLA funding to support their core running costs.

4.2 Support is needed to help with business planning, as centres did not provide a clear enough justification for increases to SLA grants.

4.3 New criteria need to be developed for funding allocations for 2016/17 following work to implement the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy and Action Plan.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The proposed funding allocations for 2015-16 can be funded from the existing Community & Leisure Services budget.

- 5.2 There will be a reserve pot of £2,723 that can be used to support leisure centres in addition to the SLA funding if required, in 2015/16.
- 5.3 £4,539 has been provisionally allocated to Littleport Leisure Centre subject to the outcome of another paper discussing the future of the centre at Commercial Services Committee on 3rd March 2015.

6.0 **APPENDICES**

- 6.1 Appendix 1- Application form
- 6.2 Appendix 2- Letter (From Chief Executive, dated 12th February 2015)

Background Documents	Location	Contact Officer
East Cambs Indoor Sports Facility Strategy and Action Plan.	Room FF115, The Grange	Martin Grey Sport and Health Development Officer (01353) 616267 E-mail: martin.grey@eastcambs.gov.uk

Leisure Centre Service Level Agreement Grant Funding Application 2015/16

Please return to Martin Grey by Friday 6th February 2015.

As well as this form we require you to provide us with your most recent committee budget update report and commentary.

Leisure Centre Name:	
Centre Manager Name :	

1) What level of funding does your centre need to secure to maintain the same level of opening and service provision you were able to provide to the community in 2014-15? Explain your justification for bidding for this level of funding.

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2) Detail what impact any reduction of funding from ECDC would have on your facility?

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3) Explain whether you have plans to approach your parish council or any other funding sources for match funding in 2015-16 using your SLA grant? Detail what you would be planning to spend this revenue money on?

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4) Please provide any further information that you believe we are required to know in terms of your application for SLA grant funding.

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EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555
DX41001 ELY Fax: (01353) 665240
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

To:

Members and Substitutes of Corporate
Governance and Finance Committee

The matter is being dealt with by:

John Hill

Telephone No. 01353 616271
E-mail john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk
My Ref: JH/Is/Cttee/CG&FC-240215

12th February 2015

Dear Member

SPECIAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – 24 FEBRUARY 2015

There is no longer a requirement for the previously arranged Special Corporate Governance and Finance Committee on 24 February 2015.

Therefore, with the agreement of the Chairman, the special meeting is cancelled.

The agenda item in relation to Littleport Leisure Community Centre, will now be considered by the meeting of the Commercial Services Committee on Tuesday 3 March 2015 at 5.30pm, as it relates to the potential purchase of land by the Council (ref: Section 3(14) para 3.3)

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

JOHN HILL

John Hill
Chief Executive