

AGENDA ITEM NO 8**TITLE: LEISURE CENTRE & SPORT FACILITIES SERVICE LEVEL FUNDING 2015-16**

Committee: Commercial Services Committee

Date: 13th January 2015

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To agree funding allocations for the 2015-16 financial year for leisure centres and sport facilities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Approve the annual grant contributions for the 2015-16 Service Level Agreements as set out in 3.1

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The table below sets out the funding that has been provided to leisure centres and sports facilities for 2014-15 and for 2015-16. It is proposed there is no change and to maintain the same level of funding next year.

Leisure Centre or Sport Facility	Geographical Area	Current Funding Allocation 2014-15	Proposed Funding Allocation 2015-16
Burwell Sport Centre	Burwell	£4,539	£4,539
Bottisham Sport Centre	Bottisham	£2,723	£2,723
Ellesmere Sport Centre	Stetchworth	£2,723	£2,723
Mepal Outdoor Centre	Mepal	£2,723	£2,723
Littleport Leisure Centre	Littleport	£4,539	£4,539
Paradise Sport Centre	Ely	£2,723	£2,723
EOSA	Ely	£4,539	£4,539
Ross Peers Sport Centre	Soham	£2,723	£2,723
		£27,232	£27,232

- 3.2 In June 2014, The Sports Consultancy were appointed by the Council to undertake a district wide Needs Assessment, Strategy and Action plan for indoor sports facility provision, and a feasibility study and options appraisal for a new Ely Leisure Centre.
- 3.3 This strategy highlights that many indoor leisure facilities in East Cambs are over 30 years old, and the existing Leisure Trusts are not able to generate sufficient surpluses or have sufficient reserves to drive a refurbishment and redevelopment programme. There has been a history of under investment in most indoor leisure facilities that don't generate a surplus and, as a consequence, refurbishment and redevelopment have not been able to keep pace with customer expectations and changing demands.
- 3.4 Most of the centres listed in 3.1 therefore currently rely on the annual grant contribution from the Council to help meet their ongoing revenue costs.

4.0 ARGUMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The District Council recognises that the Leisure Trusts play a crucial role in providing opportunities for residents to be able to participate in sport and the health and well being benefits that come from this.
- 4.2 The Council has historically supported the Leisure Trusts through the provision of funding linked to service level agreement. The District Council's financial contribution to these community based leisure facilities is essential to their current sustainability and ability to deliver access to sports services.
- 4.3 The strategy and action plan provides recommendations about how the Leisure Trusts and Council could work together in 2015-16 to improve the viability of individual centres. The Council's funding for 2016-17 will therefore need to take account of work undertaken to deliver the recommendations in the indoor sports facility action plan.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 It is proposed to maintain the same level of grant funding for leisure centres in 2015-16 as was awarded in 2014-15. This can be funded from existing resources in the Community & Leisure Services budget.
- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment attached at Appendix A.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

Background Documents

East Cambs Indoor Sports Facility Strategy and Action Plan (draft)

Location

Room

FF115, The Grange

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FORM

Name of Policy:	Grants to Leisure Centres and Sports Facilities
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Allison Conder, Principal Community and Leisure Services Officer
Department:	Community & Leisure Services
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	
Date EIA Completed:	22/12/14

What is an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)?

As part of any effective policy development process, it is important to consider any potential risks to those who will be affected by the policy's aims or by its implementation. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process helps us to assess the implications of our decisions on the whole community, to eliminate discrimination, tackle inequality, develop a better understanding of the community we serve, target resources efficiently, and adhere to the transparency and accountability element of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The word 'policy', in this context, includes the different things that the Council does. It includes any policy, procedure or practice - both in employment and service delivery. It also includes proposals for restructuring, redundancies and changes to service provision.

(a) **What is the policy trying to achieve?** i.e. What is the aim/purpose of the policy? Is it affected by external drivers for change? What outcomes do we want to achieve from the policy? How will the policy be put into practice?

The paper seeks approval for an annual grant contribution as part of the 2015-16 Service Level Agreements with eight Leisure Centres and sports facilities.

The District Council recognises that the sports and leisure trusts play a crucial role in meeting a wide variety of sporting needs, which enable people to lead a healthier lifestyle. The Council has historically supported the leisure facilities through the provision of funding linked to service level agreements.

(b) **Who are its main beneficiaries?** i.e. who will be affected by the policy?

The main beneficiaries are the residents and sports clubs who access the services provided by the organisations. The leisure trusts are volunteer community based organisations, which provide vital access to sports facilities and services across a rural district.

(c) **Is the EIA informed by any information or background data (quantitative or qualitative)?** i.e. consultations, complaints, applications received, allocations/take-up, satisfaction rates, performance indicators, access audits, census data, benchmarking, workforce profile etc.

The Council has completed an assessment of indoor sports facility provision across East Cambs. This work has shown that there are deficits in provision of a number of facilities and that all of the current leisure facilities are strategically important in meeting current needs for indoor sports provision. The demand for sports provision is increasing as the population of the District continues to grow but because most of the leisure Trusts are not able to generate sufficient surpluses, or have sufficient reserves, to drive a refurbishment and redevelopment programme. Most of the centres listed therefore currently rely on an annual grant contribution from the Council to help meet their ongoing revenue costs.

(d) Does this policy have the potential to cause a positive or negative impact on different groups in the community, on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics? (please tick all that apply)

Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion and Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Caring Responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain any impact identified: i.e. What do you already know about equality impact or need? Is there any evidence that there is a higher or lower take-up by particular groups? Have there been any demographic changes or trends locally? Are there any barriers to accessing the policy or service?

The Leisure Trusts rely on core funding from the District Council to continue to operate. If the grant was not awarded there is a high probability that some - if not all - of the services would cease to exist in East Cambs.

(e) Does the policy have a differential impact on different groups?	YES/NO/Na
(f) Is the impact <i>adverse</i> (i.e. less favourable)?	YES/NO/Na
(g) Does it have the potential to disadvantage or discriminate unfairly against any of the groups in a way that is unlawful?	YES/NO/Na

(h) How have you engaged stakeholders in gathering evidence or testing the policy proposals? Who was involved, how and when where they engaged? Does the evidence show potential for differential impact? How will you mitigate any negative impacts? Where there is the potential for an adverse impact that cannot be addressed immediately, these should be highlighted in your recommendations and objectives at the end of the EIA.

As part of the Service Level Agreements, the Leisure Trusts provide accounts and monitoring information.

The performance monitoring data supplied by the trusts also provides evidence of the high level of demand for the services they provide.

* The Consultation Register is available to assist staff in consulting with the Council's stakeholders.

(i) Summarise the findings of your research and/or consultation (please use a separate sheet if necessary).

If the SLAs are renewed for a further year with the associated grant funding, there will be no negative impact on the leisure trusts, and thus no negative impact on the communities or individuals that would be affected if their services were withdrawn.

(j) What are the risks associated with the policy in relation to differential impact and unmet needs/requirements? i.e. reputation, financial, breach of legislation, service exclusion, lack of resources, lack of cooperation, insufficient budget etc.

If the SLAs were not renewed and services were no longer provided by the leisure trusts to residents and communities in East Cambs, there would be a significant impact on participation in sport and opportunities for people to stay physically active. This would impact negatively and place additional financial pressure on public sector services to address the consequences of inactive lifestyles.

(k) Use the information gathered in the earlier stages of your EIA to make a judgement on whether there is the potential for the policy to result in unlawful discrimination or a less favourable impact on any group in the community, and what changes (if any) need to be made to the policy.

Option 1:	No major change - the evidence shows that the policy is robust and no potential for discrimination.	X
Option 2:	Adjust the policy - to remove barriers or to better promote equality.	
Option 3:	Continue the policy - despite potential for adverse impact or missed opportunity to promote equality, provided you have satisfied yourself that it does not unlawfully discriminate.	
Option 4:	Stop and remove the policy – if the policy shows adverse effects that cannot be justified.	

(l) Where you have identified the potential for adverse impact, what action can be taken to remove or mitigate against the potential for the policy to unlawfully discriminate or impact less favourably on one or more communities in a way that cannot be justified? Include key activities that are likely to have the greatest impact (max. 6). Identified actions should be specified in detail for the first year but there may be further longer term actions which need to be considered. To ensure that your actions are more than just a list of good intentions, include for each: the person responsible for its completion, a timescale for completion, any cost implications and how these will be addressed. It is essential that you incorporate these actions into your service plans.

If the SLAs are renewed for a further year with the associated grant funding, there will be no negative impact on the leisure trusts, and thus no negative impact on the communities or individuals that would be affected if their services were withdrawn.

If the recommendation is approved, new SLAs will be drawn up by the Sport and Health Development Officer ready to take effect from 1st April 2015.

This completed EIA will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service. **Please forward completed and signed forms to the Principal HR Officer.**

All completed EIAs will need to be scrutinised and verified by the Council’s Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) and published on the Council’s Intranet to demonstrate to local people that the

Council is actively engaged in tackling potential discrimination and improving its practices in relation to equalities. Please be aware that may be asked to attend a half-an-hour session to summarise the findings of the EIA to the Scrutiny and Verification panel.

Signatures:

Completing Officer: _____ **Date:** _____

Head of Service: _____ **Date:** _____