

Cherwell District Council

Council

16 October 2017

<p style="text-align: center;">Notification of Urgent Action Stratfield Brake Sports Ground, Kidlington</p>

Report of the Director of Operational Delivery

This report is public

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the decision taken under urgent powers in consultation with relevant Members to approve the award of an operating contract for Stratfield Brake Sports Ground and transitional financial support to Kidlington (KPC) and Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Councils (G&WEPC) and a number of urgency actions to progress in a timely manner.

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Council is recommended to note the urgent action taken to approve the award of an operating contract and associated actions.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Urgency powers have been used to award an operating contract for Stratfield Brake Sports Ground. This followed consideration by the Council's Executive on 19 June 2017 when the following was resolved:

- To award the contract award to tenderer 1 for the operation of Stratfield Brake Sports Ground on behalf of Kidlington Parish and Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Councils;
- To let the contract subject to the completion of a funding agreement with the local parishes for the costs arising;
- To support in principle Kidlington Parish and Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Councils with transitional funding of up to £100,000 for 2017/18 only;
- To support the use of urgent action in consultation with the Council Vice-Chairman in lieu of a recommendation to Council to approve the allocation of the extra budget needed for transitional support; and
- To report the matter to the July Full Council meeting for information.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Stratfield Brake Sports Ground was a National Lottery funded project which this Council instigated in the mid-1990s. It has proven popular with local sports clubs and has delivered significant sporting benefit. However, despite an acceptable operation in its early years, the combined KPC/G&WEPC and sports clubs operation has had its limitations and needs to change.
- 3.2 The Executive consideration of this matter in June 2017 concluded that the most logical change is to a professionally run contracted operation which provides the opportunity to deliver wider community use. Whilst this will put operational finances on a firmer footing, it will increase the budgeted costs of the operation and result in a change of free use by clubs to them becoming hirers of the facility.
- 3.3 The alternative five year contract has scope for termination or extension after this period and will provide an operational basis whereby all users, including the two primary clubs, will have to pay for the hire of the facilities whereas they have paid little or nothing upto now. The contract also incentivises the operator to promote wider community use of the facility on a professional footing, thereby creating the potential for greater community benefit, the extent to which does not exist at present. This is particularly relevant as there is concern amongst the local parishes that it is a relatively high cost for limited community benefit.
- 3.4 The contract was not let before the July Council meeting and hence the requirement for this report to the following Council meeting.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The report outlines to Council action already taken to let a new operating contract for Stratfield Brake Sports Ground on behalf of KPC and G&WEPC as required by the Executive when taking this decision.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 As this report fulfills the requirements of an Executive decision, no alternative options have been considered.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 None

Comments checked by Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer, Tel. 0300 0030106 paul.sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 The draft funding agreement in circulation for approval by the parties records the financial commitments the parish councils had agreed to make ahead of the Council letting the leisure contract with Parkwood Leisure Limited, and is expected to be completed shortly.

Comments checked by Richard Hawtin, Team Leader, Non-Contentious
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Risk Implications

- 7.3 None.

Comments checked by Louise Tustian, Team Leader Strategic Intelligence & Insight Team; 01295 22 1786; louise.tustian@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All Kidlington and surrounding wards

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Cherwell: A Thriving Community – provide high quality and accessible leisure opportunities.

Lead Councillor

Councillor George Reynolds, Deputy Leader

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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