

# Forest Heath District Council

(This report is a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Health, Leisure & Culture

**CABINET**

**4 DECEMBER 2012**

**CAB12/045**

### **REVIEW OF ANGLIA COMMUNITY LEISURE CONTRACT** (Key Decision Reference: DEC12/02)

#### **1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 The current Agreement between Forest Heath District Council and Anglia Community Leisure provides that in December 2012 a decision will be made as to whether to increase the current term of the Agreement by a further 5 years from June 2013 or to give Anglia Community Leisure 6 months' notice in December 2012 with the Agreement terminating in June 2013.
- 1.2 There is a desire for ongoing partnership between Anglia Community Leisure and Abbeycroft Leisure in the future and the recommendation is made so that Cabinet can permit a variation of the Anglia Community Leisure Agreement to take the Agreement through to the end of March 2014 to allow discussions to take place with a view to progression of the Leisure Trusts working in partnership in the future. All parties have agreed to commit to working towards a target date of 1 April 2013 for the appointment of a Joint Chief Executive Officer for both Trusts.

#### **2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That Cabinet authorise a variation to the existing Anglia Community Leisure Contract to allow for an extension until the end of March 2014.

#### **Contact details**

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### **3. How will the recommendations help us meet our strategic priorities?**

- 3.1 The provision of leisure facilities within the district assists in meeting the strategic priorities.

### **4. Key issues**

- 4.1 Forest Heath District Council entered into a Management Agreement with Anglia Community Leisure for the management of the Council's leisure facilities in 2008. Under the terms of this Agreement, between July and December 2012, the Council and the Trust are required to meet regularly to review service delivery and performance of the Trust against the requirements of the Agreement documentation and standards expected of a professional body operating in the sector. The Agreement provides that at the end of this 6 months, the parties may agree to vary the terms of the agreement and the services provided there under for a further 5 years or either party may terminate the Agreement to take effect from June 2013 by giving 6 months' notice to the other party in December 2012.
- 4.2 Recent discussions have taken place with both Chief Executives and Chairmen of Anglia Community Leisure and Abbeycroft Leisure with regards to the future direction and work of the Leisure Trusts with an intention to an ongoing partnership.
- 4.3 The intention of these discussions is to work together to develop the remit of the Leisure Trusts in partnership to achieve financial efficiency, strategic partnership and local focus.
- 4.4 The Trusts have expressed initial willingness to work together to achieve a new operating basis for the future and to achieve this aim it is necessary to enter into some form of interim arrangement with Anglia Community Leisure in light of the current Management Agreement arrangements.
- 4.5 It has been agreed between ACL and Forest Heath District Council that a variation to the current Agreement to allow for the Agreement to be extended until the end of March 2014 would be the most desirable way forward. This would enable sufficient time for discussions to progress and would also assist with the intention to progress.

### **5. Other options considered**

- 5.1 Forest Heath District Council considered the alternative options of terminating the Management Agreement with effect from June 2013 and also increasing the term of the Agreement for a further 5 years. It was decided that extending the contract until March 2014 would be the most desirable way forward to enable discussions to progress towards a single leisure trust contract.

### **6. Community impact**

#### **6.1 Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

- 6.1.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

6.2 **Diversity and equality impact** *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

6.2.1 None.

6.3 **Sustainability impact** *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

6.3.1 None.

6.4 **Other impact** *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

6.4.1 None.

7. **Consultation** *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

7.1 As detailed above previous discussions have taken place with both Chief Executives and Chairmen of both Anglia Community Leisure and Abbeycroft Leisure with regards to the future direction and work of the Leisure Trusts.

8. **Financial and resource implications** *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 No direct financial or resource implications arise out of this short extension.

9. **Risk/opportunity assessment** *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Negotiations not complete by April 2014	Medium	Ensuring that all parties progress towards a shared management structure by April 2014	Low

10. **Legal and policy implications**

10.1 Forest Heath District Council has the power to provide leisure services either internally or through an external body.

11. **Ward(s) affected**

11.1 All Wards are affected.

12. **Background papers**

12.1 None.

13. **Documents attached**

13.1 None.