

Cabinet



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Review of Performance of Leisure Trust 2012-2016	
Report No:	CAB/FH/17/003	
Report to and dates:	Cabinet	14 February 2017
	Council	22 February 2017
Portfolio holder:	Councillor Andy Drummond Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture Tel: 01638 751411 Email: andy.drummond@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Chairman of the Committee:	Councillor Simon Cole Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tel: 07974 443762 Email: simon.cole@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Jill Korwin Director Tel: 01284 757252 Email: jill.korwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To review the performance of Abbeycroft Leisure in Forest Heath to inform the development of a new Partnership Agreement.	
Recommendations:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that, subject to the approval of Council that <u>note</u> is taken of the findings of the scrutiny in developing a new partnership agreement with Abbeycroft moving forward in particular: 1) The need for full transparency in "disclosure of all" costs to the Council of	

	<p>providing leisure services;</p> <p>2) The need for the agreement to focus on the outcomes for the health and wellbeing of communities.</p> <p>3) Further it is recommended that the approach to developing a Partnership agreement with Abbeycroft for at least 10 years and alignment of leases will deliver a value for money service for the Council.</p>		
<p>Key Decision:</p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		
Consultation:	See Report No OAS/FH/17/002		
Alternative option(s):	See Report No OAS/FH/17/002		
Implications:			
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report OAS/FH/17/002	
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report OAS/FH/17/002	
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report OAS/FH/17/002	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report OAS/FH/17/002	
Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • See Report OAS/FH/17/002	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
See Report OAS/FH/17/002			
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Report No OAS/FH/17/002 & Appendix 1 and 2 & Appendix 4	
Documents attached:		None	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 On 12 January 2017, the Committee considered Report No: OAS/FH/17/002, which requested members review the performance of Abbeycroft Leisure in Forest Heath, which would then inform the development of a new Partnership Agreement.

The report included information on the establishment of Abbeycroft Leisure; trustees and governance (Appendix 1); core business for West Suffolk; attendance levels; continuous improvement and quality management; initiatives and projects; business development and diversification; financial performance; strategic leisure support and advice; approaches and cost of other local authorities; challenges and the future.

Attached to the Report was an Exempt Appendix 3, containing exempt business information.

- 1.2 Warren Smyth, Chief Operating Officer for Abbeycroft Leisure gave a short PowerPoint Presentation showcasing the activities of Abbeycroft Leisure.
- 1.3 The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions of the Cabinet Member, Warren Smyth and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided.
- 1.4 Discussions were held on challenges around the employment of staff and developing skills; the investment fund; and the management of pension liabilities. In particular Members:
- Discussed the proposed length of the agreement, and raised some concern that this was not explored further in the report;
 - Sought clarification as to what was meant in the recommendation around "... transparency of costs", and suggested that this be amended to read "... *disclosure of costs*";
 - Discussed the partnership moving forward and what would change. It was reported that the investment fund would provide Abbeycroft with the ability to bid for funds and the Council investing in its assets;
 - The potential for introducing "indoor bowls" at the Brandon Leisure Centre.
- 1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has put forward recommendations as set out on pages 1 and 2 of the Report.