


## Officer decision record

Officer	Jill Korwin, Director
Director	Chief Executive's
<p><b>Delegated power being exercised</b></p> <p>The Council's constitution delegates certain executive functions for Council officers to make.</p> <p>The scheme of delegation, which provides for who may discharge functions, allows that unless the constitution, the law or statutory guidance states otherwise, the Chief Executive, Directors and Assistant Directors are authorised to take all decisions necessary to ensure the effective running of services that fall within the scope of their responsibilities, taking due care in decision making, following any agreed procedures, legal requirements, record keeping requirements and undertaking appropriate consultation with relevant Councillors, staff or the public</p>	
Subject of decision	The provision of financial support to Abbeycroft Leisure during the Covid-19 lockdown.
Decision taken (specify precise details)	To provide direct financial support for Abbeycroft Leisure in lockdown stage of up to £154,300 (covering the period April to June) to contribute to the costs of closures of its West Suffolk leisure centres. This will be funded from the Government COVID grant West Suffolk has received.
Reasons for the decision (specify all reasons for taking the decision including, where necessary, reference to council policy)	<p>Closure of leisure centres due to Covid ,19 meant that overnight Abbeycroft, like all other leisure operators, lost its income. In response, it has furloughed the majority of its workforce, and closed down leisure centre facilities following industry guidance. It has been necessary to maintain a skeleton team to oversee operations and to the necessary checks and undertake the maintenance regimes. This places a direct cost onto Abbeycroft.</p> <p>As a result, each complete month of closure is creating unavoidable costs for Abbeycroft (Wages (Engineers/Duty Team; essential staff); Maintenance Costs (Statutory Requirements); Utility Costs</p>

	<p>(Gas/Electric/Water). Abbeycroft are seeking a contribution to these costs that are directly attributable to the maintenance of the Council's leisure centre assets. Abbeycroft are using their own reserves to meet other costs.</p> <p>Having reviewed the accounts (as part of the open book approach agreement the Council has with Abbeycroft) it is recommended this is £68,100 per month (April to June) less the one off £50,000 government funding through the grants scheme that Abbeycroft has already received. This arrangement will be reviewed in June, as more is understood about the journey out of lockdown.</p> <p>The Council identified potential for these costs in the DELTA finance return to government.</p> <p>The role of Abbeycroft in delivering the Council's priority of "Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active" is key, and will be even more important as we emerge from this crisis with health disbenefits there will likely be.</p>
Alternative options considered (if appropriate)	<p>The Council could choose not to fund Abbeycroft, or provide a lower level of grant, however:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of Abbeycroft would mean that the Council would need to bring services in house or contract for another provider.</li> <li>• Whilst the post-Covid shape of the leisure market and customer demand is not known, what we can be confident of is the need to ensure that there is support for individual's health and wellbeing, and that Abbeycroft will have a role to play in that so its survival is in all our interests.</li> <li>• Leisure centres are council assets and we do not want them to deteriorate.</li> <li>• This support is in line with LGA advice</li> </ul>
Background/report s/information considered and attached (legal, personnel, financial implications and so on)	<p>As stated above, the decision is being fully funded from the Government's grant to the Council. As such, there is no direct cost to the Council to provide this grant to Abbeycroft.</p>
Parties consulted before the decision has been taken	<p>This decision has been subject to consultation with Abbeycroft, as set out above, and with members of Cabinet. The Cabinet members identified that they supported this decision.</p>

Conflicts of interest declared by executive members consulted, including whether the Chief Executive has authorised councillors with conflicts to continue to act	None
Decision	As outlined in 'decision taken' section of this form above
Signature and date	
	
Jill Korwin 21 May 2020	