



DECISION OF COUNCILLOR FELICITY BAKER

THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SAFETY, TOURISM AND LEISURE, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, CUSTOMER SERVICES, LIBRARIES AND LICENSING.

WITH ADVICE FROM
THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DECISION NO 16/17 DE 272

SUBJECT: Asset Transfer - Transfer of Hans Price Sports Centre to Cabot Learning Federation

Background: The dual use sports centre was originally provided at Wyvern School during 1999 with the help of a Sport England grant of £1.2m. This grant carried with it conditions, including a 21 year commitment from the Council for the Wyvern Sports Centre to be properly maintained and to meet Sport England's community use criteria. This did not present a problem at the time as the school was owned by the Council and the sports centre was managed directly, by the Council.

In 2011 Wyvern School became the Hans Price Academy, part of the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF). As a result the centre was re named as the Hans Price Sports Centre (HPSC) and a new dual use agreement was written to reflect the changed circumstances; with the Council retaining ownership of the parts of the site occupied by the community sports facilities.

In addition the management arrangements for the sports centre changed as part of the Councils Cultural Services Review in 2010. Agreement was reached with Parkwood Leisure, who took on the direct management of the site under contract to the Council. This was a cost neutral arrangement, with the contractor earning income from the facilities.

During 2013, in line with the rebuilding of the school the ownership of the HPSC facilities transferred to CLF; the dual use agreement was re written again to reflect this. This time Sport England expressed concern that the sports centre was no longer to be under the control of the land owner and that this broke the conditions of their grant. In order to rectify this the grant conditions would have to novate to the new land owner.

CLF initially resisted this as they did not, wish to be bound by these conditions. This placed the Council at risk of potential “claw back” by Sport England.

Historically the main income generator on the site has been the artificial turf pitch. However the playing surface on this pitch has deteriorated to a point where only small areas are playable. This has had a serious effect on Parkwood’s ability to earn income. It has also put the Councils agreement with Sport England under further pressure.

Negotiations have taken place about the future of HPSC and an agreement has been reached which involves the Council transferring the sports centre management to CLF. They will then take over responsibility for replacing the playing surface of the pitch and manage the community use of the site. This approach is acceptable to both Sport England and Parkwood Leisure.

Parkwood, CLF and the Council have been working together on the detail of the proposed transfer. Arrangements have also been put in place to protect staff under TUPE.

DECISION: To transfer the community sport and leisure facilities at Hans Price Sports Centre to Cabot Learning Federation

Reasons: To ensure the future provision and sustainability of a community asset whilst reducing the Councils liability.

Other Alternatives Considered:

- Do nothing and continue to operate the facility through Parkwood Leisure.

Risk Assessment:

- Continuing to operate the facility directly incurs costs in officer time and Property costs, including the resurfacing of the all-weather pitch. Liability for all repairs and maintenance currently sit with NSC

Financial Implications:

- Small Indirect savings achieved
- Removal of asset and associated liabilities from NSC Portfolio

Signed.....Executive Member for Community Services and Safety, Tourism and Leisure, Corporate Communications, Customer Services, Libraries and Licensing.

Dated.....

Confirmation of Advice Given

Signed: Director of Development & Environment

Dated: