

# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**1st September 2015**

## **LEISURE SERVICES OPTIONS – PROPOSED SHORT, SHARP REVIEW**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Pat Witherspoon, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Tourism
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	John Godwin, Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides Members with an opportunity to consider a proposal that has been received for Members to undertake a Short, Sharp Review of options for the future delivery of Leisure and Cultural Services at the Council.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to approve **one** of the following options:

- 1) Subject to any changes agreed during the meeting, the proposed Leisure Services Options Short, Sharp Review be launched.**
- 2) Members consider options for the future delivery of Leisure and Cultural services at a forthcoming meeting (or meetings) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- 3) No further action be taken by Overview and Scrutiny Members in respect of this matter.**
- 4) Alternative action, to be identified and clearly specified during the meeting, be taken in relation to this matter.**

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee launched a Task Group review of the Abbey Stadium in 2013. Following consideration of the findings from this review it was agreed by the Executive Committee in June 2014 that:
  - a) the Council should explore the options for a leisure trust to manage some or all of its facilities, including the Abbey Stadium; and

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- b) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise any final business case relating to the future operation of some or all of the Council's leisure facilities, including the Abbey Stadium, prior to its submission to the Executive Committee.
- 3.2 In April 2015 a completed scoping document was received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which proposed that a Task Group review should be launched to investigate both current service provision and future options for the delivery of leisure services in the Borough. The Committee did not decide to launch this review and instead agreed that detailed pre-scrutiny of an item listed on the Executive Work Programme, entitled '*Review of Operation of Leisure Services*', should be adopted in line with previous decisions on this subject.
- 3.3 The item listed on the Executive Work Programme was subsequently subject to pre-scrutiny discussions at three consecutive meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9th June, 24th June and 7th July 2015 respectively. During these meetings Members considered the findings contained in an options appraisal of leisure services that had been produced by external consultants together with a significant amount of information about the Council's leisure and cultural services.
- 3.4 The Executive Committee considered the *Review of Operation of Leisure Services* report at a meeting on 14th July 2015. During this meeting Members were advised that the options appraisal was not a formal business case and that a significant amount of further work would be required in order to identify a suitable model for the future delivery of leisure services at the Council. The Executive Committee therefore agreed that further work was required prior to a decision on the future delivery of leisure and cultural services being taken.
- 3.5 In this context Councillor Jane Potter is proposing that a Short, Sharp Review should be undertaken to investigate the options that are available to the Council in terms of future delivery models for leisure and cultural services. The objectives for this proposed review, together with an explanation as to why Councillor Potter feels that this subject should be scrutinised further, are detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider four potential responses to this proposal. The Committee could choose to launch a Short, Sharp Review, though may decide that this subject is more suitable for further discussion at Committee meetings or that no further action is required. Alternatively, based on discussions during the meeting, Members may identify another course of action to take which has not been detailed in this report.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.7 The final decision regarding the future management of leisure services could have significant financial implications for the Council. For this reason Councillor Potter is proposing that the financial implications of each of the service delivery models

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should be considered as part of the exercise to enable Members to make an informed decision on this subject.

- 3.8 It has been proposed that the deadline for this review should be December 2015. This should ensure that, subject to the Executive Committee's approval, the financial implications of the recommendations can be taken into account as part of the Council's budget setting process.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.9 Councillor Potter is proposing that the governance arrangements for each model of service delivery be taken into account if a review of this subject is launched.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.10 At present there are no Task Group reviews taking place in Redditch and the one exercise Members are involved in, the Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire Task Group, is a joint exercise hosted by Worcestershire County Council. There is, therefore, Officer capacity to support this review.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.11 A key objective of the review is to consider the best model of service delivery to ensure that customers receive good quality leisure and cultural services.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

No risks have been identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Leisure Services Options Short, Sharp review – Scoping Document.

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