

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

CABINET

Date of meeting: 21 April 2009
Report of: Strategic Director, People
Title: Leisure Facilities Cabinet Sub-Committee

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To obtain the agreement of Cabinet in respect of the establishment of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to consider strategic outcomes required of the leisure facilities operated by the Health and Wellbeing Service, in advance of a review of the delivery options for those facilities.
- 1.2 To agree the terms of reference and Membership of the Sub-Committee.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That a Leisure Facilities Cabinet Sub-Committee be established with the membership and terms of reference set out in the report.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 There are no financial implications with regard to transitional costs.

4.0 Financial Implications for 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 The review of delivery options for leisure services was cited in the Business case for People and Places with a financial saving of £500,000 identified if a Trust was established. The delivery options review will test whether or not the level of savings is achievable from a Trust and what other alternatives there may be for the Authority to consider.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee will have a role in offering advice and suggesting options to Cabinet, which will be responsible for making decisions at the appropriate time. The Sub-Committee will therefore not be a final decision-making body. Members of the Sub-Committee will need to be aware of the potential for prejudicial interests to arise in respect of their role as Overview and Scrutiny Members where such a committee is considering reports on business relating to the work of the Sub-Committee.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 There are no risks associated with the work of the Sub-Committee.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 The People and Places business case identified potential savings of £500,000 from the establishment of a leisure trust to run the leisure facilities in Cheshire East. However, there was no time when the business case was drafted to consider other issues relating to the delivery of leisure facilities through a Trust, nor were the alternatives to running the facilities through a Trust looked at.
- 7.2 Officers have over the last few months identified a number of critical issues that need to be clarified to allow a full review of the delivery options available to the Authority for their leisure facilities to be considered. A Sub-Committee of the Cabinet, advised by Officers, and with powers to consult other Members, has been suggested to advise upon the parameters within which the review will be conducted, identifying the strategic outcomes that the Authority wishes to see the leisure facilities contributing to and ensuring that there is a clear understanding as to what the review will provide.
- 7.3 It is proposed that the membership of the Sub-Committee comprise Councillors Brown, Domleo, Keegan and Knowles.

The Officers advising the Sub-Committee would be Guy Kilminster (Head of Health and Wellbeing), Mark Wheelton (Manager Leisure & Green Spaces), Ceri Harrison (Head of Transformation), Rob Hyde, Keith Pickton and Tony Parr.

Non-Cabinet Members to be consulted would be Councillors Hammond, Westwood, Arnold, Flude and Edwards.

- 7.4 The following terms of reference are proposed for the Sub-Committee:
- to advise Cabinet upon alternative strategies for Cheshire East in respect of its leisure facilities and related non-statutory service provision;
 - to consider the best use of assets and financial resources in this area;
 - to advise Cabinet upon how the leisure facilities should impact upon the Authority's priorities;
 - to prepare a draft brief and specification for commissioning a review of the delivery options available to Cheshire East for its leisure facilities; and
 - to consult Councillors Hammond, Westwood, Arnold, Flude and Edwards.
- 7.5 The expected outcome of the Sub-Committee's work is a clearly identified rationale for the continued running of leisure facilities, identifying the benefits to be had from those facilities, and a brief and specification for the commissioning of a review of delivery options. It is anticipated that the review will take place during April – October 2009.

- 7.6 The outcome of that review will be a report to Cabinet with advice and options for how the Authority might run its leisure services, enabling the Cabinet to decide on the most appropriate method of delivery.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the review of delivery options will be undertaken during the first half of 2009-2010, allowing a decision to be made by the Cabinet in advance of the 2010-2011 budget round.
- 8.2 In order to commence work without delay, Members have already begun to meet on an informal basis pending the confirmation of the formal arrangements by Cabinet.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 To allow the work to get underway to review the delivery of leisure facility services in Cheshire East.

For further information:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Knowles
Officer: Guy Kilminster, Head of Health and Wellbeing
Tel No: 01244 976020
Email: guy.kilminster@cheshire.gov.uk

Background Documents:

There are no background documents.