

## ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 April 2019 at 6.00pm at the Council House, Walsall

### Committee Members

#### Present:

Councillor I. Shires (Chair)  
Councillor A. Hicken (Vice – Chair)  
Councillor P. Bott  
Councillor B. Chattha  
Councillor S. Craddock  
Councillor G. Singh Sohal  
Councillor V. Waters

### Portfolio Holders:

Councillor M. Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew	Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration.
Councillor G. Perry	Community, Leisure and Culture

### Officers Present:

Simon Neilson	Executive Director – Economy and Environment
Simon Tranter	Head of Regeneration and Development
Paul Gordon	Head of Business Change
Sarah Oakley	Voluntary and Community Sector Officer
Craig Goodall	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Matthew Powis	Democratic Services Officer

### Invited Representatives:

#### FC Darlaston

Paul Foster	Chairman
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#### Lane Head FC

Martin Davies	Club Secretary
Becky Davies	On behalf of Lane Head FC
Connor Emms	Chair of Youth Provision
Helen Emms	Head of Welfare
Lee Jackson	1 <sup>st</sup> Team Manager
Jack Pullar	1 <sup>st</sup> Team Manager/Coach
Ken Ball	Trustee
Stuart Benton	Trustee
Mike Mycroft	Chairman of Ladies Branch

#### Willenhall Harriers

Natasha Gordon	Club Secretary
Shane Allen	Chairman

### 86/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, S. Coughlan and Jeavons.

**87/18 Substitution**

Councillor V. Waters substituted for Councillor Allen and Councillor P Bott substituted for Councillor S. Coughlan.

**88/18 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whips.

**89/18 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) the following item was considered in private session:

Agenda Item 5: Grant of Lease – Recreational Centre on Hall Street, Darlaston. (Except information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority for holding that information)).

**Resolved:**

**That item 90/18 ‘Grant of Lease – Recreational Centre on Hall Street, Darlaston’ be considered in private session as the report contains exempt information as defined (information relating to the financial or business affairs or any particular person (including the authority holding that information), of the Local Government Act, 1985 (as amended)).**

**90/18 ‘Call in’ of Cabinet decision – Grant of Lease – Recreational Centre on Hall Street, Darlaston.**

The Chair welcomed representatives from FC Darlaston, Lane Head FC and Willenhall Harriers FC. He explained that the first part of the meeting would take part in private session to enable Members to discuss the details of the report which were commercially sensitive.

*All members of the public and press left the room in accordance with minute number 89/18. Whilst the discussion was held in private session the below minute is a full account of the discussion that took place.*

The Committee considered a call – in of the Cabinet decision taken on 20 March 2019 on the grant of lease in respect of the Recreational Centre at Hall Street, Darlaston.

The grounds under which the matter was called in for scrutiny were:

*The Cabinet should take more weighted consideration on the intensity of use of the facility rather than just monetary values. Closer examination for the wider community interest.*

Members of the Committee received a copy of the call – in notice, the Cabinet decision taken on 20 March 2019 and relevant reports relating to the decision.

The Vice-Chair as Lead Call-in Member, informed the Committee about the reasons for the 'call in' and heard representations from the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community, Leisure and Culture.

The Chair sought clarification from the Vice-Chair on the whether the reason for the 'call-in' was a matter of scrutinising the process of awarding the lease rather than scrutinising the Cabinet decision. The Vice-Chair confirmed that the matter was about process. He noted that the Cabinet had approved a Community Asset Transfer Policy on 5 September 2018. He sought clarification if community benefit had been taken into account when issuing the lease?

The Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council confirmed that best consideration process had been used which did not take into account wider community aspects. The Portfolio Holder for Community, Leisure and Culture reported that the Community Asset Transfer Policy allowed the Council to dispose land or assets to the community and voluntary sector where there was a demand.

A discussion took place on the Community Asset Transfer Policy. It was explained that the tender process would need to be rerun if this process was to be used to dispose of the site.

The meeting discussed the costs and investments made into the Recreation Ground. Following this discussion, the Head of Business Change agreed to provide Member s with a breakdown of the Centre's running costs.

The Committee took an adjournment at 6.37p.m.

The Committee reconvened at 6.55p.m in public session with invited parties, members of the public and press.

It was **moved** by Councillor Shires and duly **seconded** by Councillor Craddock that:

That, following a review of the process taken to issue the lease on Darlaston Recreational Centre on Hall Street, Darlaston, the Committee note the process to use best consideration but encourage the Cabinet to consider rerunning the disposal process using the Community Asset Transfer Policy.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried.

The Committee thanked each invited party for their attendance.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That, following a review of the process taken to issue the lease on Darlaston Recreational Centre on Hall Street, Darlaston, the Committee note the process to use best consideration but encourage the Cabinet to consider rerunning the disposal process using the Community Asset Transfer Policy;**
- 2. That, a breakdown of the Recreational Centre's running costs be circulated to Members of the Committee in writing;**
- 3. That, a flow chart outlining the Community Transfer Policy be circulated to Members of the Committee in writing.**

**91/18 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be determined at Annual Council in May 2019.

**Termination of Meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.00p.m.

Signed: .....

Date: .....