

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 22nd September 2009

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Community and Leisure - Councillor S Chaudhry

PART I **KEY DECISION**

THAMES VALLEY ATHLETIC CENTRE CONTRACT

1 Purpose of Report

This paper summarises Slough Borough Council's options on the contract to run the Thames Valley Athletics Centre (TVAC), with the recommendation that the contract be executed conditional on action to ensure that Slough residents and the Borough Council get a better return on their investment in TVAC.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the contract with Slough Community Leisure (SCL) to manage the Thames Valley Athletics Centre be executed. The contract is for 4 years, with the opportunity to extend for a further 4 years if SCL can demonstrate continued best value.
- (b) That officers be authorised to seek to include a break clause in the contract, should termination be in the interest of Slough Borough Council.
- (c) That officers be tasked with ensuring that the contract delivers improved benefits to Slough Borough Council and its residents.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

• Adding years to Life and Life to years

Participation in sport supports healthy lifestyles by promoting good physical and mental health and well-being.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The total contract value is £640,000 in the first 4 years. Under the contract Slough BC, like the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), are

committed to pay £125,000 from 2009/10 each year, adjusted for inflation, split 50% for the management fee and 50% towards running costs of the centre. This is at the same level as contributions under the previous contract.

(b) Risk Management

A risk assessment for each option is set out in the Part 2 report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or other legal implications at this stage.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no direct Equalities Impact Assessment implications.

(e) Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 A briefing paper on the main issues affecting this contract was sent to Cabinet Members on 23 July. This is attached as Appendix A to the Part 2 Report . Since then there have been some further developments which are also set out in the Part 2 report
- 5.2 TVAC Management Trust has approved the process of securing the long-term management arrangements for the Centre. RBWM's Cabinet approved award of the contract to SCL at its meeting on 26 March 2009.
- 5.3 Under the contract Slough BC, like RBWM, are committed to pay £125,000 from 2009/10 each year, adjusted for inflation, split 50% for the management fee and 50% towards running costs of the centre. This is at the same level as contributions under the previous contract.
- 5.4 An options appraisal is contained in the Part 2 Report which sets out the implications of a range of options for the Cabinet to consider.

6 Benefits and other contract issues for Slough

- 6.1 On the basis of the assessment of options in section 6 above, it is recommended that Slough Borough Council execute the contract.
- 6.2 In return for this investment, it is proposed that officers be tasked with
- 1) Seeking to include
 - 2) a break clause in the contract if termination should be in the interest of the borough council
 - 3) Ensuring that the contract delivers improved benefits to Slough Borough Council and its residents, including:
 - Free access to conference facilities when they don't compete with commercial bookings and reduce the profitability of TVAC.

- Increased and flexible access to facilities for other groups in addition to the athletics club.
- Increased notice for athletics club bookings to help SCL find more commercial bookings and maximise income.
- Further work with RBWM to maximise income generation opportunities and minimise costs at TVAC.

8 **Conclusion**

It is recommended that the Cabinet approve that the contract be executed.

SBC officers should seek to include a break clause in the contract, should termination be in the interest of Slough Borough Council .

In return for this investment, it is proposed that officers be tasked with ensuring that the contract delivers improved benefits to Slough Borough Council and its residents.

9. **Appendices Attached**

Appendix A – Briefing Paper (Part II)

10. **Background papers**

None.

