

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

Date: 24 January 2020

Contact Officer: John Smith
Telephone Extension: 01543 308016

KEY DECISION: NO

THE LEASE OF BOWLING GREENS IN BEACON PARK TO BEACON PARK BOWLS CLUBS

1. Decision:

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Recycling and Leisure approves a 25-year lease at peppercorn rent - £1p/a (with 5-year break clause) with Beacon Park Bowling Green's Maintenance Company Ltd for the operation and management of both bowling greens in Beacon Park.


2. Statement of reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 In 2016, the council met with both bowls clubs seeking the development of a bowls forum, looking for greater support and involvement and asking for consideration of a lease for the greens.
- 2.2 In 2018, both clubs developed the Greens Maintenance Project with a view to being able to undertake their own greens maintenance effective from the start of the 2020 bowling season.
- 2.3 Subsequently, Beacon Park Bowling Green's Maintenance Company was registered at Companies House. The Company has eight directors (four from each Bowling Club), company number of 12311107. The company has a Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and has a working group consisting of four representatives of each bowling club.
- 2.4 BPB has indicated that their membership subscriptions will be considerably less than the existing fees charged by the Council and also less than the subsidised subscriptions currently paid by members of the two Bowling Clubs and be positive for community use by increasing club membership, new people getting involved and usage of the bowling greens.
- 2.5 There would be an expectation and requirement that BPB would properly maintain the bowling greens and continue to offer a public play facility similar to that already in place. BPB will also take over the annual cost of maintaining the irrigation system. The council would continue to manage the Discovery Hub and hedgerow boundary to the greens and assist the club with green waste recycling. The financial cost of this support from the council is de minimis.
- 2.6 There would be one off costs linked to facilitating the transfer process (legal (£1500) and infrastructure (£2000)), but no other savings as a result of the transfer because the net cost from materials and external contractor costs would be offset by the loss of budgeted income.

- 2.7 This proposal reflects our strategies for the health of our communities because: “We want local people to have access to opportunities to be active and live healthy, fulfilled lives. We want to prevent social isolation and loneliness, particularly in older members of our community. We want our communities to be safe and for people to be less worried about crime and anti-social behaviour. We want to encourage and support people to volunteer and help shape their communities, and be an active part of local life”.

3. Any Alternative Options:

- 3.1 An alternative option was to keep the management and maintenance of Beacon Parks’ bowling greens in house.



Signed:
CABINET MEMBER FOR RECYCLING AND LEISURE - (COUNCILLOR ANDY SMITH)

Date of Decision: 24/01/2020