

FRIARY GRANGE LEISURE CENTRE

Cllr Elizabeth Little, Cabinet Member for Recycling and Leisure

Date: 15 October 2019

Agenda Item: 5

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Key Decision? YES

Local Ward Cllr Grange and Cllr Ray

Members



COUNCIL

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 A petition was set up by a local resident to campaign against Cabinet's decision to close Friary Grange Leisure Centre from 1 April 2020. This had been signed by 11,000 people and in line with council policy, the petition needed to be considered by Cabinet.
- 1.2 On 7 October, Cabinet met in order to formally receive and consider the petition. As described in the Friary Grange Cabinet Report at **Appendix 1**, material changes since the original decision included a more favourable and flexible lease being offered by Staffordshire County Council, the ability to use S106 funds to part pay for refurbishment works and the high level of public feeling wanting Friary Grange Leisure Centre to remain open.
- 1.3 Cabinet was held at the Garrick Theatre in order to allow as many members of the public as possible to witness the debate and have an opportunity to have their say prior to Cabinet discussion, with 19 speakers taking the opportunity to address Cabinet and the audience.
- 1.4 Cabinet took on board these comments and then reviewed the revised report and discussed any material changes since the original decision. Cabinet also considered comments, contributions and complaints received from residents, customers and stakeholders during the period between Cabinet meetings.
- 1.5 Following discussion, Cabinet decided that it should keep Friary Grange Leisure Centre open for up to 5 years based on a cap in capital budget of £695k until such a time that a replacement facility could be built with a capital budget of £5million being allocated to facilitate this.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve and update the Medium Term Financial Strategy to:
 1. To add a project to refurbish the Friary Grange Leisure Centre to the Capital Programme up to a capped level of £695,000. The funding will be provided by £153,000 of eligible Section 106, an Earmarked Reserve – Sinking Fund of £17,000 and an Earmarked Reserve – VAT Repayment of £525,000.
 2. Add the revenue implications totalling £828,000 with funding provided by the Earmarked Reserve – VAT Repayment of £120,000 and the Revenue Budget of £708,000.
 3. Add a project for the contribution of £5,000,000 to the Capital Programme to provide for future leisure facilities. The funding will be provided by borrowing with relevant Prudential Indicators being updated as part of the refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
 4. Add the revenue implications to the Revenue Budget for the ongoing cost of borrowing of £294,000.
- 2.2 Council is asked to approve delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Recycling and Leisure and the Director of Place and Community:
 1. To approve a new 7-year lease with Staffordshire County Council for future use of FGLC.
 2. To approve compliance contracts for the continued safe operation of FGLC from May 2020.
 3. To approve a new agreement with Greywood Multi-schools Trust for the shared parts of FGLC.
 4. To approve a contract for the refurbishment works at FGLC.

5. To approve an amended contract with Freedom Leisure based on the removal of the sports hall and all weather pitch.
6. To Commission services / works to progress with the leisure centre options appraisal.

Background documents:

Appendix 1 – FGLC – Cabinet Report