

## Community Leisure Services

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Cabinet Member: Cllr David Hall, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Community Infrastructure

Division and Local Member: Various

### 1 Summary

**1.1** In August 2009, the County Council entered into an agreement with Somerset Leisure Ltd (now known as '1610 Ltd') to provide community leisure services at dual-use centres on a number of secondary school sites across the county. The contract is due to expire at the end of the 2018/19 financial year.

**1.2** If approved, the proposed key decision paper will authorise:

(1) the Council to cease commissioning community leisure services at the following sites upon expiry of the existing contract with 1610 Ltd on 31 March 2019:

- Mendip – Glastonbury (St. Dunstan's Academy);
- Sedgemoor - Highbridge (The King Alfred School);
- South Somerset - Castle Cary (Caryford at Ansford Academy), Crewkerne (Wadham School), Stoke-sub-Hamdon (Stanchester Academy) and Yeovil (Preston School Academy);
- Taunton Deane - Taunton (The Castle School);
- West Somerset - Minehead (West Somerset College).

(2) Senior officers to negotiate the transfer of the County Council's residual leisure assets to the host schools / academies (where appropriate and where transfer has not already taken place through academisation).

### 2 Issues for consideration / Recommendations

**2.1** Committee are asked to scrutinise and comment upon the contents of the proposed Cabinet Decision key decision report (attached as appendix A).

**2.2** In doing so, the Committee should:

- have regard to the Equalities Impact Assessments set out in the appendices to the report;
- note that two schools have signed 1610 into longer term leases beyond 2019 to ensure continuation of leisure services on their sites.

### **3 Background**

- 3.1** The history of the leisure trust is set out in the key decision report. Essentially, the externalisation of the community leisure services in 2009 enabled 1610 (or 'Somerset Leisure Ltd' as the Trust was originally known) to retain the responsibility for the operational management of the sites as well as the strategic development of the leisure and sporting activities.
- 3.2** Each of the centres were intended to fulfil a dual function in meeting the statutory requirements for PE curriculum space and encouraging access to leisure facilities to members of the local communities who are able to access the sports halls, artificial pitches, squash courts and fitness suites when not in use by pupils.
- 3.3** A number of other sites were originally included in the contract. The leisure provider vacated these establishments at various points throughout the contract term either due to changes in lease arrangements or, more recently in the case of Cresta, through negotiation.
- 3.4** The precise site ownership and legal arrangements at each facility are complex and vary from site to site, particularly since the change in the relationship between the County Council and schools under the school academisation programme.
- 3.5** Officers have been working with 1610 on the development of a comprehensive exit strategy for each site in order to manage the expiration of the contract term effectively.
- 3.6** The County Council does not intend to impose a requirement for community leisure services to continue to be available when leisure assets are transferred to them. It is acknowledged that some community leisure services could cease in the future as a result of the proposed decision.
- 3.7** Provision of community leisure is a non-statutory service.

### **4 Consultations undertaken**

- 4.1** There is no statutory duty to consult with members of the public on the proposal to cease commissioning community leisure services.
- 4.2** The County Council has consulted a number of key stakeholders and partners in recent months including 1610 Ltd and the host schools.

### **5 Implications**

#### **5.1 Equalities Implications**

A number of equalities impact assessments (EIAs) have been undertaken and will be appended to this committee report. They acknowledge that some people, including the elderly and those with disabilities, may find it more difficult to access alternative provision.

#### **5.2 Community Safety Implications**

It is acknowledged that sport and community leisure can play a part in reducing young people's anti-social behaviour.

By ceasing to commission community leisure provision, it means the County Council is more able to focus on services that provide care and support to vulnerable people across Somerset.

### **5.3** Sustainability Implications

The divestment of assets to schools helps to ensure the sustainability of providing curriculum leisure facilities.

Any future reduction of services to the local community could lead to increased car use as people travel to alternative community leisure providers.

### **5.4** Health and Safety Implications

The transfer of leisure assets to the schools / academies will ensure that safeguarding of young people remains of paramount importance.

### **5.5** Privacy Implications

All applicable laws and regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation, relating to processing of personal data and privacy, will be adhered to.

### **5.6** Health and Wellbeing Implications

It is medically proven that people who do regular physical activity have a much lower risk of coronary heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancers, depression and dementia.

## **6** **Background papers**

### **6.1** There are 21 appendices to this report:

- Proposed key decision report (appendix A)
- Confidential appendix (appendix B)
- Map showing the locations of the sites (appendix 1)
- Heat-maps, catchment profiles and EIAs for each of the sites (appendices 2-19)

### **6.2** A decision in January 2017 authorising officers to proceed with a review of the County Council's involvement in leisure provision leading to this proposed decision can be accessed at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=229>

### **6.3** One of the former sites referenced in point 3.3 (Cresta in Chard) has recently been subject to a separate decision that can be accessed at:

<http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=3898&PlanId=175>

**Note:** For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author