

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**8 November 2016**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services**

**Joint Use Provision – Etwall John Port/South Derbyshire District Council**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

To ask the Cabinet Member to approve the cessation of the financial contribution made to the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee in respect of increasing participation in sport and reducing obesity.

**2. Information and Analysis**

Prior to 2012, under a Joint Use Arrangement between the County Council, South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) and Etwall John Port School (EJPS), the Authority contributed approximately £8,000 per annum to the Etwall Leisure Centre Joint Management Committee in return for which Derbyshire primary schools receive exclusive use of the swimming pool at Etwall Leisure Centre during school hours. In 2012, the then Cabinet Member for Education agreed that a further financial contribution of £32,000 per annum would be paid to help the Council meet its key targets of reducing obesity and increasing active participation in sport. The Joint Use Agreement was amended to reflect this additional payment.

At its meeting on 12 April 2016, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services approved a proposal to cease the financial contribution in respect of sport and obesity from April 2017 and authorised the Strategic Director for Children's Services to consult and negotiate with SDDC and EJPS to implement this change.

On 8 July 2016, representatives of the Authority met with the above parties to discuss the proposed change and the proposals were formally considered by the Joint Management Committee at its meeting on 11 July 2016. The Joint Management Committee (JMC) includes representatives from the County Council, SDDC and EJPS and oversees the operation of the Leisure Centre.

The JMC recognised the financial position faced by the County Council and the need to make difficult financial decisions. However, the JMC was particularly concerned that

- (i) the reduction in funding to the Leisure Centre would come at the same time as the proposed closure of the Etwall Children's Centre, a double hit for the young people and their families in the Etwall area; and

- (ii) the timing of the reduction.

The JMC asked that the reduction be phased to allow time for them to identify cost reduction measures and consider the scope for new commercial opportunities to be created.

In view of these representations a revised offer was made to phase the reduction with two thirds of the sum due under the current Agreement to be paid in April 2017 and that this would be the final payment. The JMC considered the revised offer at their meeting on 26 September 2016 and agreed to accept the new terms.

Subject to final approval being given at this meeting, the Joint Use Agreement will be revised to reflect the new arrangements.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The proposed reduction will ensure that the required savings target is met but this will not be fully achieved until April 2018. The slippage in 2017-18 will therefore have to be met from Children's Services earmarked reserves.

### **4. Legal Considerations**

The Director of Legal Services will agree the changes to the Joint Use Agreement with South Derbyshire District Council and the Governing Body of John Port School.

### **5. Social Value Considerations**

The proposed changes set out in Section 2 will potentially reduce the service offer to young people in Etwall and the surrounding areas. However, the Council will continue to provide targeted Early Help support for vulnerable young people from its Multi-Agency Teams.

### **6. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime & disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, human rights, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **7. Key Decision?**

No.

### **8. Call In**

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

**9. Background Papers**

Joint Use Agreement files held by Legal Services and Children's Services Finance.

**10. Officer's Recommendations**

That the Cabinet Member:

- 10.1 Approves the phased cessation of the financial contribution in respect of sport and obesity-reduction in accordance with Section 2; and
- 10.2 Authorises the Director of Legal Services to amend the Joint User Agreement to reflect the revised arrangements.

**JANE PARFREMENT**  
**Strategic Director for Children's Services**