

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development

Subject: Charter Community Sports Centre

Date of meeting: 20 March 2020

Report by: Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by

1.1 Cabinet Member for Culture and City Development

2. Purpose

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the future community use of Charter Community Sports Centre.

3. Information Requested

3.1 Background

3.1.1 Charter Academy or St Luke's School as it was previously known was developed in 1999 as a community sports facility including a new indoor pool, upgraded sports hall, studio, fitness gym, multi-use games area and community reception area and office. It was built for £2.4m with the aid of partnership funding including a £2m Sport England Lottery Fund Award.

3.1.2 The school is located in the heart of Portsmouth in an area of high social deprivation with substandard sports facilities that were not accessible to the local community.

3.1.3 As part of the Lottery funding agreement, a community use agreement was entered into between Sport England, the school and city council guaranteeing community use until 16th March 2020. During this time, the centre has become a well utilised site by the local community with a varied programme.

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- 3.1.4 The facility has been managed and the community programme delivered as part of the city council's main leisure management contract which is now with BH Live, this has enabled a holistic approach to community sports provision across the city and to benefit from economies of scale. As part of the agreement with BH Live the responsibility for Charter was to be reviewed post 16th March 2020 dependent on the desire of the Academy to continue with community use.
- 3.1.5 In discussions with the Academy, they have agreed to continue with the delivery of a community programme after March 2020 but would be unable to subsidise such a programme for the local community.
- 3.1.6 As an important local facility addressing key priorities for the city council and in particular in increasing levels of physical activity in an area of social deprivation, officers have worked with the Academy and BH Live with the objective to continue with the delivery of an affordable community sport and physical activity programme at the site.

3.2 Current Financial Performance

- 3.2.1 As part of the current agreement with the city council, BH Live takes the risk for any operational deficit. Since the start of their contract in 2017, the facility has operated at a significant operational deficit with no risk for the city council.
- 3.2.2 The city council do though contribute to utility costs directly to the school, which is offset by a contribution to the costs for maintenance undertaken by BH Live.
- 3.2.2 Discussions have taken place with BH Live on how to continue to deliver a community programme at no additional cost to the city council. A detailed review of the existing programme and financial performance of the facility has been undertaken.

3.3 Proposed Changes to Programme

- 3.3.1 The Lottery Community Use Agreement specified minimum opening hours of the facility but as part of the review of the programme it became apparent that there was minimal use in the late evening, weekend afternoons and school holidays particularly in the swimming pool.
- 3.3.2 The Academy use the facility during the school day but due to the irregular opening hours, the facility has struggled to attract new customers particularly at off peak times.
- 3.3.3 Whenever the pool is open to the public two members of staff are required which is a considerable operational cost. With this in mind and following the detailed review of use new opening hours were proposed which protected the main users of the facility and kept costs down. The new opening hours are identified below.

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CURRENT			CURRENT		
TERM TIME OPENING HOURS			HOLIDAY TIME OPENING HOURS		
DAY	POOL	SPORTS HALL	DAY	POOL	SPORTS HALL
Mon	17:00-22:00	17:00-22:00	Mon	08:00-22:00	08:00-22:00
Tues	17:00-22:00	17:00-22:00	Tues	08:00-22:00	08:00-22:00
Wed	17:00-22:00	17:00-22:00	Wed	08:00-22:00	08:00-22:00
thurs	17:00-22:00	17:00-22:00	thurs	08:00-22:00	08:00-22:00
Fri	17:00-22:00	17:00-22:00	Fri	08:00-22:00	08:00-22:00
Sat	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00	Sat	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00
Sun	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00	Sun	08:00-18:00	08:00-18:00

PROPOSED			PROPOSED		
TERM TIME OPENING HOURS			HOLIDAY TIME OPENING HOURS		
DAY	POOL	SPORTS HALL	DAY	POOL	SPORTS HALL
Mon	17:00-20:00	17:00-21:00	Mon	17:00-20:00	08:00-21:00
Tues	17:00-20:00	17:00-21:00	Tues	17:00-20:00	08:00-21:00
Wed	17:00-20:00	17:00-21:00	Wed	17:00-20:00	08:00-21:00
thurs	17:00-20:00	17:00-21:00	thurs	17:00-20:00	08:00-21:00
Fri	17:00-20:00	17:00-21:00	Fri	17:00-20:00	08:00-21:00
Sat	08:00-14:00	09:00-14:00	Sat	08:00-14:00	09:00-14:00
Sun	08:00-14:00	09:00-14:00	Sun	08:00-14:00	09:00-14:00

3.3.4 Key sessions for community groups such as for the disabled and female only sessions have been protected and BH Live has confirmed that the proposed programme changes can be delivered at no cost to PCC. If there is demand for sessions outside these opening times these can also be accommodated as part of the new agreement.

3.3.5 It has also been agreed with the Academy that there will be no increase to PCC's net position for utility and shared maintenance costs.

3.4 Summary

3.4.1 A new four year community use agreement has been entered into between the city council & ARK Schools (Charter Academy sponsor) with a three-year extension option to become coterminous with the city council's main BH Live agreement.

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3.4.2 A community programme will continue at the facility at no additional cost to PCC. This will be delivered by BH Live as part of their existing contract with a focus on increasing use and developing opportunities for sports development for hard to reach groups from the local community.

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Signed by

Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location