



RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Key Decision ✓

Operational Decision

SUBJECT: RCT Together - Community Asset Transfer of Lee Gardens Paddling Pool, Penrhiwceiber

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To approve the asset transfer of the Lee Gardens Pool, Penrhiwceiber by way of a 6 year lease to the "Lee Gardens Pool Committee" Group.


In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director or Corporate Estates and Procurement as described below.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

Agreed to approve the asset transfer of Lee Gardens Pool (Penrhiwceiber) by way of a 6 year Lease to the "Lee Gardens Pool Committee".


Chief Officer Signature


Print Name


Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

CONSULTATION

Jay Rosser

24/11/16

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

D. Harvey

24/11/16

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YES NO ✓

Reason for urgency:.....

If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

PUBLICATION

Publication on the Councils Website:- 25/11/16

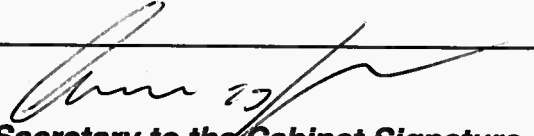
DATE

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be 5/12/16

DATE

 Secretary to the Cabinet Signature	CHRISTINA S S HANAGAN Print Name	25/11/16 Date
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Further Information

Directorate:	Corporate and Frontline Services – Corporate Estates and Procurement
Contact Name:	Debra Hanney
Designation:	Community Asset Development Officer
Tel.No.	01443 744517

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF
GROUP DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND FRONTLINE SERVICES**

<u>Part 1</u> (Non-Confidential)
RCT Together - Community Asset Transfer of Lee Gardens Pool, Penrhiwceiber

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Director of Corporate Estates and Procurement.

2. DECISION

Decision to:

- 2.1 Endorse the transfer of the Lee Gardens Pool, Penrhiwceiber to "Lee Gardens Pool Committee" by way of a 6 year lease as set out in paragraph 5.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's RCT Together Approach for progressing Community Asset Transfers was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on the 30th October 2014. This approach will see the Council working with communities and partner agencies to sustain delivery of services that the Council may no longer be able to deliver on its own.
- 3.2 Applications are considered from non profit distributing voluntary and community groups or companies for activities, services and facilities which benefit residents within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 3.3 To date over 112 formal Expressions of Interest have been received from a variety of existing and newly established groups with proposals ranging from taking over small paddling pools to museums and day care centres. The asset transfer of the Muni Arts Centre has been recognised by the Welsh Government as a way of good practice and was referred to in its recently published document "Community Asset transfers in Wales" Best Practice Guide.

3.4 At the Council meeting on the 19th May 2016, it was agreed that applications for asset transfer could now be dealt with under the Council's Delegated Decisions framework. High Level Asset Transfers will need to be reported to Cabinet, if officers and the appropriate Cabinet member feel this is appropriate.

4. APPLICATION FROM LEE GARDENS POOL COMMITTEE

4.1 Lee Gardens Pool Committee was established in June 2015. They are made up entirely of volunteers and are chaired by the local ward member, Councillor Adam Fox. The group have a wide range of skills and experiences which have been utilised during their set-up phase and consequent delivery of activities during the summer of 2016.

4.2 The group are currently working towards a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status with the support of Interlink.

4.3 The group took on a 1 month licence in August 2016 to pilot the community demand for using the pool and are now looking for funding to turn the pool into a more efficient splash pad, enhance the toilet facilities and provide income generating activities to sustain ongoing use of the facilities.

4.4 The group report the journey they have been on over the past year has been empowering, informative and challenging but has seen the active involvement of a wide range of local residents, local businesses, British Gas, Dwr Cymru, Cynon Taf Housing Association and Communities First. Volunteers ranging in ages from 7yrs to 70yrs helped raise funds to re-establish the pool and the surrounding area ready for its re-opening.

4.5 During the three week opening period, the group reported they had **241 children** attending and were accompanied by **158 adults**. **56 local people volunteered** in a variety of activities including gardening, painting, pool attendants, fundraising, committee duties etc. 7 of these volunteers also disclosed they had ongoing health support needs which had been alleviated due to the positive experience of volunteering.

Age	Number
Under 1	18
1 – 3	46
4 -6	54
7-9	85
10-12	38
Total	241

Ages of adults	Quantity	Ages	Quantity	Ages	Quantity
18-24	7	25-34	63	35-44	49
45-49	8	50-54	10	55-59	6
60-64	4	65-69	5	70-75+	3

Three adults preferred not to give their age.

4.6 Two local businesses reported trade increased during the operation of the pool and local people commented on the reduction in anti-social behaviour with young people becoming actively involved in volunteering activities.

4.7 In addition in-kind support from British Gas provided an army of volunteers to remove overgrown shrubs and paint the railings and also electricity to the worth of £300. Welsh Water provided the water for the pool valued at £5000 and an array of Local traders donated everything from ice lollies, water, cakes tea, food etc. The group are also actively focussing on being environmentally friendly by recycling waste.

4.8 The costs to attributed to delivering the Summer 2016 programme included:

• Toilets/Pool equipment	£1020.68
• Pool repairs	£8595.00
• Insurance, training, PPE	£1886.00
• Compost and soil	£250.00
• Banners and leaflets	£300.00
• Equipment	£4699.00
• Pool water	£5000.00
• Electricity	£300.00
• Celebration Event	£1073.00
TOTAL COSTED PROGRAMME =	£23,123.68

4.9 To date the group have evidenced confirmation that they have been awarded the following grants;

• Tower Fund	£1020.68
• Welsh Church Act	£8595.00
• Coalfields Regeneration Trust	£1886.00
• RCT Together Community Action Fund	£250.00
• Interlink	£300.00
• Big Lottery Awards For All	£4699.00
• Big Lottery Celebrate Fund	£1073.00
TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED =	£17,823.68

4.10 In addition the group were supported by the following in kind support;

• Dwr Cymru	£5000.00
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- British Gas 300.00
- TOTAL INKIND SUPPORT £5300.00**

- 4.11 Their long term vision which has been evidenced through ongoing consultations with children, young people and families is to secure funding for a splash pad development which can be accessed by a wider age group and wheel chair users, will require no pool attendants, be more cost effective to run and can be operational for longer periods of time than a traditional paddling pool.
- 4.12 Lee Gardens Pool Committee is requesting the transfer of Lee Gardens Pool, Penrhiwceiber by way of a 6 year lease

5. Report Summary

- 5.1 At the meeting of the Community Asset and Service Transfer Panel (CAST) on the 27th September 2016, an assessment of their business proposals was undertaken. A summary of the scorings can be provided if requested.
- 5.2 The benefits of Community Asset Transfers are potentially substantial and varied, depending on the extent to which the asset can be utilised for maximum community benefit.

Community based organisations develop styles of engagement that are more effective than other forms of ownership because they are directly accountable to their customers. Communities that come together to plan and deliver services can make them more inclusive and responsive than state run services.

By transferring control to community based organisations, asset transfer can:

- Empower communities to shape the places in which they live and work.
- Involve communities in co-designing, transforming and delivering the services from which they benefit.
- Be a catalyst for skills development / volunteering opportunities / job creation / business development.
- Promote 'community anchors' and resilience in deprived neighbourhoods through the provision of space / opportunities for local enterprise activity.
- Lever in capital and revenue funding dependent on the proposal and evidenced community need

- 5.3 In conclusion, the initial licence period in August 2016 provided the group with the opportunity to pilot the demand within the community to bring this facility back into use. Their ability to lever in grants of **£16750.68 and additional in-kind support of £5300.00** and the levels of community engagement and participation evidenced during August

2016, provides sound evidence to grant them a lease of 6 years in order to support them to develop their vision of establishing a more accessible and sustainable splash pad facility in the future.

- 5.4 This group have successfully evidenced that this project has been a positive catalyst for sparking greater community involvement and increased use of the facility which has helped to contribute to improved community engagement, improved community cohesion and improved learning, health and well-being outcomes eg. Communities First were able to engage participants for a book literacy project with all spaces filled.
- 5.5 Their project has also contributed to Challenge 4 of the Lower Cynon Destination Management Plan (DMP) by the increased visitor impact in the village with 2 local businesses citing an increase in turnover whilst the pool was operational in August 2016.
- 5.6. Their actions to date also address the 7 well-being goals and the 5 sustainable development principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.