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WEST DEVON COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2015

Agenda, Reports and Minutes for the meeting

Agenda No Item

1. **Agenda Letter** (Pages 1 - 6)

2. **Reports**

Reports to Community Services:

a) Item 5 - Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):Memorandum of Agreement and related matters (Pages 7 - 14)

b) Item 6 - Leisure Centre Contract Monitoring (Pages 15 - 20)

3. **Minutes** (Pages 21 - 24)

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Agenda Item 1

AGENDA – COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 3rd MARCH 2015

PART ONE – OPEN COMMITTEE

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination, bias or interests in items on this Agenda, then please contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

To consider those items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered by the Meeting as matters of urgency (if any).

Page

MINUTES

4. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Regular Meeting held on 20th January 2015 (previously circulated).

OPERATIONAL

5. **Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB):
Memorandum of Agreement and related matters**

Report of the Natural Environment & Recreation Manager 6

6. **Leisure Centre Contract Monitoring**

Joint Report of the Natural Environment & Recreation Manager and
the Leisure Contracts Officer 13

PART TWO – ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPT INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED (if any).

If any, the Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution:

“**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in Part I of Schedule 12(A) to the Act.”

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STRATEGIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Reports to Members

Members will be aware of the requirement to take account of strategic risk in decision making. This note is designed to support Members consider strategic risks as part of the assessment of reports from officers.

There are an increasing number of issues that we have a statutory requirement to take into account which affect all aspects of the Council's policies and service delivery (e.g. Human Rights Act). There are also discretionary issues we choose to highlight in our reports (e.g. Financial Implications, and Impact on Council Priorities and Targets). Common Law duty requires Local Authorities to take into account all things they need to take into account! The Courts hearing Judicial Review applications make this their starting point in deciding whether any decision is reasonable.

Officers have a responsibility to assess the implications of recommendations to Members. Members should ensure that before making a decision they have undertaken a similar consideration relating to the risks associated with the report.

Examples of risk to be considered:-

Statutory Requirement :

- Equalities and Discrimination, particularly Race Equality. (Consider the impact on each of the following equality areas: Race, Religion and Belief, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Disability, Age)
- Human Rights
- Crime and Disorder
- Health and Safety
- Employment Legislation
- Data Protection
- Freedom of Information
- Corporate activity with an impact on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and biodiversity

Corporate Requirement :

- Impact on Council's Reputation
- Impact on Priorities, Cross-Cutting themes, Targets and / or Commitments
- Impact on Standing Orders / Financial Regulations
- Impact on Council's Assets
- Financial Risks
- Compliance with National Policies and Guidance
- Impact on Sustainability

Members' attention is drawn to the Risk Assessment section within each report. Members are encouraged to consider whether the report has satisfactorily identified

all likely negative impacts and mitigating action that will be taken. Members also need to consider the opportunities presented by actions, noting that any change entails an element of risk. The challenge is to effectively manage that risk.

RISK SCORING MATRIX

Impact/Severity		Target impact	Stakeholder impact	Finance impact
1	Insignificant	Low impact on outcome & target achievement & service delivery	Low stakeholder concern	Low financial risk
2	Minor	Minor impact on outcome & target achievement & service delivery	Minor stakeholder concern	Minor financial risk
3	Moderate	Moderate outcome & target achievement & service delivery	Moderate stakeholder concern	Moderate financial risk
4	Serious	High impact on outcome & target achievement & service delivery	High stakeholder concern	High financial risk
5	Very serious	Very high impact on outcome & target achievement & service delivery	Very high stakeholder concern	Very high financial risk
Likelihood/Probability		Risk	Opportunity	
1	Very low	Negligible chance of occurrence; has not occurred	Possible opportunity yet to be investigated with low likelihood of success	
2	Low	Low chance of occurrence; has occurred infrequently but within internal control	Opportunity being investigated with low likelihood of success	
3	Medium	Equal chance of occurrence or non occurrence; could occur more than once and be difficult to control due to external influences	Opportunity may be achievable with careful management	
4	High	More likely to occur than not occur; has occurred more than once and difficult to control due to external influences	Good opportunity which may be realised	
5	Very high	Very high chance of occurrence but not a certainty; has occurred recently	Clear reliable opportunity with reasonable certainty of achievement	

Risk score = Impact/Severity x Likelihood/Probability

Likelihood	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Impact						

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NAME OF COMMITTEE	Community Services
DATE	3rd March 2015
REPORT TITLE	Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): Memorandum of Agreement and related matters
REPORT OF	Natural Environment & Recreation Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	Bere Ferrers, Tamarside

Summary of report:

The Council is a funder of the Tamar Valley AONB team and projects, in partnership with other local authorities and DEFRA. The current funding and management agreements are due to expire at the end of 2014/15. This report proposes that an interim agreement for 2015/16 be sought with the funding partners to ensure continuity of delivery.

The report also seeks agreement to West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) being involved in a comprehensive review of future delivery options of AONB activities currently being led by the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership in order to identify preferred delivery options for 16/17 onwards.

Financial implications:

Entering into an agreement for 2015/16 would require commitment of budget for the next financial year under the “Biodiversity reserve” budget head. If WDBC tracked other partners and maintained 15/16 levels at 14/15 levels then this would amount to £8,835.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the issues and agrees to:

1. enter into renewed Memorandum of Agreement for the Tamar Valley AONB covering 2015/16 based on an assumed standstill budget;
2. delegate to the Natural Environment and Recreation Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of Community Services Committee, the task of agreeing the final wording of the Agreement; and,

3. instruct Officers to participate in a structured review of the future options for delivery of Tamar Valley AONB delivery from 16/17 onwards and to report back to Community Services Committee on preferred options

Officer contact:

Ross Kennerley, Natural Environment and Recreation Manager.
ross.kennerley@southhams.gov.uk 01803 861379

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There are 34 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). They are designated by Government; their primary statutory purpose is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. The Tamar Valley AONB was designated in 1995. The AONB has:
 - A (non statutory) partnership body – which provides co-ordination and oversight;
 - A staff unit – which undertakes a wide range of actions and projects.
 - A (statutory) management plan – which sets out the local authorities’ policies for the AONB. The Tamar Valley 2014 – 2019 AONB Management Plans have been adopted by WDBC and sets out the policies of the Council for the management of the AONB
 - A requirement on all relevant authorities to “*have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB*” when exercising any functions.
- 1.1 The Tamar Valley AONB staff unit is employed and hosted by Cornwall Council. The five core funding organisations comprise Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, West Devon Borough Council, South Hams District Council and DEFRA.
- 1.2 The AONB activities are supported through a grant from government administered by DEFRA, which covers up to 75% of the core costs. The remaining 25% is expected to be met jointly by the local authorities listed, whose areas are covered by the AONB designation.
- 1.3 The financial and administrative arrangements for each AONB are set out in a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed by the respective core funding organisations. The current AONB MoA expires in March 2015. In anticipating this DEFRA has indicated
 - That it will maintain 14/15 levels of financial contribution for 15/16 subject to other funders maintaining their level of contribution.
 - That this will be offered as a grant and DEFRA will not be bound to new MoAs. This means DEFRA will not have shared staffing

responsibility – in particular in relation to any redundancy costs that might fall on the host in subsequent years

1.4 For the Tamar Valley AONB the other funding partners have indicated.

- DEFRA. There has been no update to the indicative funding position originally given for 15/16. Whilst there has been other correspondence (e.g. replies from Lord de Mauley to Cornwall Council and to Blackdown Hills AONB), all this has done is repeat what is already known, that there will be some form of announcement on AONB funding at some point after the election which will allow Councils “*the necessary time and security to plan for 2016-17 and beyond*”.
- Devon County Council (DCC) has indicated that it will maintain 14/15 levels of funding for 15/16 and that it would want to enter a MoA (or similar) and would be prepared to share liabilities with other partners on a proportionate basis.
- South Hams District Council (SHDC) has indicated a continued contribution based on the current level and that it would want to enter a MoA (or similar) and would be prepared to share liabilities with other partners on a proportionate basis.
- Cornwall Council (CC) had been considering budget removal post 16/17. This was a matter of concern – and raised a substantial number of responses to the CC budget consultation. CC has reviewed its position and is now holding over any decision on funding pending further information from DEFRA for 2016/17 and beyond. It is assumed the promised DEFRA clarification will assist CC in planning appropriately. Clearly the review of delivery options needs to be well advanced so the partners can respond rapidly and positively for 2016/17 and beyond. CC has been asked to review the draft MoA and it is anticipated that CC will move forward towards agreeing the MoA with other Council partners.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The AONB designations highlight the significance of these areas as the nation’s finest protected landscapes. The Council is under a statutory duty to conserve and enhance the AONBs, and the existing AONB partnerships and staff units are a well established mechanism for delivering elements of that responsibility and sharing the costs of so doing.
- 2.2 Having a Memorandum of Agreement in place for each AONB provides important clarity and stability for the partnerships and staff units, allowing the AONB teams to plan their projects and activities ahead and secure additional external grants.
- 2.3 Having the Memorandum of Agreement is also very important for the Council in managing its financial liability, because the Memorandum sets out clear arrangements for the sharing of costs and risks between the funding organisations.

2.4 The suggested position is that

- An MoA be established between the local authority partners for 15/16 based on a sharing of liabilities proportionate to contribution and,
- The arrangement from 16/17 onwards be decided through a structured review of options. The Tamar Valley AONB Partnership has endorsed this approach and will be negotiating with Cornwall Council on this basis.

2.8 Entering the MoA would create a theoretical financial obligation for WDBC should future redundancies arise. However this needs to be seen in the context of the agreement being for 12 months only and with all other partners having committed funding for 15/16 – thus this risk is negligible. In any case the Tamar Valley AONB has established that it will have sufficient reserves or unrestricted income for this period in the unlikely event that redundancies would need to be paid at the end of 15/16.

3. PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT

3.1 The current Memorandum of Agreement for each AONB follows a national format and runs to over 30 pages covering the following:

- A vision for the partnership;
- The purpose of the AONB staff unit;
- The respective roles of the employing authority, the other local authorities, and Defra;
- Arrangements for staff employment and line management;
- Financial and administrative arrangements, including arrangements for the payment and receipt of partnership funding contributions;
- A list of cost categories that are eligible for funding;
- Arrangements for sharing any redundancy costs between the funding partners;
- The amount of each partner's future funding input;
- Arrangements for termination or withdrawal from the Agreement;
- Provisions for resolving disputes or disagreements;
- Provisions for disclosure of information to comply with the Freedom of Information Act, Data Protection Act, Human Rights Act, etc.
- A number of schedules and appendices setting out the AONB Partnership terms of reference, purpose, governance, membership, structures and organisation; and the structure and terms of reference of the staff unit.

3.2 It is anticipated that MoAs established between local partners for 15/16 will incorporate key elements but omit reference and obligations on DEFRA. It is therefore proposed that members agree to the renewal of the Agreement on the lines set out above, but delegates authority to the Natural Environment and Recreation Manager to finalise the Agreements, in consultation with the Chairman. A draft MoA has recently been circulated by DCC and is under review.

3.3 The issues faced by WDBC are replicated nationally and strong representations have been made to DEFRA. In light of these further clarification has been

provided by DEFRA. This has come via a tripartite meeting between DEFRA, NAAONB and Natural England. It is confirmed that DEFRA will offer a grant for 15/16, that it won't enter new or extended MoAs and that the grant can't be used to cover redundancy costs.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gives local authorities an explicit statutory duty to prepare and publish a management plan for each of their AONBs, and to review it every five years. The Act also requires local authorities to have regard for the purposes of the AONBs in conducting their functions.
- 4.2 The Council has the ability to undertake activity in relation to AONBs under General Powers of Competence within the Localism Act 2011.
- 4.3 The terms of the existing MoA are generally acceptable and DCC has prepared an interim 15/16 version for consideration by funding partners. Subject to this being acceptable to the Council it will be reviewed by Support Services for suitability prior to signing.
- 4.4 This report is brought to Committee because it needs to agree the extent of the terms of the agreement with the accompanying financial commitment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is proposed that a one year MoA be entered into for Tamar Valley AONB for the year 15/16. At this stage it is assumed this will be based on the 14/15 level of funding.
- 5.2 Entering into agreements for 2015/16 would require commitment of budgets for the next financial year under the "Biodiversity Reserve" budget head. If WDBC tracks other partners and maintained 15/16 levels at 14/15 levels then this would amount to £8,835. Maintaining current levels allows for a structured review of future delivery options – at the heart of which will be opportunities for both cost reduction and income generation. Any potential redundancy liabilities are covered from in year budget held by the AONB unit.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The strategic risk management implications are set out below:

Corporate priorities engaged:	Economy, Environment
Statutory powers:	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (the well-being power).
Considerations of equality and human rights:	N/A
Biodiversity considerations:	The AONB Management Plan takes these matters into consideration.

Sustainability considerations:	The AONB Management Plan takes these matters into consideration.
Crime and disorder implications:	N/A
Background papers:	Tamar Valley AONB: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management Plan 2014 - 2019.• 2011 - 2015 Memorandum of Agreement.• Annual report 2013-2014.
Appendices attached:	

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Financial	Council is exposed to financial liabilities for staff and redundancy costs	2	2	4	↔	Seek equitable arrangements for 15/16 Seek stable long term funding and operational position through review Costs could be covered from contribution if liabilities occur	Ross Kennerley
2	Legal	Need to adhere to current MoA and seek secure position for 15/16 onwards	3	3	9	↔	Ensure any actions don't breach current MoA and expose Council to legal (and potentially financial) liability	Ross Kennerley
3	Reputational	Impact on AONB delivery programme, team and partnership	3	2	6	↔	Participate in managed and structured review of future options Seek external validation of process	Ross Kennerley

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑

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WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Community Services Committee
DATE	Tuesday 3rd March 2015
REPORT TITLE	Leisure Centre Contract Monitoring
Joint Report of	Natural Environment and Recreation Manager and the Leisure Contracts Officer
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

This report highlights current performance and key issues of the leisure centre management arrangements with Leisure in The Community (LiTC) and 1Life, formerly Leisure Connection.

Financial implications:

The overall operating costs for 2014/15 are c£407,000, which includes the key costs of the contract management fee of £336,000 and £47,000 for repairs and maintenance.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Committee notes the current contract performance and continued increases in usage figures.

Officer contact:

Jon Parkinson – jon.parkinson@swdevon.gov.uk tel; 01803 861270
 Ross Kennerley – ross.kennerley@swdevon.gov.uk tel; 01803 861379

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides an update on current monitoring issues relating to the performance of the leisure contract with LiTC/1Life, for the provision of management services at both Meadowlands (Tavistock) and Parklands (Okehampton) Leisure Centres.
- 1.2 The current contract is now in the extension period up to November 2016 as approved by Council in April 2013. This allowed a restructuring of the relationship between the Council, LiTC and 1Life.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION – CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

Usage & Quality

2.1 Overall usage figures for both leisure centres are outlined below for October 2014 to January 2015 for the 2014/15 year with a comparison to previous years for the same period;

Site	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13
Meadowlands – Swimming	30,050	27,077	22,206
Parklands – Swimming	18,607	19,580	18,501
Parklands – Fitness	23,679	21,919	20,160

2.2 Meadowlands key usage figures;

- Overall usage up by 2,973 visits, with swim school leading the way up by 2,399 visits on last year.
- Swim school numbers currently stand at 471 with overall pool members at 381. Also 10 day time pre-school classes now take place
- Wet and wild usage has slightly decreased on last year's figures.
- 7 primary schools still using the pool; Mount Kelly Prep, Bere Alston, Tavistock Primary, Princetown, Bickleigh Down, Lamerton and St Peters.

2.3 Parklands key usage figures;

- Fitness usage up by 1,760 visits on year to date, with more bookings from the College and increased gym membership sales over January.
- Swimming overall was down by 973 with a slow Christmas and New Year period. However swim school increased by 261 visits with 371 children attending.
- Overall centre memberships stand at a record 1092 members.
- 8 primary schools using the centre; Okehampton, South Tawton, Hatherleigh, Exbourne, Lydford, Winkleigh, Halwill and Northlew.

2.4 There are 4 disability swimming sessions across both pools, including regular sessions and work with Tavistock Adult Learning, Helen McFarlane, the Molly Owen Centre and Puzzle Tree. Also special Olympic training sessions are held every week. Other community target sessions include working with Tavistock Youth Cafe for under-privileged children and with CHICKS (children's holiday inner city kids).

2.5 The GP Referral Scheme at Parklands run by 1Life has 66 users on a 10 week programmes. Following additional staff training on GP Referrals, from June/July the scheme will change at Parklands and a new scheme is intended to be rolled out at Meadowlands for swim based exercise.

2.6 At Meadowlands there has been a complete upgrading of the cafe area to improve the catering provision. This has involved a significant investment from 1Life to enhance the flooring, seating, tills, counter and displays. Whilst at Parklands opening hours have recently been extended to allow additional early morning use of the centre in line with user demand.

- 2.7 Both centres have received Quest Plus Standard in their previous inspections and, for the first time in January, Meadowlands achieved a Quest Plus 'Good' rating.

Repairs & Maintenance/Asset Management

- 2.8 Recent key works for the last quarter that have taken place at both sites are as follows with such works being part of 1Life's maintenance costs and the Council's allocated revenue maintenance budget;

Meadowlands;

- Completed works;
1Life – Re-decoration of the centre with new company branding, overall cafe re-furbishment, poolside lighting and a dosing pump replaced and a new pool circulation pump installed. Showers re-fitted.

WDBC – Roof leaks above cafe area, tiling in dry-side toilets. Moat cleaned out. Pool side windows re-sealed and patio area cleaned.

- Proposed Works;
1Life – Locker refurbishment and a new pump for outdoor ride.

Parklands;

- Completed Works;
1Life – sports hall lighting replaced, new water storage tank and chlorine pump installed. New door access controls installed.

WDBC – Roof leaks above dance studio and loading bay. New pump installed by Kier in pool undercroft area.

- Proposed Works;
1Life - Office air con re-gas.

Customer Feedback/User Groups

- 2.9 Customer comments for October 2014 – January 2015 for both sites are shown below with a comparison to the previous 4 months;

	October 2014 – January 2015		June 2014 – September 2014	
Meadowlands	251 positive	90 negative	36 positive	36 negative
Parklands	31 positive	22 negative	25 positive	18 negative

Meadowlands;

- Overall positive comments have seen a huge increase in their number compared to the last quarter. Recent comments in the New Year reflected improvements made to cafe area, though suggestions for the need of some hot snacks – chips! November saw the largest number of positive feedback recorded, with 150 comments being made. These covered

recognition of great customer service, clean facility, good water temperature to very reasonable pricing and fun wet and wild sessions.

- On the negative side comments were made on cold showers and water temperatures, club sessions running on past allocated time – which was discussed at User Group meeting. Also the need for more swim teachers.

Parklands:

- Positive feedback range from good value of memberships, friendly staff, clean centre and recent improvements to coffee.
- Recent negative comments received from small price increase end of last year, increased use in some day time gym sessions from school and better coffee needed.

2.10 Parklands User Group was due to meet in November but had to be cancelled and was re-arranged for February. In the meantime key users were asked to meet with the Centre Manager to review issues or concerns. Meadowlands User Group did meet in November with a good attendance and the first for Lauren Parker, as new Centre Manager. The Group was informed that the Council is moving forward with its new leisure procurement project, which included Meadowlands, and details will be reported in the New Year. Other discussion around minor timetable issues, locker maintenance and exercise referrals which were being addressed. The next meeting of the User Group is in February.

Marketing Initiatives

- 2.11 1Life continues to grow its brand and member user cards and now has over 1,900 card holders at Meadowlands and 2,500 at Okehampton. This allows 1Life to email, text customers with different promotions, centre notices and taster sessions directly to inform and keep users updated.
- 2.12 Primary schools are contacted each term with swim referral vouchers and water safety courses to encourage participation. Primary Schools Games for each area have been booked in for this summer.
- 2.13 The overall 12 month membership offer for both centres still represents good value at £23 each month for Parklands and from £12.40 at Meadowlands.
- 2.14 On staffing and its apprentices, 1Life now have 14 apprentices employed learning various NVQ Level 2 skills. Staff hours at Parklands gym have been increased to improve customer service.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The provision of leisure services is a discretionary activity. The Council has powers to deal with leisure facilities under the general power of competence provided by Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and s19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Leisure Contract maintains its regular monthly financial payments to enable 1Life to fulfil its business plans and operational arrangements. Whilst ongoing repairs and maintenance obligations for WDBC are met from the allocated maintenance budgets.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The relationship and partnership work with 1Life/LiTC continues to be positive with good contract performance highlighting increases in attendances and improvements in customer service.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status			Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel		
1	Poor Contract Performance	Leisure Connections underperforms with financial and customer implications	5	2	10 ↓	Regular contract performance monitoring and review measures implemented as required.	Head of Assets
2	Legislative changes on current financial arrangement	Failure of Council to receive full benefit of savings if finance or tax regime changes	4	2	8 ↔	Early warning of legal changes that enable financial risk management	Head of Finance
3	Repairs, maintenance and life cycle costs	Ongoing costs of routine and lifecycle maintenance increase.	5	2	10 ↓	Regular monitoring and inspections of centres. Overall asset management of centres, including site condition surveys. Cost benefit assessment of works in light of strategic review.	Head of Assets

Corporate priorities engaged:	Community Life
Statutory powers:	As above
Considerations of equality and human rights:	No issues identified
Biodiversity considerations:	No issues identified

Sustainability considerations:	Leisure Connection energy audit and carbon footprint reduction.
Crime and disorder implications:	Links to reduced crime and anti social behaviour.
Background papers:	Leisure Services Management Contract

Agenda Item 3

At a Meeting of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, **TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the 3rd day of **MARCH 2015** at **2.00 pm**.

Present: Cllr K Ball – Vice-Chairman – in the Chair
Cllr M J R Benson Cllr K A Clish-Green
Cllr D Cloke Cllr C Hall
Cllr M E Morse Cllr D E Moyse
Cllr R J Oxborough

Substitutes: Cllr J Moody Cllr T Pearce
Executive Director (Service Delivery & Community)
Natural Environment & Recreation Manager
Committee & Ombudsman Link Officer

In attendance: Cllr A Leech Cllr R Musgrave

CS 19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Cllr R F D Sampson (Substitute Cllr T Pearce) and from Cllr N Morgan (Substitute Cllr J Moody).

CS 20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R J Oxborough – Minute No CS 23 – Leisure Centre Contract Monitoring – Personal – Son employed at Meadowlands Leisure Pool.

***CS 21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th January 2015, were confirmed and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a correct record.

***CS 22 TAMAR VALLEY AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB): MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AND RELATED MATTERS**

The Natural Environment & Recreation Manager presented a report (page 6 to the Agenda) seeking the Committee's agreement for the Council to be involved in a comprehensive review of the future delivery options of the AONB activities currently led by the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership to identify preferred delivery options for 2016/2017 onwards.

Funding for the AONB was secured through DEFRA providing a grant covering three quarters of the costs of the service with the remaining quarter being met through the Borough Council and its partner councils South Hams District Council and Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council was the lead and major contributory council and engaged the dedicated AONB staff.

The financial and administrative arrangements for the AONB were set down in a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to which each funding partner was a signatory. The current MoA was due to expire during March 2015. In anticipating this DEFRA had indicated that 2014/2015 funding levels would be maintained for 2015/2016 but would give no indication of future funding levels. It was understood that an announcement on future AONB funding would be made after the General Election in May 2015 which would “allow Councils the necessary time and security to plan for 2016/17 and beyond”.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) a renewed Memorandum of Agreement for the Tamar Valley AONB be entered into for the year 2015/2016 on an assumed standstill budget;
- (ii) the Natural Environment & Recreation Manager be authorised to agree, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Community Services Committee, the final wording of the Agreement; and,
- (iii) officers be requested to participate in a structured review of the future options for delivery of the Tamar Valley AONB from 2016/2017 onwards and to report back to the Community Services Committee or its successor Committee on the preferred options.

***CS 23**

LEISURE CENTRE CONTRACT MONITORING

Mr J Smith, the Contact Manager for LiTC and 1Life attended the meeting for this item.

The Natural Environment & Recreation Manager and the Leisure Contracts Officer presented a joint report (page 13 to the Agenda) on the current performance and key issues of the leisure centre management arrangements with Leisure in The Community (LiTC) and 1Life, formally Leisure Connection. The contract was performing very well and within budget both in terms of the management fee and repairs and maintenance.

In respect of Meadowlands, the Committee noted the large increase in positive comments during the period October 2014 to January 2015 and Mr Smith reported that this was the outcome of a new practice at Meadowland of actively seeking engagement with clients and responding to comments received. Some refurbishment had taken place including a complete upgrading of the cafe area and replacement of the current pool side lockers was imminent. The Committee was further advised that during the past week two new primary schools, Mary Tavy and Callington, would be taking up swimming lessons.

In response to a question Mr Smith agreed to discuss with the management of The Wharf the possibility of re-introducing joint swim and film sessions for children during the school holiday periods.

The Committee was very pleased to note that Meadowlands had achieved the highest growth rate for a swim school across all the contracts operated by 1Life during the past year.

In respect of Parklands, usage was increasing across all disciplines and the GP referral scheme was working very well.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be noted and welcomed.

(The Meeting terminated at 2.45 pm.)

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