

Officer Decision Statement

Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014/2095

Subject:	Sencio Community Leisure - request for grant funding
Key Decision	Yes
Notice of the Key Decision	Notice has been given as per Regulation 11 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012
Details of Decision taken	Approval of £35,000 grant funding to support the Council's leisure provider, Sencio Community Leisure, to settle an outstanding electricity utility debt (for the three Council-owned leisure centres) accumulated during the Government closure of all leisure and gym facilities. Approval will enable the reopening of the centres and welcome customers back through the doors.
Reason for Decision	If financial support is not granted, Sencio will be unable to re-open the leisure centres on 3 August 2020, as per its Recovery Plan and as a result, the Council is likely to incur significant financial liabilities and potential reputational risks as people will be unable to return to their local leisure provision.
Reason for Urgency	On 20 July 2020, Sencio Community Leisure formally approached the Council to advise that they had been served 7 working days notice to pay an outstanding electricity debt (£35,000), accumulated during the enforced closure. If unpaid within the given timeframe, the power supply to the three leisure centres operated by Sencio on behalf of the Council, will be disconnected at the end of the 7 day period.
	<p>If financial support is not granted, the consequences are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sencio unable to re-open the leisure centres on 3 August 2020, as per its Recovery Plan. • Significant financial liabilities to the Council if Sencio is unable to reopen the centres. • Significant property maintenance costs incurred by the Council for the building fabric and plant, including the swimming pools, located within the three centres. • Reputational risk to the Council if local people are unable to return to their local leisure provision.

Leisure and sport will be critical to improving the health of people from all ages and backgrounds as we emerge from this crisis. As destinations in themselves, the leisure centres will also draw people in to town centres creating community spaces and support for local businesses.

Pursuant to Appendix C, paragraph 18 of the Council's Constitution, it is deemed that the decision proposed is reasonable in these circumstances to be treated as a matter of urgency and the call-in procedure does not apply.

All Documents considered:

Background information attached.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Officer when making the Decision: None.

Financial implications

Council investment of £35,000, from existing budgets, is being sought to cover the grant payment.

It should be noted that UK Active and Sport England have submitted an application to Government for a financial package of support for local authority leisure. A Government decision is expected imminently. Therefore, there could be the potential to deduct £35,000 from any forthcoming funding, which would make the impact cost neutral.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

This decision is taken by the Chief Executive acting in accordance with Paragraph 12 (d) of Part 13 of the Constitution, which authorises him as follows:

(d) In cases of urgency, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council [and, where possible, the Leader(s) of the Opposition], to take any decision which could be taken by the Cabinet or by a Committee and to report such actions to Cabinet or Committee as appropriate.

Furthermore, this being an urgent Key Decision, Notice has been duly given and the agreement of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee has been sought to enable the decision to proceed as per Regulation 11(1)(a) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012.

Furthermore, this being an urgent Key Decision, the agreement of the Chairman of the Council has been sought to disapply the call-in procedure set out in

Paragraph 18 of Appendix C of the Constitution, for the reasons set out in Paragraphs 18.13 - 18.18.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Local Member(s), Portfolio Holders and/or Chief Officer/Heads of Service Consulted

Cllr Dyball, Cabinet Member - People and Places
 Chief Officer - People and Places
 Chief Officer - Finance and Trading

Agreement of Chairman of Scrutiny Committee pursuant to 11 (1)(a) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012, obtained on: On 24 July 2020

Agreement of the Chairman of the Council pursuant to Appendix C, para. 18.16 of the Council's Constitution, obtained on: On 24 July 2020

Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any member who was consulted or was part of the body giving specific express authorisation

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

Decision taken by:	Dr Pav Ramewal, Chief Executive
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Signed by Officer	
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Date of Decision	27 July 2020
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Record made by:	Charlie Sinclair
Date of record:	27 July 2020

This decision takes immediate effect