

REPORT TO CABINET

22 January 2020

Subject:	Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2019-2022
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor Maria Crompton - Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Director:	Executive Director – Neighbourhoods – Alison Knight
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	 
Key Decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Yes
Director Approval:	Yes
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	This is boroughwide
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	Scrutiny have not been consulted
Contact Officer(s):	Gemma Ryan Business Manager – Sport & Leisure gemma_ryan@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods to agree the Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan and unitary payment for 2021/22.
2. Authorise to the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods to extend the negotiation period to agree a Business Plan for Sandwell Leisure Trust for 2022/2023 to 1st September 2020, in line with contract terms.
3. Authorise the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods and the Executive Director – Resources to adjust the unitary payment for 2021/22 should the proposed closure of Brandhall Golf Course be approved.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2019-2022.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VISION 2030

- 2.1 Agreement of the Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2019-2022 will ensure the sustainable delivery of leisure services in Sandwell for the next three years, providing local people with local opportunities to be active. This will contribute to ambitions 2 and 5 of Sandwell's Vision 2030.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 20 March 2019 the Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2018-2021 was approved (see Minute No. 31/19).
- 3.2 The above report also recommended that the Business Planning process for 2021/22 be extended to 1 September 2019, in line with the Management and Funding Agreement ("the contract").
- 3.3 SLT's Business Plan 2019-2022 outlines the agreed actions and required unitary payment that resulted from extended negotiations.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 As part of the extended negotiation process, outlined above, a programme of meetings was arranged for representatives from both the Council and Sandwell Leisure Trust to discuss finances and proposed business plan in greater detail. Representatives from the Council included;

- Alison Knight (Executive Director – Neighbourhoods)
- Alan Caddick (Director – Housing and Communities)
- Darren Carter (Executive Director – Resources)
- Dave Smith (Principal Accountant – Place)
- Chris Jones (Commonwealth Games 2022 Aquatics Centre – Project Director)
- Gemma Ryan (Business Manager – Sport & Leisure)

4.2 The business planning meetings affirmed the shared outcome of both parties to work towards a significantly reduced management fee via a long-term business planning approach. Both parties will continue hold regular joint business planning meetings to ensure the sustainable delivery of leisure services in Sandwell. The Cabinet shall be consulted on future progress of this approach.

4.3 To enable the successful agreement of Sandwell Leisure Trust Business plan and unitary payment for 2022/23 the extended timescales of 1st September 2019, allowed for in ‘the contract’, shall be utilised. A further Cabinet report shall be presented following the agreement of the Business plan for 2022/23 for approval.

4.4 A further report shall also outline progress and key actions required to achieve a longer term Business Planning approach to ensure long term sustainability of Sandwell’s Leisure Services.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 Council representatives, including the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, Director for Housing and Communities, and portfolio holder, the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities have been consulted on the content of the Business Plan. The Executive Director for Resources and the principal accountant for this portfolio have also been consulted and have confirmed that the proposed Business Plan is accounted for within the Council’s budget for the next three financial years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Not agreeing the business plan could have a detrimental impact upon Sandwell Leisure Trust and on the sustainable delivery of leisure services in Sandwell.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Approval of the Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2018-2021 commits the Council to a total of £8,742,000 in unitary payments to Sandwell Leisure Trust over the next three years. This is broken down as follows;

	Unitary Payment
2019/20	£2,885,000
2020/21	£2,914,000
2021/22	£2,943,000
Total	£8,742,000

The unitary payments outlined above are included within the Council's budget projections for the next 3 years.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The negotiations to reach agreement on the Business Plan have been conducted by officers in accordance with the provisions of the contract between the Council and Sandwell Leisure Trust.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 All information held for this work has been subject to the Council's Data Protection policy.

10 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 10.1 The proposals will confirm the delivery of Sandwell's leisure services for the next three years. This will allow time to agree a longer-term approach to business planning with Sandwell Leisure Trust and will enable the shared outcome of both parties to work towards a significantly reduced management fee to be achieved in the longer term.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

11.1 Participating in physical activity has significant health benefits, including reducing risk factors associated with cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, many cancers, mental health and general well being. Sandwell Leisure Trust makes a significant contribution to health and well-being outcomes in the borough.

12 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Delegate authority to the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods to agree the Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan and unitary payment for 2021/22 (£2,943,000).

12.2 Delegate authority to the Executive Director – Neighbourhoods to extend the negotiation period to agree a Business Plan for 2022/2023 to 1 September 2020, in line with contract terms.

12.3 The above recommendations are in line with the business planning approach as set out in the contract with Sandwell Leisure Trust.

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2019-2022

Alison Knight
Executive Director – Neighbourhoods