

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Leisure and Community
Services

REPORT NUMBER **E157**

TO: Overview & Scrutiny (Stewardship)
Overview & Scrutiny (Community Services)

DATE OF MEETING 27 September 2005
4 October 2005

BABERGH LEISURE TRUST

1. **SUMMARY**

The Procurement Task Group is managing the process of establishing a Trust to be responsible of the future management of the Kingfisher Leisure Centre, Sudbury and Hadleigh Swimming Pool. Procurement Task Group has asked that a progress report be submitted to the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This report sets out progress to date and current actions.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the report be noted.

The Committees are able to resolve this matter.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. **KEY INFORMATION**

4.1 In April the Council agreed to create its own leisure Trust in the form of a charitable company limited by guarantee with a Board made up of representatives from the Council and the community. Kingfisher Leisure Centre, Sudbury and Hadleigh Swimming Pool will be managed through the Trust with the potential for other facilities to come on board at a later date.

4.2 The principal reasons for creating our own Trust were as follows:-

- Local single focus body with a real opportunity to create local involvement and deliver corporate objective number 5 – raise individual and community ambitions and encourage active citizenship.
- Certainty of delivery with all profits re-invested (no-share holder value).
- No local mature Trusts with a proven track record.
- Potential to create economies of scale with other Trusts in the future (but still retaining a local identity).
- Financially the most attractive option.

4.3 As mentioned above the Council asked the Procurement Task Group to manage the process and they meet with officers on a regular basis.

4.4 At its meeting on 4 August 2005 Strategy Committee approved the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the new Trust. The Memorandum sets out the objects and powers of the organisation and the Articles of Association set out the internal organisation of the company.

4.5 Current activity includes the following:-

- The recruitment process for local trustees is now well underway. An open evening is being held on Thursday 29 September where people interested in becoming trustees will be able to hear more about the trust and the facilities to be managed. Formal interviews will take place in October. Babergh will appoint its two trustees at the Council meeting on 18 October.
- Users and staff from Leisure Connection have been involved in selecting the name of the new Trust. Staff, users and Procurement Group representatives recently met and agreed, from a list of more than 70 names, that the new Trust should be called South Suffolk Leisure.
- The major piece of work currently being undertaken is the preparation of the Business Plan. This will be presented to the Procurement Working Group in October and go forward to Strategy Committee in November and the Council in December. This is the most significant document as it will determine the level of funding the Council gives to the Trust for the first five years of its existence. At the same time, work is progressing on the lease of the two buildings to the Trust.
- The Council's consultants, Lawrence Graham, Solicitors, are also working with the Council and the four high schools on a review of the management arrangements of the four dual use sports centres. They are also undertaking work on how the Quay Theatre might be able to be more closely associated with the new Trust.
- Staff employed by Leisure Connection, users of the two facilities and the public are being kept up to date on developments through newsletters that will continue for the foreseeable future.

5. **APPENDICES**

None

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO**

None.

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