

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Report on Cultural Activity supported by Greenham Common Trust
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	4 th November 2010
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2171

Purpose of Report: To confirm that Greenham Common Trust has discharged its obligations in relation to paragraph 4.17.1 of the Agreement dated 20th September 2001.

Recommended Action: That the Head of Legal and Electoral Services should write to the chief Executive of the Greenham Common Trust confirming that the obligations to make a contribution to sport and leisure activities across the district has now been discharged.

Reason for decision to be taken: Correspondence was received in the summer of 2010 from the Greenham Common Trust. The agreement between the Trust and the West Berkshire District Council recommended a contribution to the provision of sport and leisure activities for a 10 year period up to 1st June 2010. the Chief Executive of the Greenham, Common Trust has asked for a short letter confirming that this obligation has been met.

Statutory:

Non-Statutory:

Other:

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: The Agreement between the Secretary of State for Defence and Newbury District Council and Berkshire County Council dated 24th March 1997. Agreement dated 20th September 2001 between Greenham Common Community Trust Limited, West Berkshire District Council, New Greenham Park Centre Limited and Barclays Bank Limited. Report to West Berkshire Executive dated 14th April 2005, correspondence between Chief Executive of Greenham Common Trust and Head of Cultural Services.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Contact Officer Details	
Name:	David Appleton
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Implications

Policy:

Financial: The financial implications are set out in the report.

Personnel: N/A

Legal/Procurement: if that particular obligation is discharged then a formal notice/letter will have to be issued confirming the same and this can be delegated to the Head of Legal and Electoral Services

Environmental: None

Partnering: The schemes supported by the contributions from Greenham Common Trust have involved voluntary sports and arts organisations, West Berkshire Council and Primary and Secondary schools across the district. Without the financial support provided by Greenham Common Trust these projects would not have been undertaken.

Property: None

Risk Management: None

Community Safety: None

Equalities: Not relevant

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Cllr Graham Jones No Comment

Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman: Cllr Brian Bedwell - 'I have no comment to make'.

Select Committee Chairman:

Ward Members: Cllr Billy Drummond, Cllr J Swift Hook No Comment

Opposition Spokesperson:

Cllr Roger Hunneman No Comment

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted: Head of Legal & Electoral Services, Head of Finance, Developer and Contributions Officer

Trade Union: N/A

	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this item subject to call-in.		
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for New Greenham Park was granted on the 24th March 1997. A Section 106 agreement in relation to this permission required Greenham Common Trust to make land available for recreational purposes. In 2001 it had become apparent that commercial providers for facilities such as skating rinks, cinema's, and bowling alley's had little appetite for this out of town location. At the same time the Greenham Common Trust had opened discussions with the Council about a planning application for a significant logistics facility in the Park. A new agreement was signed on the 20th September 2001 in which provision for support of recreational activity would be provided off site.
- 1.2 Essentially the Trustees were required to spend £170,000 per year for a 10 year period to promote such sport and leisure activities as may be agreed with the Council. The key element of the agreement was that expenditure needed to be agreed by both parties in order to count against the annual total. Any underspent sums to be carried forward into future years.
- 1.3 A potential judicial review in relation to the Sainsbury Distribution Centre proposal delayed the implication of this agreement until the beginning of 2004. A report to the West Berkshire Council Executive on the 14th April 2005 proposed the criteria against which this obligation could be discharged and recommended that eligibility of projects to discharge the obligation should be determined by an individual decision of the Executive Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services.

- 1.4 In consultation with the Portfolio Holder at that time, the Head of Cultural Services had written to the Chief Executive of Greenham Common Trust on 10th March 2005 to agree the amount of eligible expenditure that had been incurred by Greenham Common Trust up to that date. It was agreed that the overall position was as set out below.

Contribution due from GCT on 1 st June 2001/2002/2003/2004/2005	£850K
Total of agreed eligible expenditure for same period	£783K
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Outstanding commitment	£ 67K

- 1.5 Recent correspondence with Greenham Common Trust has confirmed that in the period from 2005 – 2010 a further £917,000 should have been contributed to sports and leisure projects in the district. However, it is apparent that projects totalling £1,217,990 have been supported. The detail of the individual projects is set out below

Contribution due from GCT on 1 st June 2006/2007/2008/2009/2010	£850K
Outstanding contribution from period 2001 – 2005	£67K
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Total	£917K

Projects agreed for inclusion:-

Thornford Park Athletics Track and Pavillion (1)	£542,807
Park House School Sports Co-ordinator (2)	£62,683
Adventure Dolphin Climbing Room	£150,000
Under 16 Free Swimming Initiative (2009 & 2010)	£12,500
Continued support for New Greenham Arts (2006-2010) (3)	£450,000
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	£1,217,990

Notes

- (1) Total expenditure £642,807 less £100,000 CARP Grant
- (2) Contribution in 2005 already accounted for
- (3) Reflects agreed £90K per year not actual costs

- 1.6 The Chief Executive of Greenham Common Trust wrote to the Head of Cultural Services on 9th April 2010 seeking for a short letter confirming that this Section 106 obligation has been met.

- 1.7 In addition to the projects outlined above the Greenham Common Trust has contributed significant sums to sports and arts activity across the district over the last ten years. New athletic facilities adjacent to Crookham Hill, a new climbing facility in Pangbourne, support for Schools Sports Partnership

initiative and support for New Greenham Arts have been the headline projects. To this should be added a substantial contribution to the Watermill Theatre appeal and a wide range of small grants to many local community organisations. Musical instrument loans to local orchestras, new team kits for junior football teams and improvements to children's play areas have made a real difference to opportunities for local residents across the district.

- 1.8 Whilst the planning obligation for the Greenham Common Trust to contribute to sport and leisure activity has now been discharged, their obligations as a local charity will continue. Cultural organisations across the district will continue to be able to apply for financial support as part of the annual grant distribution process.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.