

Item Called-in following an Executive Decision: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement

Committee considering report:	Scrutiny Commission
Date of Committee:	20 June 2023
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Janine Lewis
Report Author:	Gordon Oliver
Forward Plan Ref:	EX4332

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report presents the call-in request submitted on 30 March 2023 for the Scrutiny Commission to review the Executive's decision (EX4332) of 23 March 2023 concerning the revised costs and permission to sign the development management agreement for Newbury Sports Hub.
- 1.2 The call-in has been submitted in accordance with Sections 5 and 6.9 of the Council's Constitution.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 In accordance with the call-in request dated 30 March 2023, it is recommended that Members of the Scrutiny Commission review the Executive's decision (EX4332) of 23 March 2023 concerning the revised costs and permission to sign the development management agreement for Newbury Sports Hub.
- 2.2 Having reviewed the Executive decision, the Scrutiny Commission should either:
 - (a) Confirm the Executive decision; or
 - (b) Propose amendments and refer the matter back to Executive for further consideration

3 Supporting Information

Executive Decision

- 3.1 The report setting out the revised costs and seeking permission to sign the development management agreement for Newbury Sports Hub was presented for consideration by

Item Called-in following an Executive Decision: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement

the Executive on 23 March 2023. The report recommended that the Executive resolve as follows:

- To approve the allocation of £3.878M to complete the development of Newbury Sports Hub and thereby achieve the delivery of the number one priority in the Playing Pitch Strategy and to give approval, subject to planning permission, for the signing of the Development Management Agreement with Alliance Leisure Services.
- In consultation with the Portfolio Member for Finance and Economic Development, the Executive Director of Resources is given delegated authority to approve additional costs arising in relation to this development up to a maximum of £250k above £3.878M.

3.2 This was debated by the Executive and opposition at the meeting on 23 March 2023. The Executive resolved to approve the above recommendations.

Call-in of the Decision

3.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution six Elected Members (Councillors Lee Dillon, Jeff Brooks, Adrian Abbs, Alan Macro, Erik Pattenden and Tony Vickers) called in the Executive Decision (EX4332) on the basis that given the threat of further legal action against the Council in regards to this site, more inflationary costs could be incurred by the Council;

3.4 The Members of the Council who submitted the call-in request proposed that, based on the need for further detailed examination of the points above, an alternative course of action as follows:

- The Executive should set an absolute limit on the cost of the site.
- A new business plan should be developed on the basis of increased costs.
- The Council should conduct a new value for money review.

Role of the Scrutiny Commission

3.5 The role of the Scrutiny Commission is to review the Executive's decision.

3.6 The Commission will produce a report with its findings to the next meeting of the Executive (i.e. the meeting following the call-in request) unless there are exceptional circumstances why this cannot be achieved. In these circumstances the Chairman of the Commission and the Leader of the Council will agree a revised timetable.

3.7 The report will either confirm the original decision or propose amendments to it in any way it thinks fit and shall give reasons for its final decision. If the Commission upholds the Executive decision, that decision shall take immediate effect.

3.8 It should be noted that any matter which has been the subject of a call-in request may not be the subject of a further call-in request

Item Called-in following an Executive Decision: Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement

4 Appendices

4.1 Appendix A – Newbury Sports Hub - revised costs and seeking permission to sign Development Management Agreement (Executive, 23 March 2023).

Background Papers:

None

Wards affected: Wash Common and Newbury Clay Hill

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Appendix A: Executive Report