

HINCKLEY SQUASH CLUB
REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE – COMMUNITY
DIRECTION



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED:

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report on the current position regarding Hinckley Squash Club who are required to relocate from the Bus Station site for the Crescent regeneration scheme and seek Member support to financial assistance to support the delivery of a four court state of the art new facility at Tungsten Park.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Members note the positive progress made in securing the opportunity for a new site and premises for Hinckley Squash Club.
- 2.2 That Members approve financial assistance of up to £49,000 in grant funding to help facilitate the delivery of a four court new squash facility in Hinckley.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 Following the grant of planning consent for the Crescent regeneration scheme on the Hinckley Bus Station site in 2011 and grant of a Compulsory Purchase Order by the Secretary of State in 2012, negotiations have taken place with a number of the owners and occupiers. This has helped to secure a satisfactory outcome in respect of relocation or compensation for moving off site to enable the Crescent scheme to be developed. Informal notices have already been served and the General Vesting Order seeking possession of the site is programmed to be served in January 2014. This will enable works on the Bus Station site to commence in March 2014 and be complete and open to the public in 2015.
- 3.2 In parallel with this, the Council is undertaking a major procurement exercise on the provision of a new Leisure Centre on Argents Mead. A report on the outcomes of this process and a decision to take forward the implementation of a new Leisure Centre is programmed for January 2014. None of the shortlisted schemes currently accommodate new squash courts.

New Squash Court Facility

- 3.2 In view of the above, discussions have been underway with Hinckley Squash Club and England Squash and Racket Association to seek to secure an enhanced replacement facility on Tungsten Park, Coventry Road which could be made available for community use. The scale of the new facility (which will cost in the order of £1M) not only replaces the three court facility currently on the Bus Station site, but will provide a fourth court which will allow the centre to be used for regional competitions. The total cost of providing a fourth court is estimated at £75,000. England Squash and Racket Association have agreed to contribute to the cost. The Council is being requested to provide the remaining contribution of £49,000.

Management Agreement

- 3.3 If Members are minded to agree to providing a financial grant to enable delivery of a four court facility, it is proposed that this will be subject to a management agreement to secure community use of the facility. This would be similar to other agreements that England Squash and Racket Association have secured for Council's on similar arrangements elsewhere in the country and include free use of the facility by the council to host events and to work in partnership with the council and school sports activity network to develop sustainable school club links. A key benefit of this approach is that it will continue to provide squash facilities available to the public following the closure of the existing Leisure Centre. It will also allow a more proactive approach for encouraging community use of the new facility on Tungsten Park.
- 3.4 Members are recommended to support the request for financial assistance.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SK]

- 4.1 If Members support this request for grant funding then a supplementary budget of £49,000 would need to be approved by the Executive in line with financial regulations.
- 4.2 Since the building of a squash court is capital by nature, this contribution would be reflected in the council's capital programme as "Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute". This reflects that a capital contribution is being made for an asset that will not be held on the council's Balance Sheet.
- 4.3 In terms of financing, this contribution will be funded from Revenue and therefore, a Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO) will be reflected in the 2013/14 outturn budget.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (LH)

- 5.1 A Legal Agreement detailing the responsibilities and usage of the facility will need to be completed, prior to providing the Grant.

6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report supports the Corporate Plan objective for regenerating the economy and improving physical activity of residents in the Borough.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Discussions have been held with key stakeholders, including Hinckley Squash Club and England Squash and Racket Association.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The following risks have been identified:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Failure to support the funding of the new facility will reduce the availability of public squash facilities in Hinckley.	The council provides funding support and also facilitates funding support from England squash and racket association.	BC
Failure to provide a publically acceptable facility.	Ensure a management agreement is put in place to secure community use of the new facility.	BC
Failure to support the relocation of Hinckley Squash Club may impact on programme of delivery of the bus station regeneration.	Secure support for the squash club to deliver the new facility in Hinckley.	BC

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 This proposal will assist in ensuring services are accessible as detailed in 3.3.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications – None relevant to this report
- Environmental implications – As detailed in the report
- ICT implications- - None relevant to this report
- Asset Management implications – None relevant to this report
- Human Resources implications – None relevant to this report
- Voluntary Sector – None relevant to this report
- Legal implications – As detailed in the report

Background papers: None
Contact Officer: Bill Cullen
Executive Member: Councillor Stuart Bray