

Agenda Item 5

EXECUTIVE

4 JULY 2023

DEEPINGS SCHOOL LEISURE CENTRE

STATEMENT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

On 29 June 2023 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board unanimously agreed to support the recommendations to the Executive.

The Board was addressed by Councillor Virginia Moran, South Kesteven District Councillor for the Market and West Deeping ward and chair of the Deepings Leisure Centre Community Group, and Councillor Ashley Baxter, County Councillor and Deputy Leader of South Kesteven District Council, who were both supportive of the proposals to the Executive.

The Board welcomed and supported the proposals which provided the local community with an opportunity to find a third party to purchase and operate the leisure centre, but recommended that an end date needed to be agreed in order to move forward. The Board proposed that an end date in nine months time should be considered, subject to further advice from Corporate Property on the feasibility of this timescale. The Board requested a progress update on the proposals in nine months time.

As part of the Board's consideration of this item, the following information was confirmed:

- In relation to the former grant of approximately £124,000 from the County Council to assist with the running of the leisure centre, this ceased when the Deepings school converted from a local authority maintained school to an academy. When the school became an academy, the assets transferred over to the school (via a Tenancy at Will – a precursor to a 125 year lease) from the County Council, with the exception of the leisure centre building which the school did not want transferring to them. The Leisure Centre at that time was operated by South Kesteven District Council.
- With respect to the disposal of the land to the academy, it was confirmed that the land would be passported under the Academy Act 2010 at no cost to the academy on a standard 125 year Academy lease.
- With regards to any potential funding from the government to assist with the re-opening of the Deepings Leisure Centre, it was confirmed that there may be some grant funding available, and Sir John Hayes MP, with an interest in bringing the Leisure Centre back into use, was attempting to source some additional funding.

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