



Title: **LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

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1. Introduction

This report updates members on the progress with the new Leisure Contract provider, SLM Ltd, following the award of the contract by this committee on 22 January 2014 and recommends to members that there is further joint working with SLM in relation to the provision of café services at Brocks Hill Country Park on an initial trial basis. The report also recommends that members approve an extension to the current arrangements with Robin Thompson of RPT Consulting for ongoing support for the project inception over the next 12 months.

2. Recommendations

That Members

- 1) Note the progress to date with the new Leisure Contract providers, SLM Ltd.
- 2) Approve a 12 month extension of the arrangements with RPT Consulting to provide project management support for the inception of the contract and construction phase. The costs to be funded from the Management of Change reserve.
- 3) Delegate to the Director of Services and Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Policy Finance and Development Committee the negotiation of interim arrangements with SLM Ltd to provide catering facilities at Brocks Hill Country Park.

3. Information

- 3.1 Members have been kept informed of progress so far through regular bulletins. Since the last bulletin, the organised visit for members and officers to SLM's refurbished leisure facilities in Daventry to see how they operate a site and the quality of the facilities provided, has taken place. This proved to be a valuable informative visit. The public consultation for views on the draft designs for Parklands Leisure Centre and new build swimming pool and the new-build swimming pool and fitness facilities at Wigston pool has been completed with approximately 400 responses. The analysed responses will be made available to members and published on the Council's website shortly and will inform SLM's final design proposals. The planning applications for the construction works were submitted on 10 March and once validated will be available to view on the "publicaccess" pages of the Council's website. Pending the determination of the planning applications, interim contractual arrangements are being agreed to be in place by 1 April when SLM will take over the responsibility for managing the

facilities. The site at Wigston Pool will be immediately closed down and secured pending the outcome of the planning applications.

3.2 The input from Robin Thompson of RPT Consulting throughout the procurement process over the past 12 months for this has been invaluable in securing high quality bids from established market leaders for this multi million leisure contract which has resulted in the award of a contract that has secured new and refurbished facilities at a reduced cost to the Council. In view of this it is proposed that it would be value for money to retain the services of Robin Thompson, to provide support to officers in the crucial period over the next 12 months for contract mobilisation and transfer and development of the new partnership with SLM Ltd. The funding for this can be met through the Management of Change reserve which is anticipated to be approximately £15,000.

3.3 Since the award of the contract and discussions with SLM Ltd there is clearly an opportunity to explore joined-up working on projects and facilities at Parklands Leisure Centre and Brocks Hill Country Park with the two being in such close proximity. In particular with SLM's experience of providing café facilities would benefit the café facilities at Brocks Hill Country Park, which have been due for review. SLM could provide similar "grab and go" catering facilities at the café at Brocks Hill as is provided at all their sites. A joined-up approach would be beneficial whilst both facilities undergo a transitional phase to ensure structure and certainty whilst development take place, the two facilities can be used to compliment each other to deliver continuity of café facilities to customers. It is recommended to members that the Director of Services and the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chair of Policy Finance and Development Committee has delegation to pursue negotiations with SLM for a temporary 12 month trial period for the management and delivery of café facilities at Brocks Hill Country Park whilst more permanent arrangements can be explored and presented to members in a further report.

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Background Papers:-

Report of 22 January 2014 to Policy Finance and Development committee

Implications	
Financial (PL)	Funds are available in the Management of Change reserve to cover project management costs
Risk (AC)	CR2 Key Supplier/Partnership failure; CR5 effective utilisation of assets
Equalities (AC)	The Council's facilities are accessible to all
Legal (AC)	Exempts from Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations are provided for in circumstances of an extension of a contract