

ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION REGISTER

Portfolio(s) decision relates to:	Sport and Leisure	Name of Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Anthony Rowlands
Name of decision maker:	Richard Shwe	Signature of decision maker:	
Name of relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Public Services	Date of decision:	16 August 2010

Type of decision (<i>please tick</i>)	Key	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Significant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Scheme of delegation reference under which decision is taken:	Constitution of the Council: (i) Part 3: Section HoS1 (ii) Part 3: Section 6.1.4 (iii) Part 4: Section 7 (d)
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Has this decision drawn upon confidential information? (<i>If yes – please set out what confidential information has been taken into account on a separate sheet</i>)	Yes (sections of the St Albans Leisure Management Contract that are deemed as commercially sensitive)
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DECISION (*Note this should be written in the style of a committee minute and should not include confidential information*):

To extend the existing Leisure Management Contract with Leisure Connection Ltd in relation to the management of London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre until 31 March 2012, on the same terms and financial arrangements as the existing contract, with the exception of Leisure Connection’s annual maintenance liabilities at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre which will be capped at their original tender level (plus RPI). Any annual maintenance liabilities in excess of the cap will be met from existing Council budgets.

In arriving at my decision I have properly and thoroughly taken into account the legal, financial and workforce implications for the Council. My decision is within the Council’s policy and budget framework and complies with the regulations and procedures set out in the Constitution. I have explicitly considered the Council’s corporate objectives in arriving at my decision. In coming to my decision I have consulted with all relevant parties as appropriate and in accordance with the scheme of delegation.

REASON/S FOR THE DECISION

The current Leisure Management Contract, with Leisure Connection Ltd, is for a term of 10 years from 1 March 2006, except in relation to Bricket Wood Sports Centre, London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre where the original contract period expired on 28 February 2010. Under the terms of the Contract the Authority could at its sole discretion seek an extension of the contract period in relation to all or any of these named facilities by any period or number of periods of up to one year up to a maximum of a further six years by giving written notice to Leisure Connection Ltd.

On 29 October 2009 a Key Decision was taken by the Head of Culture and Community Development to extend the existing Leisure Management Contract with Leisure Connection Ltd to include the management of London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre for the period 1 March 2010 to 31 March 2012, on the same terms and financial arrangements as the existing contract. Leisure Connection did not accept these terms and discussions in relation to the extension have been ongoing.

A further Key Decision was taken by the Head of Culture and Community Development to extend the Leisure Management Contract with Leisure Connection Ltd for the management of London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre by any period or number of periods of up to a maximum of a further six months from 1 March 2010, on the same terms and financial arrangements as the existing contract, to provide flexibility and time for the Head of Culture and Community Development to resolve negotiations with Leisure Connection.

The Council's Cabinet has indicated previously that they would like to maximise continuity of provision in the district while the development of new leisure facilities is taking place at Cotlandswick and Westminster Lodge, therefore a decision is required regarding the ongoing management of London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre until the current estimated date when these new facilities will be available.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	REASONS FOR REJECTING THESE OPTIONS
1. Appointment of another Leisure Management Contractor specifically for London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre for the period 1 March 2010 until the opening of the new leisure facilities	This option has been explored, but given Leisure Connection's final position it is not considered it would offer the Council any better value and would take significant resource to implement

CONSULTEES

In making this decision, I have consulted the following people:

Name and Signature	Position	Date of consultation	Outcome of consultation (may cross reference to supplementary/ background sheets)

Cllr Julian Daly	Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (Public Services)	16 July 2010	Informed via e-mail that a key decision would be made in August
Cllr Anthony Rowlands	Portfolio Holder for Sport and Leisure	12 August 2010	Supported extension
Cllr Roger Axworthy	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiencies	13 August 2010	Supported extension
Colm O'Callaghan	Chief Financial Officer	13 August 2010	Supported extension
Mike Lovelady	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	13 August 2010	Supported extension

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985

Bibliography	Custodian	File location
St Albans Leisure Management Contract and Associated Files	Ursula Jones and Richard Shwe	District Council Offices