

ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION REGISTER

Portfolio(s) decision relates to:	Sport and Healthy Living	Name of Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Sheila Burton
Name of decision maker:	Richard Shwe	Signature of decision maker:	
Name of relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Public Services	Date of decision:	24 February 2010

Type of decision (please tick)	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? (If yes – please set out what confidential information has been taken into account on a separate sheet)	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 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.

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.

It is considered that this decision is urgent and not subject to the call-in procedure under Rule 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as a delay in making the decision would seriously prejudice both the Council's and public's interests in relation to the ongoing operation of London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre.

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 contract period expires on 28 February 2010. Under the terms of the Contract the Authority may 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 have not accepted these terms and discussions in relation to the extension are ongoing. This Key Decision seeks to provide flexibility and time for the Head of Culture and Community Development to resolve negotiations with Leisure Connection and also establish if the Council is obtaining best value from any agreement.

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	In view of Leisure Connection's revised position, this option will be explored further to identify if it would offer best value for the Council

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)
Daniel Goodwin	Chief Executive	22/23 February 2010	Agreed that the decision is reasonable and should be treated as a matter of urgency
Cllr Chris Oxley	Mayor	23 February 2010	Agreed that the decision is reasonable and should be treated as a matter of urgency

Cllr Beric Read	Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (Public Services)	23 February 2010	Noted decision would be made
Cllr Sheila Burton	Portfolio Holder for Sport and Healthy Living	18/19 February 2010	Supported extension
Cllr Roger Axworthy	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiencies	18/19 February 2010	Supported extension
Colm O'Callaghan	Chief Financial Officer	18/19 February 2010	Supported extension
Mike Lovelady	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	18/19 February 2010	Supported extension
Ursula Jones	Principal Solicitor	17 February 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