

**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:	29 October 2009

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 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.

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, but makes provision for Bricket Wood Sports Centre, London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre to be removed from the Contract on the 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 (this decision seeks to extend the Contract for two one year periods and one further month).

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 appointment of a management contractor until the current estimated date when these facilities will be available (31 March 2012).

In reaching this decision the following principles have also been agreed with Leisure Connection Ltd:

- a) Leisure Connection Ltd will extend the provision of Swim School to address existing waiting lists (it should be noted that under the terms of the Leisure Management Contract this is a decision that Leisure Connection Ltd can make in its sole discretion);
- b) Leisure Connection Ltd will recharge the costs to schools for any additional swimming instructors required for education swimming sessions where pupil numbers exceed previously agreed ratios (it should be noted that under the terms of the Leisure Management Contract this is a decision that Leisure Connection Ltd can make in its sole discretion); and
- c) The Authority will use the capital funding received from the Department for Culture Media and Sport for swimming pool modernisation to improve the sustainability of its buildings by introducing swimming pool covers

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	REASONS FOR REJECTING THESE OPTIONS
<p>1. Procurement of a new leisure management contract specifically for London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre for the period 1 March 2010 – 31 March 2012</p>	<p>This option was rejected for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) It was not considered that this option would provide value for money for the Authority due to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the high resource costs of undertaking a competitive tendering exercise; and</li> <li>– the likelihood that the short nature of the contract term and the risks associated with it would lead to an increase in the annual fee paid to a contractor to manage the two facilities, particularly in the difficult financial climate</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) It was not considered that this option would provide the best means of maintaining service provision until the new leisure facilities at Cotlandswick and Westminster Lodge are delivered</li> </ul>

2. Extension of the contract for London Colney Recreation Centre and Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre for a shorter period of time	This option was rejected as the continued negotiation of shorter term extensions with Leisure Connection Ltd was not considered to offer the best option to deliver value for money and certainty of cost for the Authority
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**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 Sheila Burton	Portfolio Holder for Sport and Healthy Living	29 October 2009	Supported extension
Cllr Roger Axworthy	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Efficiencies	29 October 2009	Supported extension
Colm O'Callaghan	Chief Financial Officer	29 October 2009	Supported extension
Mike Lovelady	Head of Legal and Democratic Services	29 October 2009	Supported extension
Ursula Jones	Senior Assistant Solicitor	29 October 2009	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