

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate
Street, Rotherham. S60
2TH**

Date: Tuesday, 22nd May, 2012

Time: 10.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th April, 2012 (herewith). (Pages 1 - 5)
5. Herringthorpe Leisure Site - communications in respect of the decision to lease a section of the site (report herewith). (Pages 6 - 11)

Steve Hallsworth, Leisure & Community Services Manager, Streetpride, Environment and Development Services.

6. Date and time of the next meeting: -

Tuesday 19th June, 2012, to start at 10.00 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE
Tuesday, 24th April, 2012

Present:- Councillor Rushforth (in the Chair); Councillors Andrews and Dalton.

F59. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 13TH AND 27TH MARCH, 2012.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meetings of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture held on 13th and 27th March, 2012.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meetings be agreed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

F60. MINUTES OF THE JOINT CABINET MEMBER MEETING FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE, AND TOWN CENTRES, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY, HELD ON 27TH MARCH, 2012.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Joint Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture, and Town Centres, Economic Growth and Prosperity, held on 27th March, 2012.

Resolved: - That the minutes be agreed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

F61. MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, HELD ON 1ST MARCH, 2012.

The minutes of the Education Consultative Committee held on 1st March, 2012, were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the Education Consultative Committee be noted.

F62. PROPOSED BUILDING EXTENSION TO CATCLIFFE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Helen Barre, Service Lead – School Admissions, Organisation and SEN Assessment Service, presented a report that outlined pressures on Catcliffe Primary School's accommodation due to increasing pupil numbers within the catchment area. Preferences for the School were increasing year-on-year, and future projections confirmed that pupil numbers would increase at the School.

In response to these pressures, a proposal had been made in conjunction with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors to extend the School's site through the instillation of a modular building to provide additional teaching and learning space. The proposal indicated that the additional building would be available from 1st September, 2012.

Due to decreasing pupil numbers in previous years, three classrooms had been transferred to the Early Years Service for the provision of a Children's Centre on site. This resulted in a lack of space when the School's pupil numbers started to increase.

It was noted that, as the proposal did not intend to alter the School's admission number, there was no requirement for public consultation to take place.

The capital cost of the building works was £100,000, which would be met from the Department for Education's Basic Needs budget. This was allocated to ensure the provision of sufficient school places.

Discussion ensued, and the following issues were raised: -

- The specification and quality of modular buildings for teaching and learning spaces;
- Deployment of the Basic Needs budget allocation across Rotherham;
- Planned house building projects within the existing catchment area of the School.

An assurance was received from the Service Lead for School Admissions, Organisation and SEN Assessment Service that the modular building was an appropriate, modern and safe setting for the provision of teaching and learning.

As the proposal related to the instillation of an additional building on the School's site, planning permission would be required before the building works could begin.

Resolved: - That the proposal for the extension of Catcliffe Primary School be approved, subject to relevant planning permissions being granted.

F63. PROPOSED BUILDING EXTENSION TO TREETON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND INCREASED ADMISSION NUMBER.

Helen Barre, Service Lead – School Admissions, Organisation and SEN Assessment Service, presented a report that outlined increasing pupil numbers within the catchment area of Treeton Church of England Primary School and implications that this would have on the School's accommodation. Preferences for the School were increasing year-on-year, and future projections confirmed that this would continue.

In response to these pressures, a proposal had been made in conjunction with the Headteacher, Governing Body and Sheffield Diocese to extend the School site through the instillation of a modular building to provide additional teaching and learning space. It had been proposed that the school building be extended from 1st September, 2012, to accommodate rising pupil numbers, and that the admission number be increased from 37 to 45 from the 2013/14 academic year and thereafter.

As the proposal amounted to less than a 25% increase in overall numbers, there was no requirement to enter into a period of public consultation.

Funding for the building works would be received from the Department for Education's Basic Needs budget, which was allocated to ensure sufficient school places were available. The capital cost of the project would be £200,000 for the instillation of the modular building and other required space.

A report would be presented to the Rotherham Schools' Forum that requested bridging funding based on 7/12th of the 2013/14 financial year to be allocated from the DSG. This was required to recruit an additional member of teaching staff from 1st September 2013. Additional funding would then be generated based on pupil numbers at the School from January, 2014, school census, which would replace the temporary funding gap from April, 2014 onwards.

Discussion ensued, and the following issues were raised: -

- The proposal had been made in conjunction with the Sheffield Diocese, and was fully supported by them.
- Recent house building projects within the School's catchment area had contributed to rising pupil numbers and this trend was projected to continue.

As the proposal related to the instillation of an additional building on the School's site, planning permission would be required before the building works could begin.

Resolved: - (1) That the proposal for the extension of Treeton Church of England Primary School be approved, subject to relevant planning permissions being granted.

(2) That the increase in Treeton Church of England Primary School's admission number from 37 to 45 from 1st September, 2013, be approved.

F64. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FLANDERWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Minute F43 of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture held on 20th December, 2011, gave approval to commence pre-statutory consultation with stakeholders on a proposal to expand Flanderwell Primary School from 1st September, 2013. This pre-statutory consultation period had now been completed.

The submitted report outlined the process that the pre-statutory consultation had followed: -

- Separate meetings had been held with the Governors, Staff and Parents of Flanderwell Primary School.
- Consultation meetings and/or communications had taken place with the Governing Bodies of:-
 - Bramley Sunnyside Infant and Junior Schools, Bramley Grange Primary School, Dalton Listerdale Primary School, Wickersley Northfield Primary School and Wickersley St Alban's Primary School.
- Copies of the consultation information had also been sent to Ward Members, the MP and the local Parish Council.

The responses received through the pre-statutory consultation were very positive.

It was proposed to increase Flanderwell Primary School's admission number by

50%, which would mean that there would be an increase from 30 to 45 pupils in each statutory year group. The non-statutory nursery year group would also be increased to a published admission number of 26 full-time equivalent places.

The capital cost of the building project to provide four additional teaching and learning spaces, and other required space, was £900,000. This would be met from the Department for Education's Basic Needs funding that was allocated to ensure sufficient school places were provided.

A detailed and costed report would be submitted to the Rotherham Schools' Forum to request DSG funding to support the transitional period between September, 2013, and March, 2014 (7/12th). The additional pupils would not be on roll for the January, 2013, school census return, meaning that the 2013/14 school budget allocation would be insufficient to fund additional teaching and support staff required from September, 2013.

Permission was now sought to progress on to statutory consultation period, which would include formal consultation through the local media and local schools.

As the proposal related to the instillation of additional buildings on the School's site, planning permission would be sought before commencement of the building works.

Resolved: - (1) That statutory consultation be approved to commence on the proposal to extend Flanderwell Primary School, subject to planning permission being granted.

(2) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member with details of the outcome of the statutory consultation process.

F65. PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE ADMISSION NUMBER AT BRAMLEY GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Helen Barre, Service Lead – School Admissions, Organisation and SEN Assessment Service, presented a report that outlined increasing pupil numbers within Bramley Grange Primary School's catchment area. Preferences for the School were increasing year-on-year, and future projections confirmed that this would continue.

In response to this pressure, a proposal had been agreed with the Governing Body to increase the School's admissions number from 40 to 45 from the 2013/14 academic year and thereafter.

As the admission number was not proposed to increase by more than 25%, there was no requirement for a public consultation to be entered into.

It was noted that funding for the additional places would be generated in the January, 2013, annual school census, which would be allocated based on numbers on roll in September, 2013.

Resolved: - That the increased admission number for Bramley Grange Primary School with effect from 1st September, 2013, be approved.

5F CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE - 24/04/12

F66. PROPOSAL TO COMMENCE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE AMALGAMATION OF MALTBY HALL INFANT AND MALTBY LILLY HALL JUNIOR SCHOOLS.

Minute F54 of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture, held on 13th March, 2012, approved the commencement of a pre-statutory consultation process in relation to the amalgamation of Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools from 1st September, 2013. This pre-statutory consultation had now been completed.

The submitted report outlined the process that the pre-statutory consultation had followed. Consultation meetings had been held with the Governing Bodies of both schools, staff and trades union representatives, and parents. Communication had also taken place with all neighbouring schools.

The proposal to amalgamate Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools would lead to the closure of the Infant School and expansion of the Junior School from ages 7 – 11 years to ages 3 – 11, therefore becoming a 'through' primary school. It would accommodate the same number of pupils as the two separate Infant and Junior Schools, with no anticipated impact on the numbers of pupils in neighbouring schools.

The principal advantages of amalgamation related to the continuous primary education entitlements and included: -

- Removal of school transfer at the end of Key Stage 1;
- Provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;
- Unified management structure with a single school ethos;
- Potential to organise/arrange the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupils changed across the key stages;
- Whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase; more efficient and effective use of resources, including accommodation, when numbers fluctuated across the infant and junior phases.

A summary of the outcomes of meetings was provided to Members.

Permission was now sought to enter into the statutory consultation period.

Resolved: - That statutory consultation be approved on the proposal to amalgamate Maltby Hall Infant and Maltby Lilly Hall Junior Schools, and that a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member with details of the outcome of the process.

F67. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -

Resolved: - That the next meeting of the Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture be held on Tuesday 22nd May, 2012, to start at 10.00 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture
2.	Date:	22nd May 2012
3.	Title:	Herringthorpe Leisure Site – communications in respect of the decision to lease a section of the site
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

This report provides a response to three separate but related communications which are focused on the Council's decision to enter into discussions with Rotherham Rugby Club regarding the lease of a section of the Herringthorpe Leisure site for the development of rugby and other sport and recreation activities.

Recommendations

- 1) The Cabinet member supports the conclusion that relevant sports clubs were consulted as part of the formal consultation process and notes the objections to the Council's decision to lease a section of the Herringthorpe Leisure Site.**

2) Proposals and Details

Three separate but related communications have been received through different channels concerned with the Council's decision to lease a section of the Herringthorpe Leisure Site for the development of rugby and other sport and recreation activities.

Communication A

This is in the form of an 'e-petition' which includes the statement 'No to Proposed Junior Rugby Enclosure on Herringthorpe Fields' and has 15 signatories.

Communication B

This is in the form of a petition, although the list of names and addresses appear to be recorded in the same handwriting. This was received in March 2012, along with a covering letter addressed to 'The Chief Executive'. The letter reads as follows:

'Please find enclosed copies of 730 residents objections to the principle of any commercial enterprise on Herringthorpe Playing Fields.'

Communication C

This is in the form of a petition and was received in March 2012. It identifies names, signatures, addresses and where applicable membership of a sports club. The forms are addressed to the Chief Executive RMBC and are headed with the following statement:

'I'm a member / supporter of a sports team who regularly uses pitches on Herringthorpe Playing fields on the proposed site for leasing to Rotherham Rugby Club. I wish to declare that I have not been consulted about this proposal and do not agree to the leasing of an area of the field to private clubs for their sole purpose at the expense of other users who have used the field unhindered for over 100 years. The proposal will result in the loss of approx 3 hectares / 7 acres of prime playing space which represents a major proportion of the field suitable for sport.'*

**Figure supplied by RMBC planning.'*

The forms identify a total of 182 names and 24 different sports clubs. 105 names are identified as members of a sports club and 77 names are from people who appear not to be members of sports clubs.

In addition to Communications A, B and C a handwritten letter has also been received. The letter does not contain an address or signature. It outlines a perception of the consultation process and supports the view that sports clubs were not consulted

Response to the communications

Communications A and B express an objection to either the lease of a section of the Herringthorpe Leisure Site to Rotherham Rugby Club Limited or to the principle of any commercial enterprise on Herringthorpe Playing Fields.

Communication C expresses an objection from members and supporters of sports teams to the lease of a section of the Herringthorpe Leisure Site to Rotherham

Rugby Club Limited and along with the handwritten letter states that sports clubs have not been consulted.

All objections to the potential lease have been noted.

With regard to the consultation, this was conducted between 1st April and 31st August 2011 and targeted local residents, regular site users, the two local area assemblies and ward members from the surrounding wards. The process consisted of a press release, a leaflet drop to households surrounding the affected area, a dedicated website and an email post box, backed up by a postal mail box and advice facility. In addition a meeting was held on 14th June at the town hall hosted by Cllr Dodson, Chair to the Rotherham South Area Assembly and attended by Cllr Currie Chair of Wentworth South Area Assembly, along with ward members from the affected wards.

At the time of the consultation 18 different sports clubs were identified in the Green Space Service booking records as regular users of the pitches at Herringthorpe Playing Fields. The consultation focused on regular users during the 2010-11 season but did take account of usage during the 2009-10 season. Letters (Appendix A) were sent to the representative of each of the clubs identified as regular users, at the contact address they provided as part of the pitch booking process. The letters informed the clubs of the proposal and of where they could send any comments they may have. All consultation feedback was collated by the Green Spaces Service and reported to the Council's Cabinet on 19th October 2011.

Analysis of Leisure & Green Space pitch booking records suggests that of the 24 different sports clubs identified in Communication C, 5 have used Herringthorpe Playing Fields between 2009 and 2012. Of these 5 clubs, 3 have been regular users (minimum of 32 bookings over the 3 years) and 2 have not been regular users (maximum of 3 bookings over the 3 years). However it is difficult to be certain about the usage of all of the clubs identified in the petition because of the way some of the names are identified (e.g. 'Rother', 'Rotherham' and 'Rotherham Town'). Therefore, as far as it is possible to determine from the information provided, 3 of the 24 sports clubs identified in the petition have used the playing pitches at Herringthorpe on a regular basis and they were all sent a letter as part of the consultation process.

Individual supporters of sports clubs were not consulted with directly as this would not have been practically possible. However it is possible that they could have been made aware of the proposal by the representatives / members of the sports club they supported or via the range of publicity that was put out as part of the consultation process.

It is worth noting that in the event that Rotherham Rugby Club decides to proceed with the proposed lease and once there is agreement on the Heads of Terms, there will be a need to advertise the proposal to lease and to consider any objections to the disposal of the land under Section 123 of the Local Government Act, 1972. This was noted in the minutes of the Cabinet report on 19th October 2011.

Cabinet Report 19th October 2011, Resolved: - That subject to advertising and considering any objections to the disposal of the land under Section 123 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the proposal from the Rotherham Rugby Club Ltd. to lease

an area of Herringthorpe Playing Fields at Herringthorpe for the exclusive purpose of rugby development subject to appropriate mitigating actions (as outlined) being implemented be approved.

Summary

The communications express objections either to leasing a section of the Herringthorpe Leisure site or to the principle of any commercial enterprise, and these objections are noted.

In addition, Communication C and the handwritten letter state that sports clubs have not been consulted. As far as it is possible to determine from the information provided, 3 of the sports clubs identified in Communication C were regular users of the playing pitches at the time the consultation was undertaken and they were all sent a letter informing them of the proposal to lease a section of the site. Therefore the relevant sports clubs appear to have been consulted as part of the formal consultation process.

8. Finance

N/A

9. Risks and Uncertainties

As stated above it is difficult to be certain about the usage of all of the clubs identified in Communication C because of the way some of the names are identified (e.g. 'Rother', 'Rotherham' and 'Rotherham Town').

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

N/A

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Cabinet report 19th October 2011

Contact Name:

Steve Hallsworth, Leisure & Community Services Manager, Streetpride, EDS, 01709 822483, steve.hallsworth@rotherham.gov.uk

Environment & Development Services**Appendix A**

Bailey House | Rawmarsh Road | Rotherham | S60 1TD
Tel: 01709 822457 Fax: 01709 379419
Email: andy.lee@rotherham.gov.uk

Our Ref.
AL/SW/LGS8110

Your Ref.

Please ask for:
Andy Lee

«First_Name» «Surname»
«TEAM»
«ADD1»
«ADD2»
«ADD3»
«ADD4»

20th June, 2011

Dear «First_Name»

Herringthorpe Leisure Site

I write to advise you that the Rotherham Rugby Club Limited has entered into discussions with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to lease an area of the Herringthorpe Leisure Site in order to secure their future and encourage the expansion of amateur rugby within the Borough. The proposal will not have any detrimental effect on pitch use as space will be created on the site to replace the three pitches that are currently located in the area in question. The club's proposal, is to lease an area which will accommodate 3 rugby pitches to be used for training and competitive matches on part of the site. These pitches will also be made available for school and community development use. The Club intends to promote community access by making the facility available to other amateur clubs and local schools, and working with the Council's Sport Development Team aims to promote wider sports and physical activity opportunities. The white line in the plan below marks the boundary of the area in question.



Note: the white line is indicative only

To maximise the potential of the facility the club proposes to erect floodlighting and improve the quality of the playing surfaces. To protect against dog fouling, littering and vandalism it is planned to fence the area. See the suggested boundaries above. In order to reduce any visual impact, the fence will be of the green coated open wire mesh type.

Floodlighting will be designed, angled and positioned to ensure targeted lighting and it is anticipated that the floodlighting columns will be approximately 15m in height, which is lower than the existing mature trees along Badsley Street South. Floodlight usage will be subject to a cut off time (to be agreed) which will prevent any associated late night nuisance to nearby residents. Importantly, 3 new additional sports pitches will also be provided outside the proposed fenced area so that existing users of the playing fields are not disadvantaged.

About Rotherham Rugby Club Limited

Rotherham Rugby Club Limited (the Club) is a self financing organisation which aims to encourage and promote the playing of amateur and community rugby in the town. The ethos of the Club is to provide a safe and secure environment for all age groups that will enable the development of individuals within a disciplined, respectful and enjoyable framework. The Club is administered by a Board of Representatives from three sections: Mini-Juniors, Rotherham Phoenix and the Vice-Presidents.

The Mini-Junior section, has almost 300 boys and girls from across the Borough taking part in 10 different age groups from 7 year olds to under 17s. Rotherham Phoenix is the senior amateur rugby playing section for men over 18 years of age, with almost 100 registered players and officials. The Vice-Presidents section has over 60 members from a wide cross section of people who are generally the older members of the Club.

Since the formation of Rotherham Rugby Club Limited, the Club has been allowed to use the clubhouse facilities of Rotherham Titans at Clifton Lane. However, because the Club needs access to pitches and training facilities of its own, they are seeking to lease this area on Herringthorpe Playing Fields.

Further Information

If you wish to comment on these proposals you can do this by emailing your views to sports.pitches@rotherham.gov.uk or by writing for the attention of the Urban Green Spaces Manager, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham S60 1TD or call him on 01709 822457.

To find out more please visit www.rotherham.gov.uk/hls or write to The Secretary, Rotherham Rugby Club Ltd., c/o Clifton Lane Sports Ground, Badsley Moor Lane, Rotherham, S60 2SN

Yours sincerely

Andy Lee
Urban Green Spaces Manager