

Cabinet
Wednesday 6 November 2024

Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission
at its meeting on Monday 4 November 2024
OSC/327

1. Cabinet Agenda Item – Crawley Leisure Contract: Contract Extension

Exempt Paragraph 3 –

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report HPS/043 of the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services. During the discussion with the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing, Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services and the Partnership Services Manager, the following points were expressed:

- It was acknowledged that K2 Crawley was nearly 20 years' old and there was a need to remain competitive and amongst the leading leisure centres in the region.
- Recognition that there had been a growth in competition within the town and the recommendations would assist in improving the health and fitness facilities.
- It was noted that there was also a need to improve the environmental impact of the building and the proposals supported ongoing work enhancing environmental sustainability.
- Queries were sought and obtained on membership and the range of options offered at the venue.
- It was acknowledged that improvements had been made post-pandemic but further work was required and the challenges were recognised, both for the maintaining the uniqueness of the venue but also any changes to be implemented.
- Recognition that the scheme would help maintain the Council's income and further detail was provided on funding along with the capital expenditure, income and revenue costs.

RESOLVED

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

2. Cabinet Agenda Item – Hawth Theatre: Options Appraisal and Contract Extension

Exempt Paragraph 3 –

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Comments and Recommendations

The Commission considered report HPS/044 of the Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services. During the discussion with the Cabinet Member for Leisure & Wellbeing, Head of Major Projects and Commercial Services and the Partnership Services Manager, the following points were expressed:

- It was acknowledged that as part of the options that had been considered, the proposal would ensure Hawth continued to provide valued local services while supporting the Council's wider budget requirements.
- It was noted that the extension would secure a significant saving on the 2025/26 revenue budget, whilst balancing the capacity and resourcing requirements for the Council. The proposal was the only viable means of achieving this within the current contract period. Other options were not deemed advantageous

and would be a significant resource undertaking and the proposed option was less impactful enabling resources to be applied to other priority projects.

- Recognition that the Hawth had significantly grown its community and participation programmes and the option proposed enabled these to continue. Whilst these programmes were welcomed it was queried whether this package could be developed further.

RESOLVED

That the Commission noted the report and requested that the views expressed during the debate were fed back to the Cabinet through the Commission's Comment sheet.

Councillor Ayling
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission
4 November 2024