



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB

Tel: (01453) 754 351/754 321

www.stroud.gov.uk

Email: democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk

EXTRAORDINARY STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3

20 October 2020

7.00 pm – 7.58 pm

Remote Meeting

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Doina Cornell (Chair)	P	Councillor Simon Pickering	P
Councillor Martin Whiteside (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Rachel Curley	P	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Debbie Young	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Chris Brine	P
Councillor Keith Pearson	A		

P = Present A = Absent

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive	Strategic Director of Communities
Strategic Director of Change & Transformation	Strategic Director of Resources
Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer	Head of Community Services
General Manager	Senior Community Services Officer
	Senior Democratic Services and Elections Officer

Other Member(s) in Attendance

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy,

Others in attendance

David McHendry - Knight, Kavanagh and Page

The Chair outlined the possibility of the meeting going into private session for Agenda Item 3 if members had any questions on the legal position as the legal advice contained exempt information.

SRC.043

APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Pearson.

SRC.044

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.045**SUPPORT OF THE LEISURE CONTRACT PROVIDER IN STROUD (SPORT AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT) TO RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

The Strategic Director of Communities introduced the above report which set out the financial challenges being by faced by SLM as a result of COVID 19 and the proposal for additional short term financial support. Members were reminded that they had considered a report in July 2020 and the meeting agreed to a proposal for a loan of up to £170,000. The loan, which contained a condition of a freeze on redundancies, was declined by SLM.

The closure of the facility between March and July had resulted in a loss of income of £41,000 with a projected loss for the year of around £300,000.

Mr McHendry gave an update on how the centre had been performing since reopening on July 25th. There had been a reduced capacity and Table 1 of the report summarised the capacity levels for pre and post COVID-19. The projected forecast showed that income would be down by £1.2m

In response to questions from Members Mr McHendry confirmed that SLM had 61 local authority contracts and 60 of those had agreed some form of financial support.

Members noted that the difference in subsidy provided to the Pulse at Dursley, 54p per visitor and Stratford Park 27p per visitor and if the subsidy were to be equalised, that would equate to around £165,000 which would be close to the sum required for the loan to SLM. A question was raised as to whether any sum advanced to SLM could be repaid over a period of time. Councillor Davies suggested that officers be given the authority to make a grant payment and to have approval to seek a return at some point in the future.

Officers confirmed that they would continue monthly monitoring sessions with SLM to look at performance and to see what services were being delivered and whether the number of users could be increased. It was noted that the number of participants that could be allowed for certain sports activities was governed by National Sporting Bodies.

Members stressed the need to continue to ensure the facility was available for residents of Stroud to enable to maintain their health and well-being particularly during the current time.

A Motion to support the recommendation was moved by Councillor Brine and seconded by Councillor Pickering

On being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

- a. **A sum not in excess of £150,000 is ring-fenced from Council reserves to fund monthly payments to SLM to support the continued operation of services at Stratford Park Leisure Centre.**
- b. **Responsibility for the allocation and monitoring of services, outputs and payments to SLM is delegated to the Strategic Director of Communities in consultation with the Strategic Director of Resources and S151 Officer, the chair of Strategy and Resources Committee and the Chair of Community Services and Licensing Committee. All payments will be contingent on full and open access to operational accounts and service activity being provided.**

- c. Authority is delegated to the Section 151 Officer and Head of Legal Services to negotiate and conclude any legal documentation necessary arising from any decision made.**

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Chair