

---

**Report to**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

13 May,2009

**Report of**

Cllr Marcus Lapsa

**Title**

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Sports Trust Limited (CST)

---

### 1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This report sets out details of the work of the Coventry Sports Trust (CST) over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee notes the report back and the work undertaken by the body.
- 2.2 That Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that Council continue to appoint members to the Board of the Coventry Sports Trust on an annual basis.

### 3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Formed in April 1999, CST promotes a healthy lifestyle through the delivery of health and fitness, play, relaxation and sporting activities to those who live, work or visit the city.
- 3.2 CST is a 'not for profit' company and gained charitable status in August 2002.
- 3.3 The main facilities managed by CST are Coventry and Foleshill Sports & Leisure Centres, Brandon Wood Golf Course. In Foleshill after numerous closures during the refurbishment programme income is steadily increasing as the loss of goodwill is regained. CST also manages leisure programmes at the Arena health and fitness club at the Ricoh arena following discussions with City Council it was agreed to reduce the floor space that the fitness club originally occupied, a reduction in rent was negotiated.
- 3.4 CST has managed leisure programmes on behalf of Schools sites: there has been substantial changes in this part of the operation so each facility has been addressed individually. **Tile Hill wood** Operations operate on a break even basis. **Sidney Stringer** arrangement ended, as the equipment after the arson attack was deemed not of a sufficient

standard to endure extra curricular activity. **Ernsford Grange:** operation ended January 2008 (the trust enabled a smooth handover by transferring the outreach manager over to the school. **Foxford:** The trust have a good relationship with Foxford and operate on a break even basis.

- 3.5 The Trust has faced many challenges in the last year, such as the significant decline in a number of properties which it operates from and has faced these difficulties to the best of its abilities however there will continue to be challenges in the future around property and the decline in infrastructure. The trust is about to open the Moat house in Wood end and has already obtained some group bookings.
- 3.6 CST has obtained a quest score increased from 68 to 74, this is due to their commitment to providing quality services. The Sports and leisure centre is host to over 40 clubs that participate on a regular basis and has over 750,000 visits every year.
- 3.7 CST makes an active contribution to many City Council and Coventry Partnership objectives by helping to tackle social exclusion and health inequalities in the City. The practice of managing City Council sports and leisure facilities through a Trust status body is also in keeping with the Governments agenda of partnership working and involving the many talents that people in the wider community have to offer in the running of local public services. The trust is seeking to work collaboratively with City Council, Primary care trust University Hospitals Coventry University Cvone and other organisations for the development of sport, leisure and community in Coventry.
- 3.8 CST has appointed a Chief Executive, (Hugh Davies), while Hugh was General manager he has helped CST through a difficult period , he has the unanimous support of the board.
- 3.9 The trust is in final negotiations with the City Council and is expecting the new grant funding agreement to be ratified on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the final signing should be April 1<sup>st</sup>. This will enable the trust to go forward with the shared goals of the trust and City Council
- 3.10 Free swimming for the over 60's is in place and the trust is in final negotiations with the PCT who have indicated they will step in to help with the shortfall for free swimming for under 16's.
- 3.11 CST has been looking at various ways to conserve energy and have been actively looking for ways to go forward with a more efficient green agenda. I feel this issue is beyond the scope of this report but agency's have been contacted for the long term savings of energy.

#### **4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment**

- 4.1 CST is responsible for managing a number of sporting facilities on behalf of the City Council that remain owned by the City Council. The Trust receives considerable annual financial backing from the City Council and it is essential that the City Council continue to appoint representatives onto the board of CST.

#### **5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment**

- 5.1 The City Council representatives are Councillors Lapsa and Skipper. In the period January, 2008 to December, 2008 inclusive 3 meetings of the Coventry Sports Trust Limited were held. Councillor Skipper attended all three meetings and Councillor Lapsa attended 1 of the two he was entitled to attend.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

Proper officer:

Author: Telephone: 024 7683 1039  
Councillor Marcus Lapsa  
(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:  
Joy McLellan 024 7683 3076  
Chris Hill 024 7683 3049

Papers open to Public Inspection

<b>Description of paper</b>	<b>Location</b>
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH59