

A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item, as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it contains information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Cabinet
Council

30 August 2016
6 September 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor Kamran Caan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title:

City-Wide Public Leisure Provision

Is this a key decision?

Yes. The potential financial implications for the City Council of the recommendations for the operation and development of public leisure facilities in the city will exceed £1,000,000.

Executive Summary:

In September 2014, Coventry City Council unanimously approved investment in a new city centre destination sport and leisure facility. The Council further unanimously agreed to continue to work to explore all opportunities to enable Coventry to keep a 50m swimming pool if technically possible and within the current financial envelope available, by exploring opportunities with other stakeholders in and around the city.

Approval is now sought for the development of a new 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way, Coventry. Subject to planning approval, the meeting of conditions relating to existing planning applications on the site and the granting of consents for development at the Alan Higgs Centre, this proposed investment would form a central part of the creation of a 'Sports Village' complex at the site. The intention would therefore be to substantially enhance the facility provision of two sports, being swimming and rugby, through the development of a Community Swimming Development Hub and a Community Rugby Development Hub, to complement wider community sporting provision and the development of a separately funded, Wasps Training Centre.

Approval is further sought to negotiate terms for entering into a commercial lease for the new City Centre Destination Facility and to explore any benefit that could be derived from a formalised commercial partnership with Coventry and Warwickshire Award Trust (CAWAT). Approval is also sought to extend the existing leases between Coventry City Council and Coventry Sports Trust in respect of the operational management of the public leisure provision that they currently manage across the city.

The aim of these proposals is to provide high quality, accessible and sustainable city-wide public sports and leisure facilities, in accordance with the objectives of the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024, the Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024 and Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014-2024.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is requested:

- (1) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place and the Executive Director of Resources in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport to approve such variations to the Head Lease and legal permissions as are required to facilitate the development of the Wasps Training Ground Centre subject to:
 - (i) Planning consent being granted for the development
 - (ii) Legal agreements being entered into between the parties to secure the on-going community use of the facilities in accordance with the principles of the Head Lease
 - (iii) An independent Charities Act report recommending that the intended disposal between CAWAT and Wasps represents best value and officers being satisfied that the terms of the variation of the lease between the Council and CAWAT meets the Council's Section 123 best consideration requirements
- (2) To grant consent as landlord (in principle and subject to planning consent) for the future development of a 50m swimming pool and ancillary facilities on the Alan Higgs Centre site;
- (3) To recommend to Council that it approves, in principle, the addition of £10.5m to the capital programme for 2016/17 onwards, towards the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre. Within the £10.5m, £1.169m relates to management and design development costs as per paragraph 5.10;
- (4) To negotiate commercial terms with CAWAT for the grant of a lease for the new City Centre Destination Facility and also explore, if necessary and appropriate, any further benefit that could be derived from a more formalised commercial partnership with CAWAT;
- (5) To approve the extension of the term of the existing leases (by way of a lease renewal) for a further three years between Coventry City Council and Coventry Sports Trust (CST), in respect of the operational management of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre, Brandon Wood Golf Club and Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre;
- (6) To approve the renewal of a grant award to CST to run concurrently with the above leases;
- (7) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources and the Executive Director of Place, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, to finalise and implement the proposals contained in recommendations 2, 4, 5 and 6.

The Council is requested:

- (1) to approve the addition of £10.5m, to the capital programme for 2016/17 onwards for the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre. Within the £10.5m, £1.169m relates to management and design development costs as per paragraph 5.10.

List of Appendices included:

1. Alan Higgs Centre 'Sports Village' Concept Proposal – Site Plan
2. Coventry 50m Pool Options Appraisal – Final Version 4

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

In addition to those papers incorporated within the Appendices above, the following useful papers are posted for reference on the Coventry City Council website (www.coventry.gov.uk), Coventry Sports Strategy website (www.covsport.org.uk) and/or Coventry 'City of Rugby' website (www.cityofrugby.org):

1. 'Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024' Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 5 August 2014)
2. 'City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development' Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 5 August 2014)
3. Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024
4. Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024
5. Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014-2024
6. Joint Cabinet Member Meeting Report – Petition – Retention of a 50 Metre Swimming Pool in Coventry (Coventry City Council, 23 July 2014)
7. Coventry 'City of Rugby' Strategy
8. Planning Application FUL/2016/1255 - Demolition of existing office building (Spire House) and erection of new building for use within Class D2 (Assembly and Leisure), providing water-based recreation and associated facilities, new landscaped public realm, servicing including shared space turning area, and the removal of three trees adjacent to the site.
9. Planning Application FUL/2016/1458 - Land adjacent to the south of Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Report title:

City-Wide Public Leisure Provision

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In September 2014, Coventry City Council unanimously approved a new ten-year partnership Sports Strategy for the city, underpinned by a new Indoor Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and Aquatic Strategy. The background work underpinning these strategies drew upon city-wide audits of indoor facilities and playing pitches; comprehensive desk-top research; local survey findings (1,532 responses); consultation with communities, clubs and sports network partners; benchmarked performance and financial data (nationally sourced); and industry modelling tools (e.g. Facility Planning Model, National Benchmarking Service, Active People Survey, Active Places Power).
- 1.2 The Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 is structured around eight Vision Aims and 37 Strategic Objectives. Vision Aim 5 seeks:

“To provide a range of modern, accessible, and high-quality sports facilities”
- 1.3 Aligned to this Vision Aim, a strategic investment model has been developed by the city to recycle funding that was (and still is at a reduced level) being used to subsidise ageing public leisure facilities, and to redirect this into the delivery of a modern and strategically located portfolio of public sports and leisure facilities. This programme of strategic re-provisioning is already starting to provide a more efficient and attractive public leisure offer, which is better placed to provide for projected future population growth within the city and is increasingly financially sustainable without the need for local authority subsidy.
- 1.4 The strategic review and rationalisation of public leisure facilities has been shaped into an implementation programme that is structuring the modernisation and strategic re-provisioning of facilities into distinct phases. The first phases of this programme have already been achieved through the closure of the Arena Health and Fitness Club; the withdrawal of subsidised public leisure provision at two school sites; and the £7.85m aquatic extension to Centre AT7 in the north east of the city.
- 1.5 The aquatic extension at Centre AT7 was funded from recycled savings that were immediately realised from public leisure operational efficiencies, being the closures/withdrawals above and the closure of the Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre.
- 1.6 In tandem with the strategic rationalisation and re-provision of facilities, the operation of the two Public Leisure Operators (PLOs) in the city – Coventry Sports Foundation and Coventry Sports Trust – have been brought under the overarching management and direction of Coventry Sports Foundation.
- 1.7 In addition to the direct operational savings brought about through the rationalisation of facilities to date (see 1.4 above), the operational alignment of the PLO’s has delivered further administration overhead savings (circa £0.164m per annum) along with considerable energy savings (circa £0.246m per annum) from the public sports and leisure subsidy – all of which have also been made available within the facilities investment model.
- 1.8 The approval from Council in September 2014 of the addition of £36.7m to the capital programme for 2014/15 onwards – for the development of a City Centre Destination Facility (CCDF) – represents the commencement of the next phase of the public leisure facilities implementation programme.

1.9 In line with provisions within the Coventry Aquatics Strategy, and following the decision of Council in September 2014 “to continue to work to explore all opportunities to enable Coventry to keep its 50m pool if technically possible and within the current financial envelope available”, work to explore and test the feasibility of re-providing a 50m swimming pool in Coventry has continued. This has included holding exploratory and strategic discussions with key stakeholders, including Sport England, the Amateur Swimming Association and a range of local partner organisations.

1.10 The proposed investment recommended in this paper would conclude the above exploratory work and represent a further (albeit concurrent) phase to the public leisure re-provisioning implementation programme.

2. Options considered and recommended proposals

2.1 Provision of a 50m x 8 Lane Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre (Recommended)

2.2 Subject to attaining planning approval conditional on the satisfactory fulfilment of planning conditions imposed by the Coventry City Council Planning Committee on 4 August 2016, Recommendation 1 of this report addresses the lease consents and approvals required from the Council to enable progression of the Wasps Training Ground Centre (WTGC) development at the Alan Higgs Centre, as outlined in Planning Application FUL/2016/1458. These conditions include the need to reach a resolution over Sport England’s concerns regarding the future use of the site and any consequential displacement of sport.

2.3 The further proposal for the development of a 50m pool at the Alan Higgs Centre is founded on the basis of a strategic connectivity of aquatic facilities across the public leisure re-provision model alongside the (separately funded) development of rugby training facilities at the site. The proposed development would create a Community Swimming Development Hub for the city and a Community Rugby Development Hub to complement the proposed new Wasps Training Centre.

2.4 The proposed facility mix for the two new Community Development Hubs at the Alan Higgs Centre is as follows:

- 50 metre Swimming Pool - including spectator seating for 500 people, 2 x moveable floors and a moveable boom (this replaces the existing indoor football pitch)
- Swimming Development Education Room and offices
- Extension of existing Fitness Suite from 65 stations to 100 stations
- 30% extension to Function Room space (to support aquatic events / galas)
- Rugby Development Education Room and Offices (to complement additional Wasps investment on site in the Training Centre, referenced above)

2.5 The proposed site development plan for the Alan Higgs Centre ‘Sports Village’ is outlined in Appendix 1: ‘Alan Higgs Centre ‘Sports Village’ Concept Site Plan’, which illustrates the development plan area for the Wasps Training Centre along with the proposed locations of the 50m swimming pool and the Rugby Development Hub.

2.6 The proposed development at the Alan Higgs Centre will significantly enable the development and enhancement of facilities designed to support and encourage growth in a range of forms of swimming and rugby participation across the city (e.g. leisure/fitness/training/competition) within a strategic, city-wide development approach to key sports and public leisure facilities.

Swimming

- 2.7 The Coventry Aquatic Strategy recognises that, even though swimming participation levels in Coventry are below regional and national averages, and the city has had comparably poor Key Stage 2 swimming attainment levels, it remains the most commonly cited sport in which local people would like to take part more frequently (42.4% – Coventry Sports and Leisure Survey 2012). Swimming is also the key activity that many people in the survey have an aspiration to take part in, and swimming pools are ranked as the number one facility (45.8%) that people would most like to use / have access to at their nearest or most used leisure centre.
- 2.8 Nationally, aquatic sports continue to exhibit consistently higher participation rates for women than many other sports, and this is reflected in Coventry, with six in 10 swimmers being women. Compared to many other sports, aquatics also have an even spread of participation across all age groups, reflecting the fact that it is a sport within which people can sustain their participation into later life, or find it easier to return to.
- 2.9 The Coventry Aquatics Strategy also recognises that Coventry is at a crossroads with its aquatics provision. With an inflexible, ageing and inefficient city centre competition facility (currently the only 50m competition pool in the region), set against a picture of national decline in swimming (with 729,000 fewer people swimming than a decade ago), and at a time of calls for greater innovation within the sport of swimming, the Coventry Aquatic Strategy and investment model proposes an innovative and targeted approach to sustaining and growing participation across different aquatic forms.
- 2.10 The proposed community Swimming Development Hub facility at the Alan Higgs Centre would, for example, enable the City of Coventry Swimming Club to plan for retaining its Beacon Club status and to continue to train and be able to compete across short and long-course swimming and water polo. The Club has over 600 members and fields competitive swim squads (from beginners through to national level), has disabled swimmers competing regionally and nationally and in recent years has extended its youth Swim Camps and Masters programmes.
- 2.11 The model of aquatic facility re-provisioning in Coventry has already been proven to greatly impact on participation in the city and to unlock the latent demand that was highlighted in Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) modelling. The closure of Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre and the seamless re-provision of aquatic facilities at Centre AT7 in August 2014 resulted in over a 1,000% increase in weekly swims in the North East of the city, and over a 150% increase in health and fitness memberships in the Centre's first year of operation (over 80% of which were at concessionary rates, representing very significant participation from priority neighbourhoods for the Centre). This evidences the strength of demand for quality and accessible aquatic facilities in the city. FPM runs have further highlighted the Alan Higgs Centre as a good location for new water space in the south east of the city.
- 2.12 The Amateur Swimming Association has independently considered a strategic framework for regional competition facilities in the West Midlands Region. The ASA has concluded that the West Midlands can support several community 50m pools, but can only support one major regional competition pool (with adequate spectator seating for the targeted level of competition, warm-down pool and specified technical attributes).
- 2.13 The ASA has concluded that, whilst Coventry is not considered to be the preferred location for a major regional competition pool, it wishes to work with Coventry City Council and partners to deliver a 50m training facility to meet the demands of community and club level swimming.

- 2.14 The options for providing a 50m pool at the Alan Higgs Centre are examined in detail in Appendix 2, 'Coventry 50m Pool – Options Appraisal' (Hadron Consulting). The Appraisal considers seven options summarised in Table 1 below.

Community Rugby Development Hub - Rugby Union and Rugby League

- 2.15 The creation of a Community Rugby Development Hub at the Alan Higgs Centre, alongside the proposed development of the Wasps Training Centre at the site, builds on the significant grass roots rugby development investment (attracted through the development of the Coventry Sports Strategy) in the 'Engage!' sporting, social and educational enrichment programme, which has been founded on the Rugby values of Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Discipline and Enjoyment.
- 2.16 In recent months, city-wide discussions have been taking place around the further opportunities presented within the sport of Rugby in Coventry (e.g. through Wasps, Coventry Rugby Club, strong community clubs, Engage!) to develop a city wide partnership approach to rugby that extends from the grass roots development, through Academy structures and into the elite European rugby infrastructure. This is articulated in the 'City of Rugby' initiative (see www.cityofrugby.org).

Displacement

- 2.17 If the swimming pool development is approved, the indoor football hall at the Alan Higgs Centre would be lost to construction of the new swimming pool from October 2017. This hall currently accommodates Coventry City Football Club Academy use and community programming.
- 2.18 If all of the conditions are met in relation to the recent planning application for the Wasps Training Centre proposal, it is the Council's understanding that all of the hours of indoor CCFC Academy use could, subject to negotiation, transfer to the new Training Centre as alternative provision. In addition, community use of the new Training Centre would need to be secured in accordance with the proposals outlined in Planning Application FUL/2016/1458.

Costs and Development Milestones

- 2.19 Detailed financial information on the recommended option is provided in Section 5 of this report and in Appendix 2. Table 1 below outlines the description of each option and the high-level capital costs for each option.
- 2.20 As Coventry is not the ASA's preferred location for a major regional competition pool for the West Midlands, and due to the financial strain that an additional warm-down pool will place on both the capital and revenue model for the Alan Higgs Centre, Options E-G are not considered as preferred options.
- 2.21 Of the remaining options above, Option D is the favoured option as, subject to securing external funding for the development of both the Community Swimming Development Hub and Community Rugby Development Hub, the facility mix can deliver the required specifications of a 50m training facility designed to meet the demands of community and club swimming; still facilitate a level of swimming and water polo competition; deliver a community rugby hub; and maximise programming into an expanded, but still efficient, mass of water space, as evidenced by Sport England FPM modelling.

Summary

- 2.22 If investment in a 50m pool is approved, there is an opportunity to demonstrate real innovation in city-wide aquatic provision. The £36.7m City Centre Destination Facility project would provide a central location for social, leisure and membership swimming whilst strategically and financially supporting the investment model for provision of a new 50m (500 seat) 'community and club' swimming pool in the south east of the city. If planning conditions for the Alan Higgs Centre site are met and approval for development attained, this would be part of the development of a 'Sports Village' site that would further combine Premier Rugby training with Academy and Community Rugby programmes, potentially across both codes (Union and League).
- 2.23 The above developments would be consistent with current and emerging national sports policy objectives to demonstrate innovation in addressing the national decline in swimming and the active collaboration between National Governing Bodies, sports codes, local authorities and community partners to deliver strong community outcomes in an urban locality and Marmot City. This further supports the Council's aspirations and 10-year Council Plan objectives to raise the profile of the city as 'a centre for arts and culture, sports and events'.

Table 1: 50m Pool Options Modelled

Option	Description	Total Modelled Capital Cost
A	50m x 8 lane swimming pool including spectator seating for 500 people, 100 station Fitness Suite, extension to the function rooms and remodelling of the reception area within the existing footprint of the football hall (maintaining the steel frame).	£14,897,695
B	50m x 8 lane swimming pool including spectator seating for 500 people, 100 station Fitness Suite, extension to the function rooms and remodelling of the reception area. The existing indoor football hall would be demolished and rebuilt.	£15,222,238
C	50m x 8 lane swimming pool including spectator seating for 500 people, 100 station Fitness Suite, extension to the function rooms and remodelling of the reception area. The modelling allows for the refurbishment and/or partial conversion of the ground floor area to accommodate a mix of changing and strength and conditioning facilities.	£15,576,402
D	50m x 8 lane swimming pool including spectator seating for 500 people, 100 station Fitness Suite, extension to the function rooms and remodelling of the reception area. The modelling allows for the refurbishment and/or partial conversion of the ground floor area to accommodate a mix of changing and strength and conditioning facilities, with the second floor developed into a Rugby Community Development Hub.	£16,944,591
E	As per the specification for Option B but with the addition of a 20 metre x 4 lane warm-down pool.	£17,731,570
F	As per the specification for Option C but with the addition of a 20 metre x 4 lane warm-down pool. This would require a small extension to the Alan Higgs Centre on the east elevation.	£18,085,734
G	As per the specification for Option D but with the addition of a 20 metre x 4 lane warm-down pool. This would require a small extension to the Alan Higgs Centre on the east elevation.	£19,453,923

- 2.24 The table above shows the capital costs for different options for 50m pool provision at the Alan Higgs Centre. Option D is the preferred option as this meets the requirements for a 50m pool, meets the needs for the Community Rugby Development Hub, maximises the external funding available and delivers an ongoing revenue surplus. There is no additional external funding available to deliver options E – G.

2.25 Provision of a 25m Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre (Not Recommended)

- 2.26 Financial modelling has been undertaken to consider the merits of providing a 25m x 8 lane indoor short course competition swimming pool and a range of options for extended indoor sports hall facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre, aligned to (separately funded) rugby Training Centre developments at the site.
- 2.27 The Alan Higgs Centre is considered within FPM modelling to be a good site for further aquatic provision in the city, due to the comparatively high levels of projected, future unmet demand for swimming in the east and south east sectors.
- 2.28 The provision of a 25m competition pool at the site (as an alternative to a 50m pool) would provide a short course training and competition facility, alongside extended indoor sports hall capacity at the site. The model would provide significant training and short course swimming competition facilities, but the pool would not be capable of hosting competitive water polo events and the City of Coventry Swimming Club would not be in a position to retain their Beacon Club status, due to having no ready access to a 50m swimming pool.
- 2.29 Financial modelling for a 25m pool with extended sports hall provision at the site is estimated to cost between £10.7m and £13.5m (depending on the mix of indoor facilities alongside the pool). However, initial discussions with potential external funders indicate that a 25m pool is significantly less likely to attract external capital funding into the model than the 50m pool proposed above. It is considered likely that this external funding could make a significant contribution to the difference in costs between the two proposals, particularly when presented in the context of a city-wide aquatic strategy including investment in the city centre facility and when aligned to a multi-sport development proposal at the Alan Higgs Centre site.
- 2.30 Revenue modelling for the 25m pool and sports hall option indicates a smaller annual surplus compared to the 50m pool model as outlined in the private report. This is due to the flexible programming options of the 50m pool (in an area of current and projected future unmet demand) aligned to the optimisation of the city centre destination model (achieved through reducing traditional water space and optimising leisure water at that site), which could only be fully achieved through the concentration of traditional swimming into an aquatic hub site.
- 2.31 Whilst the 25m pool development option does re-provide water space into an area of current unmet demand, the option is not recommended as it does not promote the optimisation of the aquatic model and leaves the city without a 50m pool and therefore without a Beacon Swimming Club and swimming pathway in the longer term.

2.32 No provision of a Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre (Not Recommended)

- 2.33 Subject to meeting planning conditions and attaining approval, the development of a rugby Training Centre at the Alan Higgs Centre can occur without the further development of aquatic provision in the city. However, within the Sport England FPM modelling, the east and south east of the city are currently shown to have some of the highest levels of unmet demand for swimming in the city, and the failure to re-provide facilities in this area of the city following the closure of the Ernesford Grange school pool leaves Coventry with an uneven distribution of accessible aquatic facilities in its neighbourhoods.

- 2.34 Investment in aquatic facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre would further support an efficient and accessible model of aquatic re-provision in the city, through aligning new aquatic provision to the proposed new 'Sports Village' model. The Sports Village model generates operational efficiencies and creates a multi-sport model which would not be possible at other sites in this area of the city. For the above reasons, the option of not providing a swimming pool at the Alan Higgs Centre site is not recommended.
- 2.35 To negotiate the terms with CAWAT of entering into a commercial lease for the new City Centre Destination Facility and explore, if necessary, any benefit that could be derived from a more formalised commercial partnership with CAWAT (Recommended)**
- 2.36 As a variation to a previous approval in 2014, it is now proposed that the Council enter into negotiations to agree terms with CAWAT for entering into a commercial lease for the new City Centre Destination Facility. The lease terms would be informed by an independent, commercial valuation for the facility to ensure that the Council obtains best value in monetary terms for the facility, now that the scheme has planning approval (subject to conditions). Through Recommendation 4 of this report, officers will also explore options which seek to ensure that some further income is delivered back to the Council as a consequence of the Council's investment into the proposed leisure facilities. The financial and legal considerations relating to this matter are considered further in Section 5 of this report.
- 2.37 Extension of Leases to Coventry Sports Trust (Recommended)**
- 2.38 In October 2016, the current grant agreement and leases from Coventry City Council to Coventry Sports Trust (CST) for the operation of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (CSLC), Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre and Brandon Wood Golf Club are due to expire.
- 2.39 As a result of the joint working between CST and CSF, operational efficiencies have been generated through this model and repatriated into the facility investment model. These operational efficiencies are considered in more detail in the Private Report.
- 2.40 Furthermore, in January 2016, the grant to Coventry Sports Trust was reviewed in the Council's review of grants to external organisations, and whilst no change to the level of grant to CST was initially proposed in the review, efficiency savings of £200,000 from within the wider sports funding model were offered and approved.
- 2.41 The new City Centre Destination Facility is due to open in late 2018, and the Council has committed funding to support Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre, until the new facility becomes available for use.
- 2.42 Extending the lease and grant arrangements with Coventry Sports Trust would provide continuity and certainty within the Trust's operating model and the joint management structure negotiated with Coventry Sports Foundation, until such a time as the Council makes final decisions as to the future of CSLC.
- 2.43 No Extension of Grant and Leases to Coventry Sports Trust (Not Recommended)**
- 2.44 If the grant and leases from Coventry City Council to Coventry Sports Trust are not extended, the Council will need to run a competitive exercise to tender for public leisure service operations from October 2016. This may mean dismantling the current joint management arrangements between the city's two current public leisure operators,

potentially thereby reducing or losing the efficiencies this has generated in recent years through more efficient management of the Council's leisure portfolio.

- 2.45 Disruption in the current collaboration across public leisure could undermine the seamless model of re-provision currently embarked upon. Tendering for services to operate the current facilities for a potentially uncertain period when the seamless transition from CSLC to the new CCDF is not assured, could prove unsuccessful as potential new operators would seek assurances around risk prior to accepting leases on the current facilities.

3.0 Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 A more detailed account of the consultation undertaken in developing the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 is included in the 'Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024' Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 2014). This paper focuses only on those elements of the consultation that are particularly pertinent to the recommendations/considerations contained within this report.

Coventry Sports and Leisure Survey (2012)

- 3.2 Public consultation to inform the early development of the Sports Strategy was undertaken through the city-wide Coventry Sport and Leisure Survey, between 25 June 2012 and 26 August 2012. A total of 1,532 completed surveys were received from across the city.
- 3.3 Extensive desktop research and analysis was undertaken in order to consider the findings from the above survey in the context of wider data. The results of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Survey and desk top research were first published in 2013, and a detailed paper outlining these findings can be viewed at www.covsport.org.uk.
- 3.4 The headline findings from the above paper (at the time of publication) that are particularly relevant to subject matters of this paper are that:
- (i) in Coventry, the proportion of women regularly taking part in sport was less than half that of men
 - (ii) the proportion of disabled people taking part in sport in the city was less than both national and regional averages
 - (iii) the sports that people most took part in were keep fit / gym; football; swimming; athletics; and cycling
 - (iv) swimming and keep fit / gym were the sports that attracted the most participants from all backgrounds
 - (v) swimming was the activity most likely to encourage new participation
 - (vi) Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre, Xcel Leisure Centre and the Alan Higgs Centre were the most-used public sports and leisure centres
 - (vii) the Xcel Leisure Centre and Alan Higgs Centre were the public sports and leisure centres that drew the highest levels of satisfaction
 - (viii) cleanliness of changing rooms/toilets, friendliness of staff, enjoyment of the activity, feeling safe and secure, cost and being in a comfortable environment were factors which were most important to respondents when choosing a sports and leisure centre
 - (ix) although participation rates were generally lower in deprived areas of the city, a high number of members of Coventry Sports Trust and Coventry Sport Foundation came from lower income and social housing households

Subsequent to the above Survey, the addition of new aquatic facilities (including a 25m swimming pool) and additional / extended community facilities at Centre AT7 has, in the past two years, seen participation levels at the Centre rise by over 150%. In contrast to point (vi) above, Centre AT7 now enjoys more participant visits than the Alan Higgs Centre.

Emerging Vision for Sport in Coventry (2012)

- 3.5 The Emerging Vision for Sport in Coventry was developed through the review and detailed consideration of responses from the Coventry Sport and Leisure Survey; further direct consultation with local, regional and national sporting stakeholders; and extensive desktop research and analysis. This process culminated in the drafting of eight key Vision Aims designed to encapsulate the sporting aspirations for Coventry over the next ten years.
- 3.6 Within the eight Vision Aims of the Strategy, Vision Aim 5 seeks:

“To provide a range of modern, accessible, and high-quality sports facilities.”
- 3.7 Accordingly, assessments of the city’s indoor sports facilities were also carried out, in collaboration with facility operators. These assessments provided a detailed picture of current indoor sports provision in Coventry, showing the number, location, quality and use of the city’s indoor facilities.
- 3.8 The key findings to emerge from this assessment were that:
 - (i) the quality of indoor facilities varied greatly - from those that were of ‘very poor’ quality to those that were of ‘very good’ quality
 - (ii) many of the city’s indoor facilities were found to be located within schools, which offered varying levels of community use
 - (iii) Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre were both adjudged to be no longer ‘fit for purpose’
 - (iv) funding being used to support these ageing public sports and leisure facilities could be used to invest in new, modern and more accessible sports and leisure facilities
 - (v) swimming pool provision across the city would need to be considered in light of the proposed closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre
- 3.9 Further to the launch of the Emerging Vision for Sport in Coventry, work was undertaken with a range of stakeholders to develop the Strategic Objectives for the Strategy. Initially, 48 Strategic Objectives were drafted, although these were refined to 37 throughout the period of early stakeholder consultation.
- 3.10 In February 2014, the draft partnership ‘Sports Strategy 2014-2024’ was formally launched for a period of public consultation. In addition to considering the responses to the survey undertaken as part of public consultation on the draft Strategy, representations from the City of Coventry Swimming Club and the ASA resulted in the City Council, CSF and CST undertaking additional facility modelling focused on the feasibility of providing a new 50m swimming pool in the city centre.
- 3.11 During the above period of consultation, two petitions were also launched expressing opposition to the loss of a 50m pool in Coventry. These petitions were considered at the Joint Cabinet Member meeting of 23 July 2014.

Key Findings of the Consultation

3.12 A detailed paper outlining the results of the public consultation can be viewed at www.covsport.org.uk. The key findings of relevance to this paper are that:

- (i) the strategy was very well received and there was little opposition to either the Vision Aims or the Strategic Objectives. There was agreement to each of the Vision Aims from at least 82% of respondents
- (ii) the area attracting the most objections across survey responses was the proposed loss of 50m swimming pool provision in the city. Each Vision Aim invited comments and there was also a general comments section at the end. In total, 3,022 comments were received across all sections of the survey. Of these, 1,573 were objections to the loss of 50m pool provision
- (iii) the following issues were included amongst those identified in responses that referenced concern over the loss of 50m pool provision in the city: the destabilising the City of Coventry Swimming Club, specifically including the impact of the loss of Amateur Swimming Association National Beacon Status; reduced pool capacity for club training; the displacement of current pool users; the loss of competition facilities in the city; the loss of the only current 50m competition pool in the West Midlands region; the need to provide opportunities in swimming from Learn-To-Swim through to competition squads; need to make swimming a 'Key Sport' – it is the highest participation sport in the country
- (iv) there is a need to ensure sports provision and support for disabled people. In total, 101 comments were received supporting both the need to improve facilities for disabled people and to increase participation in sport and active recreation by disabled people and/or people with long-term limiting illness
- (v) many of the respondents commented on the need for high quality facilities for people of all sporting abilities. In total, there were 250 comments relating to this, and many of these also referred to the need for facilities in neighbourhoods
- (vi) there is a need to ensure provision in the neighbourhoods. Comments on this included the need to provide a pool at the Alan Higgs Centre; sports hubs with free parking are essential; provision across central and neighbourhood facilities should be complementary
- (vii) the situation between the Council and CCFC was referenced, and the need to ensure support of CCFC Academy was raised
- (viii) linking sport to public health received 51 comments, with respondents wanting to see more done to improve the health of local people through sport

3.13 *Higgs Centre Development Stakeholder Consultation*

It is anticipated that further consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders such as Sport England and relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, the aim of which will be to inform the scope of the scheme, ensure compliance with relevant design guidance and to support design and planning approval processes.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 If approved, Recommendation 1 will be progressed immediately on fulfilment of the planning conditions relating to Planning Application FUL/2016/1458.
- 4.2 The OJEU procurement and appointment (through a framework) for the design team and associated consultants for the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre will be completed by December 2016.

- 4.3 The designs of the 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities will be developed to RIBA stage 3 for planning by May 2017.
- 4.4 Planning permission for the 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre will be sought in mid-June 2017 with an anticipated approval date of October 2017. A travel plan will be developed for the 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities in accordance with planning processes, requirements and timescales.
- 4.5 The contractor procurement will be through an OJEU compliant process, commencing in April 2017 with the preferred contractor appointed in September 2017.
- 4.6 Construction of the 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre will commence in October 2017 and is scheduled to take 16 months with practical completion in February 2019.
- 4.7 The Defects Liability Period would commence on the date of practical completion of works (February 2019), as would the 12 year period of Latent Defects
- 4.8 The 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities are scheduled to open to the public in February 2019.
- 4.9 The negotiation of terms with CAWAT relating to the proposed commercial lease for the new City Centre Destination Facility and exploration of a formalised commercial partnership, would be progressed immediately on approval of the recommendation, under delegated authorities.
- 4.10 The negotiation of the extension of leases for a further three-years between Coventry City Council and Coventry Sports Trust (CST) would be progressed on approval, to be effective from October 2016.

Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

Background

- 5.1. The collaborative work approved in the July 2011 Cabinet report resulted in the proposal of a new management and investment model for public leisure services and facilities within the city.
- 5.2. The aquatic development at Centre AT7 approved by Cabinet in March 2013 was funded through this investment model drawn from the collaborative work between Coventry Sports Foundation (CSF) and Coventry Sports Trust (CST).
- 5.3. The aims of the investment model are to deliver a more coherent and consistent leisure offer for the people of Coventry through service and organisational restructuring in order to drive greater efficiency, cost savings and opportunities for reinvestment in high-quality, public leisure facilities.
- 5.4. Within the Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024, Coventry's Vision Aim for 'Facilities' is outlined within Vision Aim 5. One of the key challenges for the city in successfully delivering this Vision Aim, is the extent to which any future public sport provision can meet the city's investment model for sports facilities.

- 5.5. The principles of the investment model are drawn from the following criteria:
- (i) Recycling of Council funding from financially unsustainable facilities and operating models.
 - (ii) Profitability of facilities to remove the need for additional subsidy.
 - (iii) Seeking grants to support capital developments.
 - (iv) 'Sweating' existing assets to maximise revenues.
 - (v) Investing further in neighbourhood provision, where there is proven demand.
- 5.6. A key element of the investment model is for facilities to become profitable enough not to require further subsidy from Coventry City Council and to enable the on-going operation of the sports and leisure facilities to contribute to any future neighbourhood investment where there is proven demand for services.
- 5.7. This report does not seek additional capital or revenue money for this proposal – it is proposed to use funding from within the current investment model, as outlined in the Private Report which provides tables setting out the Coventry Sports Trust Annual Budget and Sports Investment Model.
- 5.8. Within the financial modelling undertaken for the Alan Higgs Centre facility, the optimum / most affordable option from both a capital and revenue perspective is to have a 50m pool within a Sports Village complex. Whilst the capital costs for a 25m pool would be less, access to potential grant funding that is available for a 50m pool in the context of a wider aquatic strategy would not necessarily be available for a short-course pool. The provision of a 50m pool rather than a 25m pool in an area of identified need for water space provides additional revenue income as outlined in the private report.

Financial modelling assumptions

- 5.9. The assumptions that have been made within the context of the financial modelling are:
- (i) Capital Costs for the Alan Higgs Centre include all capital building costs including fees.
 - (ii) Capital Financing Costs have been based upon Prudential Borrowing at 2.82%, spread over a term of 42 years (based on 40 year asset life, and 2 year project development).
 - (iii) Financial Resource Available for all options is an annual grant. This is made up of the overall sport budget available, less the £0.266m required for capital repayment and financing costs for the Centre AT7 aquatic development and the resource required for the capital and repayment finance costs for the CCDF. It is assumed that there would be a small on-going subsidy required for Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre.
 - (iv) There would be a holistic, coherent and efficient approach to public leisure provision.
 - (v) The indicative surplus from the CCDF, which is to be derived from a commercial arrangement contributes to the overall wider sports investment model.
- 5.10. Capital

The proposed overall capital cost for the scheme is £16.94m. £10.5m of this will be funded through Prudential Borrowing, which will be repaid by recycling savings through previous operational withdrawals / closures (such as the CST withdrawal from Foxford School, the Arena Health and Fitness Club (Ricoh Arena), Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre closure and the previously proposed closure of CSLC). This will be further funded

through the commercial rent realised from the CCDF and any further commercial arrangement. The balance is currently being sought from external third party funding.

The project will incur management and design development costs (which are already funded from within the sport investment model) in relation to the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre. These costs will be at risk up until September 2017 when the contracts for construction would be anticipated to be signed and matched external funding has been secured.

5.11. Revenue

The provision of a 50m pool and enhanced leisure provision at Alan Higgs Centre would require no ongoing operational subsidy and would produce an assumed annual surplus of £0.147m, the details of which are outlined within the Private Report.

Legal implications

- 5.12. The Council will use its power under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the Act) to implement the delivery of the Sport and Playing Pitch Strategies. Section 19 of the Act provides that local authorities have the discretion to provide, inside or outside their area, such recreational facilities as they think fit.
- 5.13. Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the 1999 Act) provides that as a best value authority the Council must “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5.14. Section 3(4) of the 1999 Act provides that in deciding how to fulfil the duty the Council must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary. The Guidance issued by the Secretary of State issued in September 2011 states that authorities should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.
- 5.15. The Council also has the power under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land in any manner they wish including the granting of a lease. The only constraint is that a disposal must be for best consideration reasonably obtainable except in the case of short tenancy. It is likely that the lease for both the Alan Higgs Centre site and the new City Centre Destination Facility will be in excess of 7 years and thus not be a short tenancy for the purposes of the Act. As such, best consideration will need to be obtained and it is envisaged as stated in paragraph 2.36 of this report that for the city centre site this will be achieved through an independent valuation which will be commissioned.
- 5.16. The procurement of a contractor(s) to design and construct the 50 metre pool must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The procurement process followed will depend on the extent to which the Council is able to define its requirements. Once a specification is produced Legal Services and the Procurement Team will advise on the appropriate process.
- 5.17. The consultation with local stakeholders must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising the scope of the scheme.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council Plan?

- ***A prosperous Coventry*** – Vision Aim 5 of the Coventry Sports Strategy outlines the need “to provide a range of modern, accessible and high quality sports facilities in the city”. The first Strategic Objective for this Vision Aim specifically concerns future city centre leisure provision and the need “to develop city centre sports and leisure facilities that are accessible, high-quality, sustainable and of significance to the Midlands“. The Sports Strategy thereby puts leisure at the heart of city centre regeneration and promotes the city centre as a key regional destination for leisure activities and leisure tourism. The commercial success of the City Centre Destination Facility will, through these proposals, further support investment in training and club competition facilities for swimming and water polo at the Alan Higgs Centre. It is anticipated that this will further increase external investment into the sporting infrastructure of the city.
- ***Healthier, independent lives*** – Public leisure facilities play a vital role in addressing social challenges, promoting active lifestyles, increasing physical activity, reducing isolation and improving outcomes for individuals and communities. Vision Aim 1 of the Sports Strategy sets the ambition “to develop a more active, inclusive and vibrant Coventry through positive experiences in sport”. Through encouraging and supporting engagement in regular sport and/or active recreation, the Strategy aims to positively influence and contribute to the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the residents of Coventry. In particular, public leisure facilities and their operation have a key role to play in supporting the Council to deliver its public health objectives, directly supporting action to address priorities within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for the city. The provision of enhanced community sports and leisure facilities in the south east of the city is intended to broaden and widen participation in sport and leisure in the neighbourhoods, develop community hubs for swimming and rugby, and promote sustainable sporting pathways within these sports.
- ***Ensuring that children and young people achieve and make a positive contribution*** – Investment in public leisure facilities enables and supports the provision of sporting opportunities through which many children and young people achieve and make a positive contribution. For example, the recommendations above support the City of Coventry Swimming Club in retaining Beacon Status through access to a modern 50m pool. The Club has a vibrant youth section and talent pathway, but also supports wider volunteering and opportunities through teaching, coaching and officiating. Similarly, the Community Rugby Development Hub will enable the development and delivery of opportunities for young people through partnership community programmes focused on the core values of rugby, such as those delivered by Engage! and through the City of Rugby initiative.
- ***Improving the environment and tackling climate change*** – The significant age and largely poor condition of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre have resulted in it being adjudged as no longer ‘fit for purpose’. Whilst no decision has yet been made on the closure of CSLC, a modern 50m pool would offer greater energy efficiency and flexibility in usage. Furthermore, the development of such proposed facilities are predicated on a financially efficient model concerning the use of recycled savings from the closure and withdrawal of public leisure service provision from ageing and inefficient sites. This enables the existing resource to be moved from an inefficient model of subsidy to one of investment in quality, sustainable facilities

and a projected revenue surplus due to the Council over the duration of the funding model.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

6.2.1 Delivery of the Sports Strategy has been regularly reviewed via Coventry City Council Scrutiny Boards in the first two years of its implementation.

6.2.2 With regards to delivery of the City Centre Destination Facility, a Risk Register has been produced and maintained, which is reviewed regularly and managed by individuals throughout the process. A similar Risk Register would be established for the proposed Alan Higgs Centre project.

6.2.3 The most significant risks to proposed provision, along with the associated control measures have been identified to be:

- (i) the Alan Higgs Centre project costing is more than could be supported through the £10.5m that is being requested from Council. The control measures include the seeking of additional external funding to reduce the gap and cover contingencies, the appointment of project managers, costs consultants and contractors through competitive processes, and value engineering of the design where required. The capital projections also currently include sizeable contingencies
- (ii) the Council may not have the specific expertise or experience internally to project manage the client aspects of the 50m pool facility construction contract. The control measure is through the formation of a client-side project management group, led by a contracted Employer's Representative, who will have the necessary expertise experience to work alongside the Professional Project Management function, to ensure that the Council's brief is fulfilled through both of the design and construction phases.
- (iii) the risk of Contractor insolvency throughout the course of the contract. Through the tendering process, Coventry City Council will undertake a financial appraisal of the contractor that is successful
- (iv) the risk of installation failure of key elements of the project construction. The control measure would be the project management undertaken by the Employer's Representation, the Professional Adviser to the Employer's Representation; the 12 month defects period; Contractor warranties and collateral warranties; and (as a contract signed under deed) a 12 year latent defects period
- (v) the risk that the service provision from the building and the maintenance of the building might not be fulfilling the objectives of service and maintenance required by the Council. The Council as landlord will ensure compliance with the lease covenants and shall take enforcement action if there is any non-compliance

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

6.3.1 The Coventry Sports Strategy, Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024 and Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014-2024 are partnership documents developed through consultation with a range of stakeholders.

6.3.2 Approval and early implementation of the above strategies has given confidence to external funders that the city has clear objectives and priorities for sport to 2024. This should assist the Council in applying for external capital grant funding to deliver the new phases of the facilities investment programme, thereby increasing external funding investment into the city's public leisure infrastructure.

6.3.3 The report recommendations would deliver a new, sustainable 50m pool, further creating valuable water space in an area of the city with both lower than average participation in sport and active recreation and a significant level of unmet demand for swimming pool facilities. This would further fulfil the criteria outlined in the Council Motion of 2014 to seek to maintain a 50m pool within the city within the current financial and technical envelope.

6.3.4 There are no HR implications for the organisation as these proposals will not directly affect City Council employees.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

6.4.1 Following consultation and analysis of demographic, health, sport and leisure data and survey responses for the city, an Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) was produced for the Sports Strategy (see Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 Cabinet Report, Coventry City Council, August 2014).

6.4.2 With regards to the current proposals, demographic, health, sport and leisure data and public survey responses highlighted the following considerations within the ECA concerning protected groups under equalities legislation:

Vulnerable Communities (disadvantage/poverty)

a) The pattern of participation in the city mirrors the city's deprivation patterns, with lower participation rates to be found in the north and east of the city and the higher participation rates to be found to the west and parts of the south.

Disability

a) 4.5% of the total population of Coventry are economically inactive due to a long term illness or disability.
b) The proportion of disabled people taking part in sport in the city is less than both national and regional averages.

Age

a) There is a correlation between age and inactivity rates which are the highest amongst those aged 55+ (67.9%) and lowest for young adults aged 16-25 (43.3%)
b) Cycling, swimming and athletics are characterised by an even spread throughout the age cohorts up to 64 years
c) Young people often struggle to afford to participate in sport and active recreation as youth unemployment remains high and students and young earners are often under financial pressure.

Gender

a) 50.3% of the local population are female.
b) In Coventry, female inactivity (61.3%) is significantly higher than the equivalent male rate.
c) In Coventry, the proportion of women regularly taking part in sport (15.2%) is less than half that of men (31.3%).
d) Just under nine in ten of those taking part in keep fit exercises and six in ten swimmers are women.

6.4.4 The Equality and Consultation Analysis contained as an appendix to the 'Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024' Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 2014) indicated the following potential equalities impacts with regard to the protected groups under equalities legislation which are particularly relevant to this report:

- a) The strategy was very well received and there was little opposition to either the aims or the strategic objectives. There was agreement to all eight of the vision aims from at least 80% of all respondents.
- b) A need to ensure sport provision and support for people with disabilities was highlighted in the consultation. In total 25 comments (2.3% of all comments) were received supporting the need for increased participation from people with disabilities and for facilities for the disabled.
- c) Many of the respondents commented on the need for high quality facilities for all abilities. In total there were 250 comments relating to this, and many of these also referred to the need for facilities in neighbourhoods.
- d) Linking sport to public health received 51 comments, with respondents wanting to see more done to improve the health of local people through sport.
- e) Comments relating to age were made by 46 respondents. These were almost equally spread between a need for more sporting opportunities for children and young people and older people.
- f) Very few comments were received in relation to gender, although support for Vision Aim 1 – relating to increased participation for females – was very well supported.
- g) Five comments were received supporting sport provision within neighbourhoods and how this could help those with an economic disadvantage participate more in sport.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

6.5.1 Environmental Management

The Alan Higgs Centre is operated by Coventry Sports Foundation, who currently manage the environmental aspects of the 80-acre site through a partnership with the Living Environment Trust (LET). LET are responsible for the environmental, ecological and habitat management of the site and would therefore be contracted by the Foundation to oversee and manage / mitigate the environmental impact of the proposed project through the pre-construction, construction and operational phases.

6.5.2 During Construction

Construction would be undertaken in accordance with Secured By Design principles. Modern construction materials would be utilised and would present a significantly lesser impact on the environment than materials that were historically used. Site Waste Management techniques would be utilised and off-site manufacture would be prioritised wherever possible, thereby reducing reliance on water, minerals and other natural resources. Local contractors would be prioritised where appropriate and local specialised sub-contractors, suppliers and labour sources would also be utilised, wherever possible. If approved, the demolition and disposal of building materials from the affected areas of the existing Alan Higgs Centre would require an approved risk management and methodology strategy.

6.5.3 In Use

Whilst no decision has yet been made on the closure of CSLC, it is anticipated that the operation of a modern 50m pool would deliver significant efficiencies in water and energy consumption compared to the current 50m pool at Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre. In comparison this would deliver an overall reduction in the carbon footprint. Energy saving controls would be incorporated into scheme to reduce the on-going impact on natural resources. The modern mechanical and electrical installations will provide improved energy use through more efficient plant and better controls, such as passive-infra red sensors and time-limited functions. Safe and secure management principles

would be adopted by the operator to ensure the safety and perceived safety of its users and those living and working around the proposed development. The operator would further be expected to deliver carefully selected activity programmes that are reflective of the needs of local users and the neighbourhoods they represent. Provision would be reviewed regularly to reflect changes in requirements and ensure efficiencies in centre operations.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

- 6.6.1 The Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024, Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024 and Coventry Aquatics Strategy 2014-2024 are partnership documents developed through consultation with a range of stakeholders. Approval and early implementation of the above strategies have given confidence to external funders that the city has clear objectives and priorities for sport to 2024. Further commitment to investing in sport and the implementation of the Strategy should assist partners when applying for external grant funding to deliver sport in the city.
- 6.6.2 Notably, the provision of a new 50m pool and Community Swimming Development Hub for the city should positively impact on the City of Coventry Swimming Club's ability to retain its Beacon Club status and to host long-course training and club swimming and water polo events in the city.
- 6.6.3 Similarly, the provision of a Community Rugby Development Hub should positively benefit a number of rugby teams (and professional club community programmes) across potentially both codes of the sport (Union and League).
- 6.6.4 From a public leisure perspective, current lease and operational arrangements with the Coventry Sports Trust are due to expire in October 2016. Extending the lease and grant arrangements with Coventry Sports Trust would provide continuity and certainty within the Trust's operating model and the joint management structure negotiated with Coventry Sports Foundation.
- 6.6.5 Any implications for staffing arrangements across Coventry Sports Trust or Coventry Sports Foundation as a consequence of the above recommendations would be the subject of proposals presented by the organisation and would be managed independently by CST/CSF as the employer of affected staff. These changes will be monitored for the purposes of ascertaining equalities impact.
- 6.6.6 If the swimming pool development is approved, the indoor football hall at the Alan Higgs Centre would be lost to construction of the new swimming pool from October 2017. This currently accommodates Coventry City Football Club Academy use and community programming.
- 6.6.7 If all of the conditions are met in relation to the recent planning application for the Wasps Training Centre proposal, it is the Council's understanding that all of the hours of indoor CCFC Academy use could, subject to negotiation, transfer to the new Training Centre as alternative provision. In addition, community use of the new Training Centre would need to be secured in accordance with the proposals outlined in Planning Application FUL/2016/1458.

Report author(s):**Name and job title:**

David Nuttall - Head of Service – Sports, Culture, Destination and Business Relationships
 Jane Murphy - Head of Transformation and Major Projects

Directorate:

Place

Resources

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7683 2362

Email: david.nuttall@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
David Cockroft	Assistant Director, City Centre and Development Services	Place	08/08/16	09/08/16
Steve Wiles	Development Manager – Facilities, Capital Programmes and Contracts	Place	05/08/16	08/08/16
Jonathan Hunt	Development Manager – Sport and Active Recreation	Place	05/08/16	08/08/16
Steve Thomas	Finance Business Manager	Resources	05/08/16	08/08/16
Lucy Hobbs	Project Delivery Manager	Place	08/08/16	09/08/16
Oluremi Aremu	Major Projects Lead Lawyer	Resources	05/08/16	08/08/16
Nigel Clews	Assistant Director, Property Asset Management	Place	08/08/16	09/08/16
Richard Moon	Senior Development Executive	Place	08/08/16	09/08/16
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	08/08/16	09/08/16
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant – Business Partnering	Resources	08/08/16	09/08/16
Helen Lynch	Legal Services Manager (Place and Regulatory)	Resources	08/08/16	09/08/16
Martin Yardley	Executive Director	Place	09/08/16	09/08/16
Councillor Kamran Caan	Cabinet Member (Public Health and Sport)		09/08/16	09/08/16

This report is published on the council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Alan Higgs Centre 'Sports Village' Concept Proposal – Site Plan

