

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 17 th January 2017
Report Subject	Connahs Quay Swimming Pool : Cambrian Aquatics Overview of Business Plan 2016/18
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officers (Organisational Change)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Connahs Quay Swimming Pool was transferred to Cambrian Aquatics in May 2016 as part of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) scheme under the terms outlined in the 15th December 2015 Cabinet Report and related subsequent delegated approvals. In the first year of operation a revenue grant of £0.065m was provided to Cambrian Aquatics and a capital allocation of £0.130m.

Since this date the Swimming Pool has been operated successfully. This report summarises positive progress made since the Community Asset Transfer and, based on the updated business plan, proposes a grant of £0.065m for the second year of operation from 1st April 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To agree that a revenue grant of £0.065m be provided to Cambrian Aquatics to support the operation of Connahs Quay Swimming Pool in line with the legal agreements already signed between Cambrian Aquatics and Flintshire County Council.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER PROPOSAL UPDATE
1.01	<p>At the 15th December 2015 Cabinet Meeting the Community Asset Transfer of Connahs Quay Swimming Pool to Cambrian Aquatics was agreed with the following conditions to be met prior to legal completion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of an updated Strategic Business Plan;• That this Business Plan covers satisfactorily key areas identified in the Cabinet report of the 15th December 2015• Sign off of the Business Plan by Chief Officers for Organisational Change in consultation with the two lead portfolio holders. <p>The Chief Officer (Governance) was given delegated authority to enter into the necessary legal agreements to complete the Community Asset Transfer including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Asset Transfer Lease with Cambrian Aquatics for 27 years based on a peppercorn rent;• Community Benefits Agreement with Cambrian Aquatics detailing the requirements for the peppercorn lease;• An initial revenue fund of £0.065m and the community benefits required for this funding;• An initial capital grant allocation of £0.100m and the conditions for use of this grant linked to the condition survey;• Co-operative Agreement with Connahs Quay Town Council and Cambrian Aquatics detailing the principles, values and ways of working between the three main partners. <p>These conditions were met with the only minor change in delegated sign off being the £30,000 additional capital allocation which was made based on a detailed roof survey that was completed prior to transfer. The pool was transferred and opened in the May half term holiday 2016.</p>
1.02	<p>Cambrian Aquatics will be present at the Cabinet Meeting to detail progress made against delivery of the Business Plan since the Community Asset Transfer. Progress has been very positive and therefore the report recommends the release of a £0.065m grant for the year 2017/18. Key successes in delivery of the Business Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cambrian Aquatics has made a solid start to operations in the first quarter of operations;• They have recruited 26 staff (14 FTE);• Learn to swim numbers have increased from 760 to 814;• Cambrian Aquatics are working with 12 primary schools to develop innovative swimming program;• They have hit or exceeded their community benefit targets;• Public swim has doubled since opening;• They have invested heavily in staff training to improve their service.

1.03	The Part 2 report on this agenda provides a full copy of the Business Plan for 2016/18 and enables Cabinet to discuss any specific conditions that should be placed on release of this funding.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The release of £0.065m out of the 2017/18 revenue budget to Cambrian Aquatics This amount sits within the revenue budget for 2017/18. There are no Human Resource implications.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultations have been undertaken in a joint review meeting with Cambrian Aquatics and Connahs Quay Town Council. The Town Council expressed that they would be positively supporting Cambrian Aquatics in 2017/18.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Key Risks and Mitigation</p> <p>(1) The cash flow position of Cambrian Aquatics deteriorates – The Council will continue to make the grant payment in two equal instalments in April and October.</p> <p>(2) The operation of the swimming pool is no longer sustainable by Cambrian Aquatics – The co-operative agreement ensures that Cambrian Aquatics, Flintshire County Council and Connahs Quay Town Council will work to resolve issues as they arise. In the worst case the pool will transfer back to the Council and a range of options from closure to another community asset transfer to an alternative operation would be considered.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>15th December 2015 Cabinet Report.</p> <p>Contact Officers: Ian Bancroft / Neal Cockerton Telephone: 01352 704511 E-mail: ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk / neal.cockerton@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Community Asset Transfer – The transfer of a building to a community organisation with a 27 year lease and peppercorn rent.</p> <p>Reserves – Funding set aside in an organisations accounts to deal with unforeseen operational issues or specific issues in the future.</p>