

MINUTES OF MEETING URGENT DECISIONS HELD ON FRIDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 2020, 10.00 AM

PRESENT:

Councillors: Matt White

ALSO ATTENDING:

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

44. LEISURE PROVISION BY FUSION AND SUPPORT IN RESPECT TO THE RESTART OF THE FUSION BUSINESS

The Cabinet Member for Corporate and Civic Services considered a report which set out the case for not agreeing to a request made by Fusion to enter into a Sharing Agreement with NatWest bank so that its security could be on an equal basis with that of the Council at New River. Although not agreeing to the request may have implications for Fusion, it was decided that on balance, the Council needed to protect its financial interest in the New River Sports Ground.

The Cabinet Member **RESOLVED** that the Council would not agree to Fusion's request to allow NatWest to take a security against the New River Lease.

Reasons for decision

The market and financial models for local authority leisure provision have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council has a favourable contract with Fusion and whilst performance was reducing prior to lockdown the current restart of the operation provides an opportunity to reset and start afresh.

The Council would not normally agree to Fusion's request for the Council to share its security against the New River Lease.

As a result of the Council's decision Fusion may then choose to hand back the New River lease.

If Fusion do hand back the New River Lease a report setting out the options available to the Council will be presented to members within the next 8 weeks.

It is anticipated, at this time, that additional resources may be required under any proposed new operating model.

Alternative options considered

An alternative option would be for the Council to agree to the Shared Security arrangement proposed by Fusion.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date