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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ETWALL JMC</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 4</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2009</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>CHRIS MASON 5794</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ETWALL, HATTON, NORTH WEST PARISHES, WILLINGTON &amp; HILTON</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:HCS08</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That significant reviews be undertaken, by not later than January 2010 of the options available for the future management of the new facility and the ongoing administrative support provided to the JMC.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To provide background & detailed information to support the above recommendation.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The report looks in particular at the important issue of having the most cost effective management system in place at the Centre. It tries to explain the reasons for a joint commitment to be made to a proper option appraisal and to address any concerns stakeholders may have about the reasons behind making this commitment.

## **4.0 Detail**

- 4.1 At the last meeting of the JMC on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 Members considered a report on the strategic direction of the Joint Management Committee once the new facilities were operational. The draft 'Heads of Terms' for a prospective new agreement were approved and Members delegated officers and the Chair & Vice Chair of the Committee to work up the detail of the agreement prior to resubmission to the JMC.
- 4.2 The significant area where a conclusion was not reached at the last JMC concerned the commitment, by January 2010, to undertake an appraisal of the options available for the future management of the new facility and the ongoing administrative support to the JMC.
- 4.3 Further discussion with officers of the School indicated that any concerns they had centred on a lack of clarity on what this involved. In the first instance this is not about creating a body to replace the JMC or creating another arrangement that could further complicate how the Centre is managed. This is essentially about identifying the most cost effective way to deliver the strategic objectives of the JMC on a long-

term basis. No matter what the management arrangement in place the JMC would always be responsible for setting policy and overseeing the operation of the new facility.

4.4 A number of options / models currently exist to manage leisure facilities and these are again reproduced below:

- Seeking bids from private sector management companies, often with charitable status for community facility management
- Establishment of, or management by a trust
- Establishment of a company limited by guarantee
- Continue with the in house management arrangement

4.5 Members will recall from the last report that the commitment to appraise the options available was left until January 2010 to give more certainty about actual operating costs. This would enable the JMC, and its constituent stakeholders, to be in a much better position to understand the pros and cons of the options. An example of this would be with NNDR payments. At present, as the discussion on the revenue budgets identified, we don't know the actual level of these at this stage. They could be anywhere from £30k to £70k per annum. With three of the four options identified above one of benefits they would offer is partial exemption from NNDR. This could offer significant savings on what we've identified already as a very tight budget.

4.6 In terms of timing and packaging work to maximise value for money. A management option appraisal for the new facilities at Etwall may coincide with the re-tendering of the Green Bank Leisure Centre. While again this should not be seen as an attempt to dilute or subsume the role of the JMC it could offer significant financial benefits to look at, as part of the exercise, including two facilities as part of the appraisal.

4.7 When the recent meeting took place with officers of the School there were further discussions on involvement in recruitment (School involvement Centre Manager appointments), on going budget monitoring (operational involvement of the School as routine) and authorisation to levels of expenditure (either the School's or the Council's Financial Regulations would apply). On all of these matters there was agreement. The next stage is to try and translate the 'Heads of Terms' previously agreed together with the more detailed operational type issues into a draft document for further discussion.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

6.1 None immediately arising from this report

## **7.0 Corporate Implications**

7.1 From a Council perspective delivering new leisure facilities in the northwest parishes of the District is a key Corporate Objective

## **8.0 Community Implications**

8.1 The new leisure centre will be an important and strategic facility in a fast growing area of the District.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

9.1 As we move closer to the completion of the capital works it is important that both partners understand and fully agree the way forward strategically. Not only will it allow the formal agreement to be progressed it will also allow resources to be directed towards ensuring the new centre is commissioned in the most positive way possible.

## **10.0 Background Papers**

10.1 None