



Lewes District Council

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 11 June 2020

Subject: Cabinet Report - Lewes Football Club – Lease, Dripping Pan

Cabinet Report of: Mark Langridge-Kemp, Head of Property, Delivery and Compliance

On 2 June, all the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee met informally to consider and discuss the recommendations of reports going forward to Cabinet on 11 June 2020. The following members were present for this discussion:

Councillors Joe Miller (Chair), Liz Boorman (Deputy-Chair). Robert Banks, Nancy Bikson, Christine Brett, Roy Burman, Isabelle Linington, Milly Manley, Christine Robinson, Adrian Ross and Steve Saunders

The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments of the members of the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee on the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report.

The members of the Committee agreed:

1) To support the recommendation in the report subject to consideration of an additional recommendation being added to the report:

- a) That Lewes District Council investigates additional support to ensure the viability of sports clubs and leisure facilities across the district, recognising the extreme pressures faced by the organisations.

Reason for the suggested amendments:

The Committee members felt that through the amendment, the Council will be able to acknowledge the importance of sport and leisure to the District's residents and the extreme stress placed on sport clubs and organisations in the area, following the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic, and the necessity for support to be provided.

Councillor Miller also requested officers to clarify whether the insertion of a break-clause in the lease would impact on the Club's ability to attract grant funding. The Council's legal representative stated in the meeting that this would likely be the case. Officers have since confirmed that an uninterrupted lease term would be recommended. It is important to the financial wellbeing of the Club that it had a lease of sufficient length to enable it to access grant funding now and in the future. For this reason, it had originally requested a much longer lease term. A compromise had been reached with the Club for a 25-year term without breaks. This limits the reduction in the Council's flexibility of the use of the land in the future whilst still allowing the Club to access grant funding now from the Football Foundation (whose terms require an interrupted lease term of either 10

or 21 years) and giving it some scope to access grant funding in the future. It was therefore recommended that a break-clause operable by Lewes District Council was not included within the lease.

For a copy of the report please contact Democratic Services

Tel. (01273) 471600.

E-mail: committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

A copy may be downloaded on the Council's website by following the link below:

<https://democracy.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=417&MId=2975&Ver=4>