

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 24 OCTOBER 2005**

**REPORT ON: WHITFIELD ACTIVITY COMPLEX**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**

**REPORT NO: 459-2005**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval for Whitfield Activity Complex to revert to Local Authority management and responsibility.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1 approves the request that the Leisure and Communities Department assume responsibility for and management of the Whitfield Activity Complex.

2.2 notes that Whitfield Activity Complex Limited will be dissolved.

2.3 approves the transfer of any outstanding undertakings from Whitfield Activity Complex Limited to Dundee City Council.

2.4 notes the intention for a Local Management Group to be constituted.

2.5 (where a Local Management Group is constituted) remits the Director of Leisure and Communities and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) to negotiate and enter into a Licence to Occupy with the Local Management Group.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There will be no additional costs to the Department arising from the implementation of this report.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Local needs will continue to be met locally.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Community learning and development provision delivered by the Leisure and Communities Department targets young people, older people, the unemployed, pre-school children and those living in communities which have been designated as regeneration priority areas.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND**

6.1 Whitfield Activity Complex was established as the community centre for the Whitfield area under Urban Programme funding in 1986.

Following conversion of the premises, it was decided that the programme should be operated as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. Since the termination of the Urban Programme funding in 1993 the Council have financed Whitfield Activity Complex by means of a third party payment subject to a Service Level Agreement. Since that date Whitfield Activity Complex Limited has been run in partnership with the Local Authority.

- 6.2 Currently, the Partnership Agreement is based around the secondment of the Project Leader from the Local Authority and revenue grant funding to cover the salaries of a Community Education Worker (Youth Work); Complex Supervisor; 1.5 GS1/2 Clerical Assistants; two FTE Stewards; two part-time (18.5 hours) Cleaners; and 19 sessional staff whose responsibility it is to support the delivery of programmes.
- 6.3 Over the past 12 months the office-bearers of Whitfield Activity Complex Limited have highlighted the increasing difficulty experienced in sustaining the current model and have expressed a preference for the Leisure and Communities Department to assume managerial responsibility for the Complex. In response to the difficulties expressed by the current Board it is felt that in order to sustain and develop this community facility, it should revert to Local Authority management and responsibility, bringing it into line with other centres in Dundee.
- 6.4 The proposed model will allow for the continuation of local management which will influence the centre's programme. The Local Management Committee will be elected annually and will continue to work within the partnership framework as previously agreed by the City Council.
- 6.5 This proposal requires the dissolution of the Private Company Limited by Guarantee to be replaced by the partnership arrangements which were approved by the Committee Report No. 208-2005.
- 6.6 The decision to dissolve the Private Company Limited by Guarantee was approved, in principle, by the Whitfield Activity Complex Limited Board on 15 September 2005, subject to Committee approval for the transfer of Whitfield Activity Complex Limited undertakings to Dundee City Council.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services) and the Whitfield Activity Complex Limited Board of Directors.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

**Signed: Stewart Murdoch**  
**Director of Leisure and Communities Department      Date: 14 October 2005**