



VOLUNTARY SECTOR SUB-COMMITTEE – 5TH DECEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: INVESTMENTS IN LEISURE FACILITIES

REPORT BY:

- 1.0 To advise the Scrutiny Committee of a number of investments that are planned to the Authority's Leisure Facilities during the current year.
- 1.1 The Authority currently provides an extensive range of outdoor (parks, playgrounds and sports grounds) and indoor (Leisure Centres) sport and recreation facilities. The Leisure industry is changing in terms of customer demand and our provision of facilities, services and initiatives needs to change to meet this demand.
- 1.2 In this regard, individual Leisure Managers have provided ideas for investments in facilities across the County Borough, which will improve the customer experience. These investments are as follows:-
- (i) New Tredegar Leisure Centre – Installation of Indoor 3G training surface for football and Rugby (cost £20,000 - £25,000);
 - (ii) Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre – Purchase and installation of interactive water features, play zone and slides for pool (cost circa £20,000);
 - (iii) Aberbargoed Ward – installation of modular changing room to bring former sports field (former Bedwellty School Site) back into beneficial use (cost £20,000 -£30,000);
 - (iv) Newbridge, Pontllanfraith and Risca Leisure Centres – installation of power plates to fitness suites in each centre (cost circa £28,000);
 - (v) Risca Leisure Centre – conversion of tennis courts to floodlit 3G area capable of hosting power league football programme (cost circa £35,000).

2.0 BARGOED STREET MARKET

- 2.1 To report on a proposal to establish a street market in Bargoed for a trial period of six months. In February 2012, the Council were approached by a group of retailers in Bargoed who wanted to explore the possibility of introducing a weekly street market into the town centre. *M&B Markets* a market operator from West Wales has expressed an interest in operating a weekly market in the town. A location in St Gwladys car park, High Street, Bargoed is recommended for a six-month trial period.
- 2.2 Within the communities of the South Wales Valleys a weekly market is seen as an important part of the shopping offer, particularly by many longstanding retailers. A market used to operate in Bargoed on Thursdays in the Hanbury Road car park. It was run by a private operator under an agreement with the Council and was managed by the Property Services Section. The presence of the market on a Thursday was viewed as having a positive affect on the number of visitors to Bargoed town centre. The market traded with mixed fortunes, before finally closing in June 2006 following a sharp fall in the number of stallholders attending.

2.3 The proposal was presented and discussed at the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group on 8th March 2012 and the idea of a market received unanimous support. The logistics of the site operation would be that access to the car park would be required by stall holders from 6am for setting up their stalls. The market would open to the public between 9am to 3pm and the site would then be cleared by 5pm.

3.0 REDEPLOYMENT STATISTICS

REPORT BY: HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT

3.1 To advise Elected Members on the current data around redeployments in CCBC.

3.2 The redeployment pool has been established since 2008. The purpose of the pool is to minimise the number of redundancies that CCBC make by redeploying displaced employees into alternative employment within the Council. Managers' perceptions of the redeployment pool are changing as they recognise the need for savings and changes in some departments means that good quality employees may find themselves displaced.

3.3 Between April 2011 and April 2012, 28 employees have been redeployed on a permanent basis. Since April 2012 until August 31 2012, 8 have been redeployed on a permanent basis. From August 2011 until April 2012 there have been 35 temporary redeployments (fixed term contracts). Between April 2012 and August 2012 there have been 11 fixed term redeployments. This includes some extensions to contract. Four of these fixed term contracts are medical redeployments.

3.4 One of the key challenges is many posts are for a fixed term only. Therefore many employees are only out of the pool for a specific period of time, e.g. 3, 6 or 12 months. This means there is constant pressure to find new placements for those individuals.