

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 20 March 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Belle Vue Community Centre – Temporary Continuation of Management Arrangements
Purpose of Report:	To extend the interim management arrangements at Belle Vue Community Centre prior to consideration by Cabinet of longer term management options, including a stage 2 Community Asset Transfer application.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing
Responsible Officer:	Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>Operational Manager – Accountancy – Gemma Jones</p> <p>Operational Manager, Property – Lorna Cross</p> <p>Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources – Trevor Baker</p> <p>Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer – Karen Bowen</p> <p>Local Ward Members</p>
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter within the Policy Framework and Budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permission is sought to extend the interim Management arrangements at the Belle Vue Community Centre (“the Community Centre”) with the Big Fresh Catering Company (“BFCC”). • This will allow time to consider future management arrangements at the Community Centre that will be subject to a separate Cabinet report that is presently being prepared. • The one-year period of requested extension includes 3 monthly break clauses to allow for a handover if required. 	

Recommendations

1. That the present Management arrangements for the Community Centre be extended until Cabinet has considered longer term management options, including a received stage 2 Community Asset Transfer proposal.
2. That the Director of Environment and Housing be authorised to extend the current Licence and Management Agreement with Big Fresh Catering Company (BFCC) for a further 12 months, subject to National Lottery consent, with break clauses at months three, six, and nine, to allow time for the future management of the Community Centre to be determined and, if required, to allow for a handover period.
3. That the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services/ be authorised to liaise with the National Lottery to obtain the necessary consent required for the extension agreements.
4. That the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services/ be authorised to draft, complete and execute all necessary paperwork to affect the completion of the extension agreements with BFCC.
5. That use of the urgency procedure set out at Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be granted in respect of Recommendations 1 and 2.
6. That a further report be provided to Cabinet within the next 12 months detailing options for the long-term management of the Centre.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To allow the Community Centre to continue to operate whilst the Stage 2 Community Asset Transfer is considered.
2. To allow sufficient time for the future management of the Community Centre to be agreed.
3. To allow for National Lottery consent to be obtained.
4. To allow for all necessary legal paperwork to be completed.
5. To ensure continuity of service can be maintained until the future of the Community Centre is determined.
6. To agree the long-term management arrangements for the Centre.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 15th August 2023 authority was delegated by way of an Emergency Powers to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure Sport and Well-Being, the Leader and Chief Executive to enable the new Community Centre at Belle Vue to open as soon as possible.
- 1.2 This was approved by way of Emergency Powers and as reported to Cabinet on 21st September, 2023.

[Use of CX Emergency Powers](#)

These arrangements were subsequently extended in September 2024, again via emergency powers, being reported to Cabinet on 5th December, 2024.

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2024/24-12-05/Use-of-CX-Emergency-Powers.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2024/24-12-05/Use-of-CX-Emergency-Powers.pdf)

1.3 The report stated the following:

Emergency Powers were sought to negotiate and grant a further Licence to Big Fresh Catering Company to extend the interim management arrangements and Licence agreement to enable the Community Centre at Belle Vue in Penarth to continue to operate until 31st March, 2025. The use of Emergency Powers was sought as the Council did not currently have any formal arrangements in place for the long-term management or operation of the Community Centre. Therefore, to ensure that the Community Centre could continue to operate beyond the expiry of the existing Licence and Management Agreement on the 30th August, 2024, the entry into a further Licence and Management Agreement for the period 31st August 2024 to 31st March, 2025 would:

Allow time for the Council to consider the long-term management and operation of the Community centre including but not limited to:

- (a) Allowing time for the Friends of Belle Vue (FBV) to submit a Stage 2 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) application and for the Council to consider such an application; and / or
- (b) Allow BFCC to consider whether it wished to submit a Business Case for the long-term operation of the community centre and for the Council to consider any such Business Case.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** FBV submitted a stage 2 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) application in late 2024, that will be the subject to a future Cabinet report to consider the long-term management arrangements of the Community Centre. Other alternative management arrangements will need to be considered alongside this submission to ensure that any new arrangement is sustainable and suitably community focussed.
- 2.2** The CAT application will outline a proposal to transfer the Community Centre as well as determining whether the organisation is suitable for the long-term viability of this building.

- 2.3 At present, BFCC operate the Community Centre under a Licence and a Management Agreement, but those agreements are due to expire on 31st March, 2025.
- 2.4 As well as operating the Community Centre currently, BFCC are considering putting forward a proposal to manage the Community Centre on a long-term basis. BFCC are preparing a draft outline business case which, subject to internal approvals, they have indicated will be submitted to the Council for consideration. If submitted, this would also be subject to a future Cabinet report.
- 2.5 To allow sufficient time for the CAT application to be concluded, and for any other possible management options to be considered, a continuation of the existing interim management arrangements with the BFCC is required.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the new agreements will include break clauses at 3, 6, and 9 months, on 1 month's written notice, to ensure that if the CAT application or any other management option is successful, that the Agreements can be terminated in a reasonable time frame and with sufficient time for all parties to conduct an appropriate hand-over of responsibility.
- 2.7 This would allow continuity of service to be maintained in the interim period without impacting on the conditions and future management arrangements of the Community Centre.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 In terms of the Council's Corporate Plan, this work links to the Well-being Outcome 4: An Active and Health Vale:

Objective 7: Encouraging and promoting active and health lifestyles. Work in partnership to deliver a range of activities through our leisure and community facilities and parks to increase levels of participation and physical activity. In terms of the Five Ways of Working, as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, the following applies.
- 3.2 Long Term: The extension of the interim arrangements will secure the Community Centre's operation in the short-term whilst the long-term future is considered.
- 3.3 Prevention: An extension of the interim arrangements secures the Community Centre's operation in the short-term whilst the long-term future is considered and prevents any risk of a short-term closure
- 3.4 Integration: The Community Centre is already operating a comprehensive programme of activities providing integration opportunities for the local community.

3.5 Collaboration: The development of the Community Centre has been a good example of a collaboration project demonstrating the ability of a new facility to attract a wide range of uses.

3.6 Involvement: There has been significant local involvement at the Community Centre since opening.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

4.1 There are no Climate and Nature considerations associated directly with this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

5.1 The existing financial arrangements will continue to be place until the long-term management arrangements for the site are agreed.

Employment

5.2 There are no new employment considerations associated with this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.3 An extension to the current Licence and Management Agreement will be required.

5.4 As the project was Lottery funded, there is also a requirement to obtain consent from the National Lottery before entering into any Agreements.

6. Background Papers

Licence dated 20.09.2024 made between (1) VOGC) and (2) BFCC

Management Agreement dated 20.09.2024 made between (1) VOGC and (2) BFCC