

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 57

Brighton & Hove City
Council

Subject:	Proposals for Bowling Green Provision in the City		
Date of Meeting:	10th January 2013		
Report of:	Strategic Director: Place		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Gillian Marston	Tel: 29-4701
	Email:	Gillian.marston@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 During the budget process for 2012/13, indicative proposals for budget savings for 2013/14 were presented at Budget Council on the 23rd February 2012. An indicative saving of £93.8k was highlighted in relation to bowling greens, with the intention that this would be achieved by reducing the level of subsidy to the sport. Consultation with the bowling clubs commenced and this report provides an update on the current position.
- 1.2 The provision of bowling in the city has been in need of review, as there are facilities which are not fully used and given the decline nationally and locally, it is unlikely all facilities will be used to their full capacity in the foreseeable future. Consultation with the clubs commenced earlier in the year on proposals to reduce subsidies to the clubs and further consultation has taken place on another proposal to reducing the number of clubs and multi greens. Full Council on the 19th July received a petition signed by 1,627 people concerning a proposed reduction in subsidies to bowling clubs which was debated, and a Notice of Motion was also presented and agreed.
- 1.3 A report was presented to the Economic Development and Culture Committee in September 2012 outlining the consultation undertaken and the status of bowling locally and nationally. This report seeks agreement to a way forward for bowling in the city.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the committee agrees that work continues with those clubs that are able and wish to become more autonomous with greater financial independency from the council and that a report to committee is presented when there are robust proposals to take forward;
- 2.2 That the committee, with full consideration to the surplus provision of bowling facilities, agrees to the closure of those facilities with the smallest membership numbers, namely, Hove Park, Dyke Road Park and Hove and Kingsway Ladies bowling facilities;

- 2.3 That the number of greens maintained by the council is reduced by two at British Rail Bowling Club in Preston Park, reduced by two at Hove and Kingsway, and Kingsway Ladies, and by one at Hollingbury Park by April 2013, so as to leave one Council maintained green for each club.
- 2.4 That the green for Kingsway Ladies is either removed in April 2014 or the responsibility and costs of its maintenance passes to Hove and Kingsway, or Kingsway Ladies, leaving one Council maintained green for either both clubs or one.
- 2.5 That a report is brought forward to the relevant committee in a year's time to review the numbers of players by club to assess whether there has been improvements in participation in the sport and the viability of each club.
- 2.6 That the Sports Development Team actively promote bowling in the city to increase participation in the sport in recognition of its importance to older people and given that many of the existing facilities still have capacity for increased use.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Currently, bowling clubs have use of greens and a pavilion (with the exception of Dyke Road Park which has a small building that the club provided). The council pays for the maintenance of all greens. Two clubs have leases for their buildings and pay a rent – these are Woodingdean and Hove and Kingsway). The maintenance and utility costs are in the main borne by the council.
- 3.2 Bowlers pay the council for a season ticket and where there is a park attendant (Hove Park, Hove and Kingsway, Preston Park and St Ann's Wells) monies are received for casual play. At the other greens the club collects and retains this money. Park attendants also collect fees for tennis which is why they are in place at the four parks mentioned.
- 3.3 These arrangements have been in place for decades and the proposal for clubs to become more autonomous with less financial dependency on the Council, would mean that clubs would take on responsibility for the greens and the pavilions and would receive all income for the sport. The council would also pay a subsidy of £4k per annum to go towards the upkeep of the facilities. Such an arrangement would be subject to agreements between the council and the club.
- 3.3 The council has been consulting the clubs on this proposal and at the last Committee on the 20th September not all the feedback from clubs were available. Feedback from the clubs was requested on:
 - The proposal for becoming more autonomous with responsibility for income and costs relating to bowling, and working with a £4k subsidy per annum from the Council. As well as the view on this principle, it was also asked whether it would be feasible to have such arrangements in place by April 2013;
 - The proposal and suggestions for some smaller clubs to share facilities

- The proposal to reduce the number of greens
- Views on whether standardised tickets and play across the city would be required if clubs became autonomous

The prevailing view from those clubs which showed an interest in becoming autonomous was that standardised ticketing system which allows play across all clubs would not be preferred as it prevents the autonomy they would be seeking. This is not a matter for this report but will need to be considered with those clubs that move towards an independent status.

- Any further proposals which will allow the Council to reduce costs

3.4 Summary of the Consultation

	Summary of Comments
Woodingdean	<p>Would like to explore becoming more autonomous subject to discussions on the details, a formal agreement and given a longer lead in time to achieve that autonomy</p> <p>No comment on smaller clubs sharing facilities as it is a matter for those clubs</p> <p>It is a possibility to reduce the number of multiple greens subject to agreement with the clubs effected</p> <p>Better management of greens maintenance would reduce costs</p> <p>Promote bowling to encourage greater participation</p>
Dyke Road Bowls Club	<p>Although there has been no written reply to the original proposals, two meetings with the club have been held. The club is disappointed with the proposal to close their facilities. There are issues around the small wooden building they funded and built and whether this could be put to other uses rather than demolished.</p>
Hangleton and Hangleton Ladies Bowling club	<p>Queries figures and states won't respond until after outcome of the Full Council budget meeting in February 2013.</p>
Hollingbury Park Bowling	<p>Questions the accuracy of the financial information stating that costs of maintenance are lower than the council's calculations</p> <p>Welcome opportunity to become more autonomous but more time needed and support to achieve this</p> <p>The subsidy of £4k in the original proposal would be insufficient</p>

	<p>to maintain the 2 greens</p> <p>It is possible for a smaller club to share if the second green was retained</p> <p>State that the maximum capacity for a green is 48 players and the second green is used for casual play and thus is necessary</p> <p>If greens were invested in, the costs of maintenance would be lower</p> <p>More needs to be done to promote the sport and increase membership and the council needs to increase support</p>
Hove / Kingsway Club	<p>Bowling greens throughout the city are under utilised</p> <p>A one size fits all approach may not be appropriate</p> <p>The number of greens at Hove/Kingsway can be reduced but this depends on whether other clubs chose to share the facilities as well</p> <p>The greens and facilities form part of the panorama and are part of the attraction of the seafront</p> <p>Extension of parking controls from 6pm to 8pm has had an adverse impact on the club</p> <p>The club could work in collaboration with Kingsway Ladies and receive a 4k subsidy for each club</p> <p>New agreements would need to be negotiated, security of tenure in order to move to greater autonomy</p>
Kingsway Ladies	<p>Need for greater detail before decisions can be reached on increased autonomy</p> <p>Parking has had a detrimental impact on the club.</p> <p>2013 is the 75th anniversary of the club. Prepared to share Kingsway and Hove pavilion and will then consider future of club in 2014</p>
Hove Park	<p>Although there has been no written reply to the original proposals, two meetings with the club have been held. It is believed that parking has had a detrimental impact on the club. They are unhappy with the proposed closure of the facilities.</p>
Mackie Bowls Club	<p>Concluded that it would be inappropriate to respond to the questionnaire until the Economic Development and Culture Committee on 20th September. No further comments received</p>

Portslade Bowls Club	There needs to be more details on how utility costs will be charged and lease agreements
British Rail Bowling Club (Preston Park)	Agrees that 2 greens could go and queries purpose of Park Attendant
Rottingdean	<p>Full autonomy would have to be considered very, very carefully given the old age of the pavilion and costs of maintenance, its usage by others, and the liabilities on club trustees.</p> <p>The existing green is heavily used with 100+ fixtures</p>
Saltdean	<p>The club could be in position to become more autonomous but would need more accurate financial information on utility costs for the pavilion and any lease would need to address the shared use with the tennis club. The pavilion is a significant issue</p> <p>The club has a very positive outlook for the future and is discussing a business plan towards becoming independently run</p>
St Anns Wells	<p>An incremental approach is needed to move forwards to autonomy if bowling is to be continued to be played in the city.</p> <p>The club could not be autonomous by April 2013</p> <p>A need for much more work on the detail of the arrangements, practical considerations and agreement to allow clubs to become autonomous</p> <p>A standardised subsidy per club does not reflect the differences in the nature and costs of the facilities</p> <p>The club has experience of handling 2 clubs at one facility and it is easier and more likely that overtime clubs will need to merge in practice when using the same green and buildings</p> <p>On closure of multi greens the club states this is a decision for the council to make but it needs to be mindful of the costs of such closures</p>
Brighton Bowling club	<p>Greater autonomy may be feasible in the longer term for some clubs but is not practical or desirable for many. Clubs already do work to supplement the maintenance of greens and buildings</p> <p>Clubs sharing greens is not practical and is just possible if there is considerable goodwill between clubs</p> <p>The number of multiple greens should be reduced if they are not being used</p>

	Clubs could become more responsible for casual players and undertake some of the roles of the Park Attendants who may not be needed
Vicarage Bowling club	<p>Members of the club do not have the skills and equipment to undertake the maintenance of the greens</p> <p>The proposal to become autonomous is unclear and level of future years subsidies uncertain</p> <p>There is an unwillingness for clubs to join and share facilities</p> <p>The number of greens can be reduced where there is more than one for a club.</p> <p>The council should seek to attribute actual costs incurred to individual clubs to make true comparisons between clubs</p>

Response to Key Points

- 3.6 Some clubs would wish to consider in greater detail becoming more autonomous from the council but a longer period of time is needed to work through the ramifications and agreements in relation to buildings, greens, maintenance and liabilities. It is likely that the larger clubs with larger membership numbers and which generate more income, are more likely to be able to increase their financial independence from the council. The nature of the facilities also need to be considered; for example if a pavilion is in good condition and could be put to greater use by a club to generate further income to maintain the facilities and support club activities. Some clubs do not favour becoming autonomous and this may reflect the fact that achieving greater financial independence is more difficult where club membership is lower and the nature of the facilities makes it more difficult.
- 3.7 The £4k level of subsidy which was initially proposed for clubs to become autonomous is feasible for the larger clubs, but for clubs with less than 50 members it is not. The impact could detrimentally effect up to 10 clubs.
- 3.8 However, the true position of the clubs is unknown, as there is some collection of money for play received directly by the clubs which is not declared to the council. The ability to raise income through play is key to a club's viability and ability to become autonomous with greater financial independency.
- 3.9 In terms of clubs sharing facilities, this was considered as impractical as clubs would not be willing to do this. Where there was experience of sharing facilities, the clubs merged which proved to be a more viable arrangement.
- 3.10. Clubs such as Hove and Kingsway, and British Rail Bowling Club in Preston Park have stated that their multiple greens can be reduced in number. British Rail Bowling Club have stated that one fully maintained green and two greens that are no longer used or fully maintained can be removed.
- 3.11 Hollingbury Park Bowling clubs states that a maximum number of players to a green is 48 members. It is the case that 48 members is the maximum amount that can be played on a 6 rink green at one time, if teams of 4 are played rather than, singles or doubles. However, 3 clubs in the city have 60 plus members as matches will take place at different times to allow all players to play. Further discussions have resulted in the agreement that Hollingbury Park Bowling Club will take on the responsibility and costs of maintaining the second green supported by the council in terms of advice and where possible equipment.
- 3.12 Hove and Kingsway, and Hove and Kingsway Ladies raised the issue that parking charges, introduced sometime ago along the seafront, deterred new members from the joining the clubs. Parking is difficult to manage in a densely packed city where there are high levels of demand for carparking, particularly along the seafront. There is a need to manage the limited space and the council is required to ensure it does so fairly. There has been a national and local decline in the bowling over the years and it is difficult to determine whether it is this overall trend or particular factors affecting a club such as parking restrictions.

- 3.13 Kingsway Ladies is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2013 and is a unique club as it plays for Sussex County or in the County competitions which lead to the Nationals, which are played at Leamington Spa. Games have been fixed and given the rules of play, it would be particularly difficult for these arrangements to be changed. For this reason, Kingsway Ladies, and Kingsway and Hove have agreed to share one pavilion, vacating the pavilion used by the ladies. A green will be allocated to each club and the clubs will contribute to the maintenance of the second green. Two other greens will close. In 2013 it is likely that Kingsway Ladies will close as a club, and either the green will be covered or the responsibility and costs for the maintenance will transfer to the Hove and Kingsway.
- 3.14 Alternative means of reducing costs have been put forward, including better management of the greens, and investment in the greens to reduce maintenance costs. The council undertook a competitive tendering process for the maintenance of all green spaces including bowling greens in 2004 and by applying inflationary increases to bring the prices up to date, Cityparks bid for bowling greens was slightly above the average prices but was not the most expensive. It is always likely that small grounds maintenance operators will be able to provide a cheaper service as they do not carry the higher overhead costs which applies to reputable organisations providing improved employee benefits and appropriate health and safety practices. For Cityparks to reduce costs, a reduction in maintenance would need to be implemented which would affect play. It will be important for the council to be flexible with those clubs which seek to become autonomous and financially independent of the council, and who may wish to use other contractors to undertake the maintenance of greens.
- 3.15 The council has looked at investment and implemented sprinkler systems at the approximate cost of £10,000 per site, which reduced costs by approximately £1300 per site. In addition, the costs of artificial greens have been explored and installation would cost in the region of £100k to £150k. The costs of repaying this sum over 10 years would be in excess of £10k to £15k per annum which exceeds current maintenance costs. In any event, the investment will not address the fact that there exist more facilities than needed as assessed by the number of players.

- 3.16 It has been suggested that park attendants at Hove and Kingsway, St Anns Wells, Preston Park and Hove Park are not needed. At the moment the park attendants work from late April to the end of September and cover the four sites from 9.30 am to about 1 hour before dusk. When considering the level of income collected from players, the costs of the attendants is much greater than the income. Income collected from Hove Park was £280 at the lower end to £3,422.60 (excluding season ticket sales) at the higher end from Hove and Kingsway over a 6 month period. Across the four clubs this equates to around 10 to 20 people a day, in total, paying a fee collector to play bowls. However, the park attendants do not just collect fees for bowling but also tennis at these sites with an income of 56k which covers the costs of the park attendants. Officers are exploring whether it is possible to invest in equipment, which will allow players of tennis to make payments as a potential 'spend to save' business case.
- 3.17 Some clubs have stated that more promotion of the sport would help and providing support to bowling clubs will be more important to help them increase participation in the sport and where appropriate move to more autonomous arrangements. The Sports Development team encourages participation in sport and is able to offer bowling clubs the following opportunities for support:
- To engage in a range of participation programmes (e.g. Active for Life, TAKEPART Festival) delivered by the Council to encourage activity amongst local residents.
 - Help raise community awareness of local sports clubs and organisations and the activities they provide by promoting them on the Active for Life website and in the Active for Life directory.
 - Support clubs to identify and work with local partners to help strengthen the activities of their club, such as linking clubs with schools or other organisations through the Take Part Festival.
 - Provide training and advice to club officials to help them manage their club; this will be particularly important for clubs that wish to become more autonomous. Training currently on offer includes club funding, governance and marketing. This will signpost clubs to sources of funding / support the council are not able to provide directly and provide advice on development planning for the clubs
 - Signpost clubs to sources of funding / support the council are not able to provide directly.
- 3.18 It is proposed that the Sports Development Team meets with any of the clubs that are interested in pursuing any of this support and all clubs will be contacted. In addition, in recognition of the importance of activity for older people, Public Health will approach to determine if they can also help to promote and encourage bowling.
- 3.19 Woodingdean Bowling Club, and Hove and Kingway have applied to the council to submit their space into the Queen Elizabeth II Field Challenge. This is a legacy initiative by the charity Fields in Trust (FIT) to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee

and the London 2012 Olympics. The programme aims to permanently protect 2,012 playing fields and other nominated recreation spaces ensuring access to outdoor sport, play and recreation. The majority of public open spaces in Brighton & Hove are already protected by Deeds of Covenant, the City Plan and/or planning law. However, benefits of the scheme include raising the profile of the site and bowling facilities and an opportunity for communities to bid for funds set aside specifically for nominated sites.

Up date on green usage levels

- 3.19 The number of season ticket holders is a good indication of level of active and regular players of bowls. The 2010 levels are shown below with 2012, indicating there has been little change.
- 3.20 Hove/ Kingsway includes the figures for 2 clubs – Hove and Kingsway, and Kingsway Ladies, and hence there is a pavilion for each club. Kingsway Ladies had 18 active members in 2012.
- 3.21 As such, Kingsway Ladies, Dyke Road and Hove Park are the clubs with the lowest membership and this was still the case for 2012. Some clubs such as Vicarage Bowling Club, British Rail Bowling Club, and Holingbury Park have increased membership numbers and this maybe due to the closure of Carlton Club and the members playing elsewhere or changing membership between the clubs

Club	No. of Greens	No. of Pavilions	No. of season ticket holders 2010	No. of season ticket holders 2012
Mackie Bowls Club	1	1	78	73
Rottingdean	1	1	70	69
Woodingdean	1	1	68	63
Brighton Bowling club	1	1	47	51
Hangleton and Hangleton Ladies Bowling club	1	1	46	43
Hollingbury Park Bowling	1	1	46	51
Hove / Kingsway Club including Kingsway Ladies (18 season ticket holders in 2012)	4	2	51	44
Saltdean	1	1	41	38
Portslade Bowls Club	1	1	40	40
Vicarage Bowling club	1	2	40	50
St Anns Wells	1	1	35	37
British Rail Bowling Club (Preston Park)	2	1	33	40
Hove Park	1	1	26	17
Dyke Road Bowls Club	1	Small building	24	23

Total Season Ticket Holders		645	639
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3.22 Clubs arrange formal matches which are published on fixture cards for the season. A season usually runs from April to September – 6 months or around 182 days. The larger clubs have more fixtures as would be expected and clubs such as Rottingdean are holding matches almost every day. Smaller clubs such as Kingsway Ladies, Hove Park and Dyke Road Park hold around half the number of matches of the larger clubs .

Club	No. of Fixtures booked for 2012
Mackie Bowls Club	74
Rottingdean	152
Woodingdean	
Brighton Bowling club	74
Hangleton and Hangleton Ladies Bowling club	72
Hollingbury Park Bowling	73
Hove/Kingsway Club	n/a
Saltdean	67
Portslade Bowls Club	60
Vicarage Bowling club	57
St Anns Wells	62
British Rail Bowling Club (Preston Park)	34
Hove Park	37
Dyke Road Bowls Club	34
Kingsway Ladies	31

Vacant Greens

- 3.23 Dyke Road Park bowling has a small building and a green. The green could be used as community garden. Already the Friends of Dyke Road Park have established a small community garden by the tennis courts and the Food Partnership maybe interested in seeking funding for a larger scale garden where the bowling exists.
- 3.24 Hove Park bowling pavilion and green is a contained site and would be attractive for alternative and suitable community and social benefits. It is estimated that an income of £10k+ per annum could be achieved by leasing this site. Ward councillors will be fully consulted on potential interest and usage of the building.
- 3.25 Hove and Kingsway Ladies pavilion could achieve an income of £10k+ because of its desirable seafront location and any usage would need to fit in with the emerging Seafront Strategy. Funding will need to be set aside to cover the greens and convert to amenity grass and this has been accounted for in 2013/14

so the work can take place relatively quickly. Reducing the number of greens from four to two will effect the annual tournament which takes place for one week during July at this site and uses all four greens. In future it would need to be played on multiple sites, as use to be the case, if it is to continue.

- 3.26 Preston Park has already had the number of greens reduced and one green has been converted to a petanque area. The railings around the greens will be used for the Vicarage and Brighton Bowling Club greens also based in the park. Croquet is being played on one of the greens and it is proposed that this continues at minimal maintenance costs and consultation with the Friends of Preston Park will need to take place on the use of the other green, however, costs for converting this green to amenity grass are in has been provided for in 2013/14 budgets.
- 3.27 Hollingbury Park Bowling Club wish to take on the responsibility and costs for the maintenance of their second green and the council will provide them with the support to enable them to do so.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A meeting was held with each bowling club during May, June and July this year, with the exception of Carlton Club which has folded. The financial costs associated with the maintenance of the greens and buildings were shared and amendments made following further information from the clubs.
- 4.2 All the clubs were written to in July requesting a formal response to a number of proposals as set out in the report and those responses are expected by 20th August. Following, the report to committee on the 20th September a further email was sent to clubs requesting comments on the proposals, as not all clubs had replied. This report summarises those comments and states where comments were not received.
- 4.3 A petition of 1,429 signatures was presented at Full Council on the 19th July and subject to the debate referred to at paragraph 1.3 of this report.
- 4.4 A further meeting has been held with each of the clubs affected by the revised proposals.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The closure of the proposed three Bowling facilities, (Hove Park, Kingsway Ladies and Dyke Road Park) and reduction in the number of greens at Preston Park, Hollingbury and Kingsway will reduce ongoing maintenance costs by £39,000. The savings will not be realised until 2014-15, as the funding will be used in 2013-14 for remedial work and to make good the greens at Hove and Kingsways, and Preston Park. It is estimated that the Hove Park and Kingsway Ladies pavilions could be leased out for around £10,000 for each.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw

Date: 18/12/2012

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 This report proposes that some facilities close, some have a reduction in greens, that bowling generally is actively promoted and that a further review will take place next year, The consultation process and the recommendations in the report are considered to be a proportionate and reasonable corporate approach to bowling across the city.

Lawyer Consulted: Bob Bruce Date: 22/11/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 In considering the proposals consideration has been given to the need to ensure that bowling continues to be played in the city by a primarily older group. The intention is to limit the impact on this group to ensure they can enjoy a social and healthy, outdoor activity. This means that maintaining the sport and the location of play as far as possible is important. An equalities impact assessment on the initial proposals was set in the last report and these revised proposals have less of an impact on bowling across the city, than the original proposals. A revised equalities impact assessment is enclosed in Appendix 1

- 5.4 Sustainability Implications:

With the exception of the treatment of Brown Tail moth, the only place where Cityparks uses insecticides and fungicides is on bowling greens and pitch and putt greens. These treatments are used as they are essential to the maintenance. If clubs become more autonomous and manage the maintenance of the bowling facilities it will be important for the council to encourage sustainable practices where possible and this will form part of the discussions with clubs. If greens become available for other uses, sustainable practices for their maintenance will be undertaken.

- 5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

- 5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Consultations and discussions with the bowling clubs have taken place with the intention of managing and reducing risks for both parties and reach a proposal which is achievable. These revised proposals reduce the risks to bowling across the city and although it is proposed that 3 facilities close and the number of greens are reduced, it provides greater certainty to the remaining facilities and clubs than the initial proposals to reduce the subsidy to every club to £4k. Further, allowing those clubs which are able and wish to move towards greater autonomy over phased period of time to be agreed with them will allow the careful management of risk to clubs, the council and the sport in general. Constant dialogue throughout the process and advice from legal and property services will be critical.

The council will need to consider with Friends of Groups what to do with greens which are no longer needed and there is the opportunity to develop community

gardens, should groups come forward on a voluntary basis to fund and maintain the areas themselves. Otherwise provision has been made to convert greens to general amenity grass, which is a low cost maintenance and allows the council to deliver future financial savings.

5.7 Public Health Implications:

Bowling is an outdoor sport typically played by an older group of people. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for 2012 which is agreed by the Council provides a high level overview of Brighton & Hove's population, and its health & wellbeing needs. It refers to the high causal relationship between the amount of physical activity people do and their health and that there is solid evidence that promoting physical & mental health in older people (aged 65 & over) prevents or delays the onset of disability. The assessment identifies that only 7% of adults aged over 55 years participate in at least three 30 minute sessions of sport per week.

5.8 It also recognises that being physically active outside is good for health, reducing the risk of developing conditions such as diabetes & heart disease, tackling obesity and supporting recovery after illness. It also supports good mental health & emotional wellbeing.

6. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Indicative proposals for budget savings for 2013/14 were presented at Budget Council on the 23rd February 2012. An indicative saving of £93.8k was highlighted in relation to bowling greens with the intention that this would be achieved by reducing the level of subsidy to the sport. Consultation with the bowling clubs commenced and a report to this committee on progress was reported on the 20th September 2012. This report sets out a proposal following the consultations and a conclusion of the review.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 57

Brighton & Hove City
Council

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 1 Revised Equalities Impact Screening

Title of EIA Screening	Proposals for Bowling Provision		
Delivery / Resource / Finance Unit or Intelligent Commissioning name	Infrastructure		
Aim of policy or scope of service	A review of the provision of bowling facilities has been underway and the potential impact on different groups must be assessed to inform the proposals and the outcome of the review.		

2. Record of data/engagement; impacts identified; and potential actions to meet the Duties.

	Data that you have	Community engagement exercises or mechanisms	Impacts identified from analysis (actual and potential)	Potential actions to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination, and foster good relations
Community Cohesion	<p>Discussions from clubs and response to formal consultation.</p> <p>Sport England's Active People Survey April 2011/12 shows</p>	<p>Consultation has taken place with the clubs. A meeting with each club has taken place, a letter outlining the proposals has been issued and further discussions with impacted has taken place with the individual clubs.</p>	<p>Bowling has been declining nationally and the trend locally is decline. This reflects either a communities knowledge of and/or level of interest in bowling</p> <p>Bowling Clubs are very proud of their history and their individual club, forming strong social groups. It is also important that clubs develop the good relationships that exist between each other to promote the sport across the city, and share information and advice, and resources</p>	<p>The Council's Sports Development team aims to encourage participation, through the development of high quality sport and physical activity opportunities across the city, and raise community awareness of local clubs. A range of activities such as Active for Life, TAKEPART Festival aim to encourage activity amongst local residents.</p>
Age (people of all ages)	<p>Sport England's Active People Survey from April 2011/12 shows that 80% of bowlers were over 65 years old, with 16% between 45-64 years old.</p>	<p>There are initiatives such as the 'Active Forever' programme delivered by the council's Active for Life team which focus on increasing participation by older people with activity sessions across the city. There is also an annual</p>	<p>Reducing subsidies for bowling greens will have a greater impact on older people. This is group of people also have a high proportion of retirees on lower incomes and changes in fees to play bowls will have a greater</p>	<p>Consultation with bowling clubs has taken place to determine the impact of proposed changes and the proposals have been changed as a result to reduce the impact on the sport.</p> <p>There is a role for the Sports Development Team to help</p>

		Older Persons Sports Day which provides taster sessions and links to existing clubs and groups to encourage regular participation in sport.		
Disability (a person is disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities ¹)	The number of players with a limiting disability is higher than in other sports (the Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation Fact Sheet for March 2011).		impact and may adversely effect the number of players able to take part in the sport.	
Sex (both men and women are covered under the Act)	Sport England's Active People Survey from April 2011/12 shows that 60% of players are men. The Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation Fact Sheet for March 2011 shows that bowling is the 12 th most popular participation sport for all women generally and is the 5 th most popular for women over 55 years old. The sport has experienced a significant decrease in female participation between 2008-09 and 2009-10.			clubs promote and encourage active participation in bowling across groups that are less active in other sporting activities

Gender reassignment	No data			Collating this data needs to be considered alongside qualitative data to understand the barriers to the sport. Recognising and addressing these will be important to actively promoting the sport amongst underrepresented groups and to increase
Pregnancy and maternity	Sport England's Active People Survey from April 2011/12 shows that 80% of bowlers were over 65 years old, with 16% between 45-64 years old Sport England's Active People Survey from April 2011/12 shows that 60%			The sport needs to broaden its appeal and the nature of the sport makes it physically easier to take part.
Race	No data			Collating this data needs to be considered alongside qualitative data to understand the barriers to the sport. Recognising and addressing these will be important to actively promoting the sport amongst underrepresented groups and to increase participation
Religion or belief	No data			
Sexual orientation	No data			
Marriage and civil partnership (only in relation to due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)	No data		No impact foreseen	

Other relevant groups	No data			Collating this data needs to be considered alongside qualitative data to understand the barriers to the sport. Recognising and addressing these will be important to actively promoting the sport amongst underrepresented groups and to increase participation
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Appendix 2 Estimates of the financial position of club facilities 2010

Club	No. of Greens	No. of members	Building costs	Approx total cost of maint. (greens & buildings)	Total income	Cost	2010 total subsidy per player
Woodingdean	1	68	£1,200	£10,268	£6,260	£4,008	£59
Dyke Road Bowls Club	1	24	£2,067	£7,683	£1,680	£6,003	£250
Hangleton and Hangleton Ladies Bowling club	1	46	£2,117	£10,159	£3,221	£6,937	£151
Hollingbury Park Bowling	2	46	£4,867	£18,281	£3,220	£11,841	£257
Hove / Kingsway Club	4	51	£9,774	£43,111	£17,693	£25,418	£498
Hove Park	1	26	£2,517	£14,199	£4,439	£9,760	£375
Mackie Bowls Club	1	78	£4,279	£10,113	£5,462	£4,650	£60
Portslade Bowls Club	1	40	£2,467	£12,466	£2,231	£10,235	£256
British Rail Bowling Club	2 (but use 1)	33	£3,117	£12,310	£3,831	£8,479	£257
Rottingdean	1	70	£4,891	£14,558	£4,900	£9,658	£138
Saltdean	1	41	£3,467	£13,134	£2,870	£10,264	£250
St Anns Wells	1	35	£3,267	£13,965	£4,528	£9,437	£270
Brighton Bowling club	1	47	£1,355	£10,938	£2,700	£8,238	£175
Vicarage Bowling club	1	40	£867	£10,450	£3,800	£6,650	£166

Note: As the council does not account for its costs by each bowling facility and also shares resources across city, the above are estimates which are considered to provide a good indication of the costs of providing the facilities and a comparator between the clubs.