

COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF KEY OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision ✓

PWNC | SUBJECT: RCT Together – Community Asset Transfer of Treorchy Paddling Pool to Friends of Treorchy Park (Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Charity No 1188657)



DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Treorchy Paddling Pool in accordance with the provisions of the Community Asset Transfer Scheme to Friends of Treorchy Park (CIO) on terms to be agreed to the satisfaction of the Council.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director of Corporate Estates and the Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services.

PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION: 10/6/24

To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Treorchy Paddling Pool to Friends of Treorchy Park (CIO) as set out in Paragraph 3 of the accompanying Officer report.

 Llofnod y Prif Swyddog Chief Officer Signature	Louise Davies Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name)	2 nd July 2024 Dyddiad Date
 Llofnod y Prif Swyddog Chief Officer Signature	David Powell Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name)	2 nd July 2024 Dyddiad Date

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION



27th June 2024

LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?
A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAD YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?

BYDD | YES ✓ **NA FYDD | NO**

Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed: ✓ Ward Members aware of proposed lease and in support

Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol?:

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YDY | YES NAC YDY | NO

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

.....

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Llywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Officer or Deputy Presiding Officer or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Llywydd | Presiding Officer)

.....
(Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:- _____ 2nd July 2024 _____

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be

_____ 6th July 2024 _____
DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadran Directorate:	Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name:	Stephen Smith
Swydd Designation:	Community Development Officer, RCT Together Team
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	07786 523656

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

**RCT TOGETHER - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF TREORCHY
PADDLING POOL TO FRIENDS OF TREORCHY PARK (CHARITABLE
INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

25th JUNE 2024

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - CORPORATE ESTATES AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Author(s): Stephen Smith, Community Development Officer, RCT Together Team

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Treorchy Paddling Pool to Friends of Treorchy Park (Charity No. 1188657) on terms to be agreed to the satisfaction of the Council.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Director of Corporate Estates and the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended.

- 2.1 To approve the grant of a 15 year lease of Treorchy Paddling Pool to Friends of Treorchy Park (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) on the terms to be agreed to the satisfaction of the Council.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 A business plan was submitted by Friends of Treorchy Park for the proposed lease of Treorchy Paddling Pool to enable the Group to lever in both capital and revenue funding to cover the annual maintenance and running costs of operating the paddling pool each summer period.
- 3.2 At the Strategic Community Asset Transfer Panel on 12th March 2024, it was recommended to approve the lease to Friends of Treorchy Park based on the following reasons:

- Friends of Treorchy Park has satisfactorily been operating the annual summer paddling pool activities at Treorchy Paddling Pool by way of an annual licence since 2018.
- In that time, the pool has provided free accessible activities to thousands of children and their families.
- The lease will enable the Group to lever in capital funding to undertake the ongoing annual maintenance required to make the paddling pool and plant room operations safe and statutory compliant.
- It will enable Friends of Treorchy Park to provide local children, young people and community members the opportunity to improve their social welfare, health and well-being through free access to play, leisure and intergenerational social opportunities during the summer as well as seasonal events throughout the year.
- An Open Space advertisement has been undertaken and no adverse comments or arguments against were received.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council's RCT Together approach for progressing Community Asset Transfers was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 30th October 2014. This approach supports the Council to work with communities and partner agencies to sustain delivery of services that the Council may no longer be able to deliver on its own.
- 4.2 Under RCT Together, applications are considered from "not for personal profit making" voluntary and community groups, social enterprises and Town and Community Council for activities, services and facilities which benefit residents within Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.3 At the Cabinet meeting on 19th May 2016, it was agreed that applications for asset transfer could be dealt with under the Council's Delegated Decisions framework. High level asset Transfers will need to be reported to Cabinet if officers and the appropriate Cabinet Member feel that this is required.
- 4.4 A review of RCT Together has recently been undertaken and approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 21st November 2018 to ensure any future Community Asset Transfers that are progressed, align with the Council's Community Hub development programme and can deliver the Council's strategic service requirements. Each Hub will support a neighbourhood network of preventative community services and activities that will support people living in our communities to improve their independence, resilience, health and well-being.

Overview of Friends of Treorchy Park

- 4.5 Friends of Treorchy Park is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity Number 1188657) and has been registered since 2020.
- 4.6 The purpose of the Group is to create and maintain facilities at Treorchy Park, Treorchy, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Treorchy and the surrounding area. The purposes of the facilities are to provide play and leisure for individuals and

families who have need of such facilities irrespective of their age, physical or mental capacity, financial situation or social and economic circumstances.

- 4.7 The Group has an 11 strong volunteer led trustee base and meets every month to consider opportunities for encouraging greater use of the facilities. Trustees possess a range of skills, knowledge and expertise including finance, marketing, business and project management skills which enable them to satisfy financial, safeguarding and health and safety governance arrangements. During each summer programme they manage up to 30 community volunteers who help oversee the operational running of the pool and poolside activities. Both trustees and volunteers have historically participated in the appropriate annual training required including first aid, safe operating procedures and water safety.

The Proposal

- 4.8 The Group has undertaken a number of surveys and community consultations since 2019 as regards the paddling pool, which has highlighted the need for continued provision of a free to use paddling pool for the community as being of the highest priority. The Group has also received hundreds of positive comments in a recent survey from families who use the facility along with a number of support letters from groups and organisations in the community confirming the importance of the paddling pool.
- 4.9 The Group has secured sufficient grant funding and continue to fundraise within the community to deliver a free to use service for the immediate future and have an annual fundraising strategy which aims to continue the free to use service.

Review of the Group's Business Plan

- 4.10 At the Community Asset Transfer Panel meeting held on 12th March 2024, officers were satisfied that the Group has historically demonstrated the ability to fundraise and lever in sufficient grant funding along with engagement of volunteers to support the ongoing annual paddling pool season each year. Officers acknowledged the substantial feedback provided from children and families regarding how beneficial this free summer provision is especially during the current "Cost of Living Crisis".
- 4.11 A long term lease will enable the group to lever in any required capital and revenue funding necessary for continued sustainability of the annual summer programme.
- 4.12 The Group will use the expertise of the Council's Leisure and Parks team to undertake the necessary safety inspection checks for the site with a recharge back to the group.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time. The screening form can be accessed by contacting the author of the report or the Cabinet Business Officer.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There will be no ongoing cost implications to the Council associated with the leasehold transfer of the identified parcel of land (paddling pool) at Treorchy Park.

7.2 All associated running costs and ongoing maintenance including regular inspections for the site will be the responsibility of Friends of Treorchy Park.

7.3 The Group have a fundraising strategy which aims to ensure they have the sufficient annual funds for the required annual maintenance and inspections which will be carried out by RCT Parks Team and the costs recharged back to the group.

7.4 The leasehold transfer will enable Friends of Treorchy Park the potential to lever in any required capital funding.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 An Open Space Notice was published in accordance with the requirements of Section 123 (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972, which provides that before disposing (a lease is a form of disposal) of any land which is, or is part of, an open space, the Council must first advertise the proposed disposal in the local press for two consecutive weeks and consider any objections raised.

8.2 No objections were received during the Open Space Notice process which has now concluded.

8.3 Under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councils can dispose of land and buildings provided that best consideration is achieved. An "Open Market Rent" may be charged for use of this land.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

9.1 The Friends of Treorchy Park have undertaken a series of discussions and surveys over the past year with the wider community to assist in identifying priorities for the Group to consider within the park. The Group have received significant feedback from families with regards to the positive impact having a free to use summer paddling pool provision has for local families especially during the current "Cost of Living" crisis.

9.2 The Group have also received a number of "letters of support" from the local prominent individuals, groups and organisations who all recognize the importance of the proposed community resource.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

10.1 Friends of Treorchy Park proposals align with a number of regional and local objectives and priorities which reinforces the public benefit and social value that is delivered through the project, in turn contributing to the Council's Corporate vision.

“All people, communities and businesses can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe vibrant and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future.”

10.2 Their proposals also deliver against key priorities outlined within the Council's Corporate Plan “Working with Our Communities” 2024-2030 through the following approaches:

- ***People & Communities – Supporting and empowering RCT residents to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives:***
 - The pools activities contribute towards the Council ambition of ***“Helping our residents to keep healthy, active and well fulfilling their potential and strengthening local communities through opportunities to participate in learning, leisure, physical and creative activities that are accessible to all.***
 - The Group's activities endeavour to meet proposals in A Living Language: A Language for Living – Welsh Language Strategy to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh in everyday life. A number of committee members and volunteers are Welsh speakers and learners.
 - The Group's activities also provide opportunities for engagement, development, shared learning and being a good neighbour by taking pride in their community.
 - Their project is as environmentally friendly as possible. Through encouraging users and volunteers to recycle their waste and installing energy saving enhancements.
- ***Enabling people to be engaged in resilient communities, strengthening connections between community groups, providing opportunities to lead and influence community developments and be involved in volunteering.***
 - Supporting over 30 community volunteers to be active and engaged in their community by supporting lifeguard duties at their pool, running the pool tuck shop and a range of other engaging activities. These support volunteers of all ages.
- ***Supporting people of all ages to gain the skills they need for jobs in our local communities and working with local businesses and training providers to identify appropriate opportunities for them.***

- The Group have always prioritised learning that can lead to employment opportunities training local lifeguards to support their pool activities, food hygiene training for working in the food van and safeguarding training.
- Surpluses will be re-invested to run the pool site and provide as many low cost/no cost activities as possible.
- Their activities have pulled in visitors from across RCT and beyond with local businesses commenting on the positive impact it has had on local trade during the summer.

10.3 Along with 44 public bodies across Wales, the Council is subject to the statutory requirements of the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**, which sets a common vision for the long-term well-being of people and communities through seven national well-being goals and provides a framework for public services to work differently through five sustainable development principles. These principles include thinking about the **long-term impact** of our actions, seeking to **prevent** issues from occurring in the first place or from worsening, **involving people** and communities in decisions made that affect them, working together **collaboratively** with other organisations and integrating our work to understand the knock-on effects of what we do. Friends of Treorchy Park contribute towards these well-being goals and sustainable principle by:

- Working collaboratively as part of the Neighbourhood Network in North Rhondda to undertake an audit of community assets and regular engagement and consultation events to ensure community partners can meet the needs of local residents and build community resilience.
- Leasing Treorchy Paddling Pool will enable Friends of Treorchy Park to secure the long-term provision of this service for the community and will provide a facility for recreational and social interaction purposes and will positively impact the health and well-being of users.
- The Social Value (Wellbeing) impact of the annual pool operation is significant in the numbers of residents (all ages and abilities) who engage in using and supporting the facility.

10.4 **The Council is approaching this principle in different ways and has launched RCT Together as a means of engaging and involving residents in how services are best sustained in communities.**

“The Council’s vision is to develop a new relationship with residents that enables them to be independent and resilient and to take on greater responsibility for their local communities. This is not about the Council shifting its responsibility – it is about recognising that residents want to be more involved in what happens in their community”.

10.5 The ‘RCT Together’ approach, now aligning with the Council’s developing Community Hub and Neighbourhood Network approach will further strengthen the involvement of local residents and community groups in determining the best use of its assets to enable the community to strengthen its resilience and wellbeing.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Friends of Treorchy Park have demonstrated over the past 6 years that they have the resilience, determination, skills and knowledge to raise the necessary funds and engage both volunteers and residents to support the sustainability of this much loved community asset and provide “free to use” school holiday provision each summer.
- 11.2 The benefits of transferring an asset to a Community Group on a long term leasehold transfer are substantial and varied, unlocking community enterprise, encouraging volunteer commitment, helping utilise local intelligence and allowing the organisation to attract the necessary capital investment to create and sustain a thriving community asset.
- 11.3 Providing approval for a 15 year lease to Friends of Treorchy Park will support the organisation to meet the identified needs of the community to provide seasonal events and summer paddling pool programme which benefits children, young people and families through encouraging play, exercise, and their associated social value/wellbeing benefits. The recommendation is therefore to approve the lease.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

25th JUNE 2024

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR - CORPORATE ESTATES AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RCT TOGETHER, COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF PADDLING POOL AREA IN
TREORCHY PARK, TREORCHY TO FRIENDS OF TREORCHY PARK (CHARITABLE
INCORPORATED ORGANISATION)**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Communities Services Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers:

- Cabinet – 30th October 2014.
- Cabinet - 19th May 2016.
- RCT Together – Review of the Community Asset Transfer Process,
- Cabinet – 21st November 2018.

Officer to contact:

Steve Smith – Community Development Officer – 07786 523656