

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE – PROGRESS WITH LLA ESTATE DISINVESTMENT

1.1 Live Life Aberdeenshire has an estate portfolio that includes community halls, libraries, museums, leisure centres, ski slopes, swimming pools, sports pavilions and an aquarium. The service is committed to meeting the needs of our communities, shaping service delivery to the changing landscape of demand and usage. The service has demonstrated it no longer requires such an expansive estate for direct service delivery. Through innovative digital applications and alternative delivery models for services, including co-locating with community partners and outreach, a reduced portfolio of static buildings can continue to meet the needs of our communities from a direct service delivery perspective.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Review and comment on the progress of the previously agreed asset disinvestment at Appendix 1.

1.2.2 Agree the service should proceed in declaring as surplus to requirements the properties in Appendix 1, to ensure these properties are used to benefit their communities through community asset transfer or sale or adoption by another service area.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 The Communities Committee is the policy committee for Live Life Aberdeenshire, the Culture and Sport Service of Aberdeenshire Council.

2.2 Full Council previously agreed to budget savings in 2019/20 with a list of assets (Appendix 1) to be removed from the Live Life Aberdeenshire Estate.

3 Discussion

3.1 As part of council-wide budget savings in 2021/22, the service proposed several buildings to be surplus as the service would meet the needs by co-location and the introduction of click-and-collect and delivery services with electric vehicles. The properties and savings are set out in Appendix 2.

3.2 Property Colleagues support removing these assets from Live Life Aberdeenshire use, predicated upon sale or community asset transfer or adoption by another service department.

3.3 Associated costs are still borne by the service, creating a budget pressure of £245,308, as shown in Appendix 2.

3.4 The service recognises slow progress and identified a manager to lead on disinvestment in April 2023. Their focus has seen disinvestment progress significantly in the past few months, as shown in Appendix 1.

3.5 The manager is also leading a review that will identify additional properties the service no longer requires. The properties identified to date are set out in Appendices 1 and 2. Following consultation and community engagement, the resulting sale or transfer will save the service £245,308 per annum.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report and the Live Life Aberdeenshire Business Plan will contribute to the delivery of Council priorities, particularly Health and Wellbeing and Education within the People Pillar and Resilient Communities within the Environment Pillar.

4.2 This report helps deliver on the LOIP Priority – Connected and Cohesive Communities.

<https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/connected-and-cohesive-communities/>

4.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed.

| Subject | Yes | No | N/A |
|--|-----|----|-----|
| Financial | X | | |
| Staffing | | X | |
| Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland | | X | |
| Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing | | X | |
| Climate Change and Sustainability | | X | |
| Health and Wellbeing | | X | |
| Town Centre First | | X | |

4.4 At the Communities Committee on 16 February 2023, a Business Plan and Delivery plan 2022/23 was agreed.

4.5 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required because the screening as part of Stage One of the IIA has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken.

4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- ACORP004 Business and organisational change (including: ensuring governance structures support change; and, managing the pace of change) *Corporate Risk Register*.
- ACORP006 Reputation management (including social media)
- ECSR0004 To develop and deliver a revised LLA Business Plan focused on the three pillars of Live Life Outdoors, Live Life Well and Live Live @ Home

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report, their comments are incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Communities Committee is able to consider this matter as per its delegations in Section D6, paragraphs 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 in Part 2A, List of Committee Powers in the Scheme of Governance.

Laurence Findlay Director of Education and Children's Services

Report prepared by: John Cornfield – Service Manager Live Life Aberdeenshire
Date: 26 July 2023

Appendix 1 List of Assets
Appendix 2 Properties and Savings