

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Rationalisation of cycling assets
Date of decision:	6 December 2019
Decision maker:	Director for Economy & Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Authority for delegated decision: Herefordshire Council's constitution - Scheme of Delegation Part 3 Functions Scheme, Section 7 Officer Functions 3.7.6 Delegation to Chief Executive 3.7.13 Sub delegation by Chief Executive to officers
Ward:	All
Consultation:	None
Decision made:	To rationalize the Council's bike loan stock by: Offering the nine current loan recipients the opportunity to purchase the gazelle bicycles for a fair market value of approximately £150 per bicycle; and donating the remaining gazelle bicycles (18 or less, dependent on the above sales) to local charities. And to donate the cycle shelter owned by the council, located at the Courtyard Theatre to the Courtyard Trust.
Reasons for decision:	<u>Disposal of Bicycle assets</u> The Council currently owns 18 Gazelle type bicycles. Nine of these are currently on 6-month loans to the public and the other nine are in Council storage. Consistent feedback from service users show that this type of bicycle is unpopular due to being heavy and having an unfamiliar back pedal braking system. This has resulted in half of this type of bicycle stock being left in storage long term due to reduced public demand for them, and they are now rusty and in poor condition. In addition, this type of bicycle is costly to maintain both for the Council and service users due to their unique and highly engineered design. The current market value of these bicycles is around £70-200 per bicycle. The cost to fix the nine bicycles we currently have in storage is £100-150 per bicycle. Due to the cost of fixing the bicycles we have in storage and the unpopularity of them with the public we therefore recommend; Offering the current loan recipients the opportunity to purchase the nine bicycles for a fair market value of approximately £150 per bicycle. Donate the remaining bicycles of the 18 total to charities who refurbishes bicycles. The donations would be split equally between St Michaels Hospice and Environbilty who are the only two local charities who would accept the bicycles. These recommendations have been consulted with both the Section 151 officer and Acting Assistant Director for Regulatory Environment and Waste.

	<p><u>Donating the cycle shelter to the Courtyard Trust</u></p> <p>The Courtyard have recently submitted a travel fund grant request for bicycle storage. We currently have a redundant Council owned cycle shelter located at the Courtyard that they could use. It would therefore be more cost effective to donate this cycle shelter to the Courtyard Trust rather than provide travel fund grant money for a cycle shelter.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>If any of the nine bicycles cannot be sold, the Council could potentially miss out on approximately £150 per bicycle in asset recuperation funds. This risk is outweighed by the ongoing yearly maintenance and servicing costs to keep these bicycles in working order in order to loan them out to very few members of the public who are willing to ride them. With regards to the cycle shelter; the council will lose a redundant bicycle storage asset, but save money in the travel fund budget for another business/organisation to benefit from a travel fund grant.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>If the Council was to retain the 18 gazelle bicycles and refurbish them for future use, this would be at an estimated cost of approximately £900-£1,350 and they would continue to be unpopular and receive minimal usage.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>No declarations of interest.</p>

Signed

Date: 6 December 2019.