

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

**OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS
2014
OFFICER DECISION WRITTEN RECORD**

Reference:	ODD2022
Subject Matter:	Request for emergency loan to leisure contractor, Sport and Leisure Management Ltd (SLM) as a response to COVID-19 restrictions.
Date of Decision:	16 April 2020
Exempt /Confidential information (Yes):	Yes, partially
If Exempt/Confidential – reason why:	Report appendices contain financial information regarding SLM included which is commercially sensitive and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
Name of Officer taking decision under delegated authority:	Richard Cassidy, Chief Executive
Source of delegated authority:	Acting under the authority delegated within Part 3c, paragraph 9.2 (g) of the Council’s constitution.
Exercise of delegated authority approved by: <i>(if different from Officer taking decision)</i>	
Decision:	(a) Funding approval for a loan to

	<p>SLM of the sum set out in Appendix B to support the cost of SLM's payroll costs for furloughed staff for April 2020 only.</p> <p>(b) Funding approval for a further loan of £16,171 in April, £12,391 in May and £10,578 in June 2020 (subject to a monthly review of Government instructions) to support the cost of a core team of staff carrying out essential maintenance of East Herts leisure centres.</p>
Reason(s) for Decision:	SLM do not have sufficient reserves to run payroll for April 2020. Without a loan SLM would have difficulty maintaining staff and trading in readiness for the re-opening of facilities.
Details of alternative options, if any, considered and rejected:	<p>The following options were discounted:</p> <p>1) The Council could choose not to provide a loan, this would invoke a Force Majeure event as SLM would have no means of trading and therefore delivering the operational management of East Herts Leisure Centres.</p> <p>2) The Council could chose to only provide a loan for the April 2020 payroll costs and not the core staff. This is likely to result in a much</p>

	longer lead in time for the facilities to re-open and therefore impacting SLM's ability to repay the Council in a timely manner.
Name of Officer who has confirmed with all Members involved in taking this decision whether they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest:	N/A
Name(s) of any Member who has removed himself/herself from contributing to this decision because of a conflict of interest:	N/A