

TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE – 24 FEBRUARY 2012

Title of paper:	CHARITIES – REVIEW OF PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENTS	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Carole Mills-Evans Deputy Chief Executive/Corporate Director for Resources	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Barry Dryden, Senior Finance Manager, Financial Reporting barry.dryden@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 876 2799	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		
Work in Nottingham		
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		✓
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
This report provides revised public benefit statements for the Bridge Estate, Harvey Hadden Stadium and Highfields Park Trust.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Approve the public benefit statement for the Bridge Estate for inclusion in the 2011/12 annual accounts.	
2	Approve the public benefit statement for the Harvey Hadden Stadium for inclusion in the 2011/12 annual accounts.	
3	Approve the public benefit statement for the Highfields for inclusion in the 2011/12 annual accounts.	

1. BACKGROUND

The City Council's responsibilities as trustees of charities are carried out by the Trusts and Charities Committee. Depending upon the size of the charity the Charities Commission requires different levels of reporting. The City Council is trustee for 3 charities which require a formal Annual Report and Accounts, including a Public Benefit Statement. These charities are the Bridge Estate, Harvey Hadden Stadium and Highfields Park Trust.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Charities Act 2006 requires Trustees to provide a detailed explanation within the Annual Report of the significant activities undertaken in providing a public benefit, in accordance with the charity's aims for the public benefit. They are also required to explain the charity's achievements during the year in question.

The public benefit requirement means that, to be a charity, the organisation must be able to demonstrate that it is set up for charitable aims that are, and will be carried out to provide benefit to the public or a section of the public.

Put simply, public benefit reporting is about explaining:

- what a charity's aims are and what it has done to carry them out;
- who it seeks to benefit;
- how people have benefited.

A review of the public benefit statements for the Bridge Estate, Harvey Hadden Stadium and Highfields Park Trust has been undertaken by Strategic Finance, Legal Services and the Property Section. The Trusts and Charities Committee is asked to review the revised statements (Appendices A-C) against the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance outlined above, and approve its inclusion in the 2011/12 annual accounts.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

None.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

None.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

An EIA is not required as this report does not include proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions.

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Annual Accounts 2010/11
Charity Commission guidance on public benefit
Accounts and Audit regulations 2011
Part VI Charities Act 1993 (as amended 2006)
The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008
Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities (the Charities SORP) issued in 1995 and revised October 2005.

Bridge Estate Public Benefit Statement 2011/12
(Changes from 2010/11 are shown in bold)

What a charity's aims are and what it has done to carry them out

The maintenance and repair of Trent Bridge and approaches remains the primary objective of the charity. Trent Bridge is the major vehicle communication route from the south of the City and is critical in bringing economic benefit to the City. This is increasingly important in light of the downturn in the global and national economy. The bridge is open to the public at large, assuring public benefit on an open access basis. There are no restrictions regarding the members of the public who may use the bridge and no fees are charged.

The Trustee's Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2012 confirms that any residual income would be applied to the improvement of the City of Nottingham in support of the Council's aims and objectives, as set out in the Council Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy. This is delivered through the maintenance and protection of the Trust's portfolio of income producing assets. In support of this, the Annual Report provides a financial review, identifies activities and achievements and sets out future proposals.

Who it seeks to benefit

The surplus income generated by the charity is transferred to Nottingham City Council's General Fund and is used for the benefit of the citizens of Nottingham. As referred to above, the surplus contributes directly to the delivery of Nottingham's priorities as set out in the Council Plan and enables the Council to provide the citizens of Nottingham with effective and efficient services.

How people have benefited

The surplus income generated by the Bridge Estate has assisted the Council in their focus of:

Supporting the most vulnerable - target support to the most vulnerable citizens and communities. Also target subsidies at supporting our most vulnerable citizens and communities.

Local jobs - sustain and expand job opportunities and directly influence the number of local people with local jobs.

Presence - optimise the Council's presence and visibility in the delivery of local services and activities – ensure citizens and stakeholders understand the Council's role.

Enjoying Nottingham - in these austere times ensure we choose carefully to maintain some high impact leisure or cultural activities that help our citizens to enjoy life and relax.

The Council's focus will continue to address the above in subsequent financial years and the Bridge Estate fixed asset portfolio will be actively managed to secure new investment, increase income and reduce risk in an uncertain market.

The Bridge Estate's transfer to Nottingham City Council's General Fund also represents an equivalent saving for Nottingham citizens who pay council tax on a Band D property of £xx (£16 in 2010/11).

Further specific details on the activities of the Bridge Estate are included within the annual report.

Harvey Hadden Stadium Trust
(Changes from 2010/11 are shown in bold)

Public Benefit

The primary objective of the charity is to provide public **sports and** recreation for the people of the City of Nottingham forever. To achieve this, a programme of ongoing maintenance of the ground and related infrastructure is completed each year. This ensures the provision of well maintained, good quality public recreation facilities. The trustees confirm they have referred to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and when setting plans for the future. Harvey Hadden is open to the public at large on an open access basis. **There are fees charged and booking arrangements in place for the use of the athletic track and sports facilities.**

Highfields Leisure Park Trust Trust
(Changes from 2010/11 are shown in bold)

Public Benefit

The primary objective of the charity is to provide public recreation and pleasure grounds for the people of Nottingham forever. To achieve this, a programme of ongoing maintenance of grounds and equipment is completed each year. This ensures the provision of well maintained, good quality public recreation facilities. The trustees confirm they have referred to the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives and when setting plans for the future. Highfields is open to the public at large assuring public benefit on an open access basis. There are no restrictions regarding the members of public who may use Highfields. **No fees are charged for access to the park but some fees are charged for various concessions within the park.**