

Trust and Charities Committee - 27 February 2015

Title of paper:	CHARITIES – PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENTS 2014/15	
Corporate Director:	Glen O’Connell Acting Corporate Director of Resources	Wards affected: All
Report author and contact details:	Barry Dryden, Senior Finance Manager Barry.dryden@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8762799	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Tracy White, Senior Finance Assistant	
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		X
Work in Nottingham		X
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		X
Family Nottingham		X
Healthy Nottingham		X
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 Trust and Highfields Leisure Park Trust.		
Recommendation:		
1	That the Committee approve the public benefit statement for the Bridge Estate (appendix 1), Harvey Hadden Stadium (appendix 2) and Highfields Leisure Park Trust (appendix 3), all for inclusion in the 2014/15 Annual Report.	

1. BACKGROUND

The 2013/14 public benefit statements for the Bridge Estate Trust, Harvey Hadden Stadium Trust and Highfields Leisure Park Trust have been updated with appropriate minor changes for the 2014/15 statements. The Committee is asked to review the statements in appendices 1 to 3 against the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and either approve their inclusion in the 2014/15 Annual Reports, or suggest changes.

2. PROPOSAL

The City Council's responsibilities as trustees of charities are carried out by the Trusts and Charities Committee. Dependent upon the size of the charity, the Charity Commission requires different levels of reporting. The City Council is trustee for three 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.

The Charities Act 2011 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. 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.

The principles of public benefit apply to all charities, whatever their aims. Each charity must be able to demonstrate that its aims are for the public benefit. Public benefit decisions are about whether an individual organisation is a charity and not about whether particular types of charity or groups of charities, as a whole, are for the public benefit.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

It is a requirement for Trustees to approve the public benefit statements for inclusion in the Annual Report.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

None

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

None

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

None

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

Annual Accounts

9. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Charity Commission guidance on public benefit

[\(web address - Charities and Public Benefit: Summary Guidance for Charity Trustees\)](#)

Accounts and Audit regulations 2011

Charities Act 2011

Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting by Charities (the Charities SORP) issued in 1995 and revised October 2005.

Council Plan 2012-2015

(web address - [Policies, plans and key documents : Nottingham City Council](#))

Budget and final account working papers.

Bridge Estate Public Benefit Statement 2014/15

(Changes from 2013/14 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 **2015** 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 Bridge Estate makes a contribution in excess of £1m to Nottingham City Council, to help deliver the Council's key priorities identified in the Council Plan. **as follows:**

~~Cut employment by a quarter~~

~~Cut crime and halve anti-social behaviour~~

~~Ensure that more school leavers get a job, training or further education than any other city~~

~~Keep your neighbourhood as clean as the city centre~~

~~Help keep energy bills down~~

The Council's focus will continue to address the Council Plan in subsequent financial years and the Bridge Estate fixed asset portfolio will be actively managed to secure new investment properties, 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 (to be confirmed in the year end report)** (£26 in 2013/14).

Further specific details on the activities of the Bridge Estate are included within the Annual Report.

Harvey Hadden Stadium Trust

Public Benefit Statement

Purposes of the charity

The primary objective of the charity is to provide public sports and recreation for the people of the City of Nottingham forever, as a result of money left in a trust by the late Harvey Hadden.

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.

How people have benefited

Harvey Hadden Stadium Trust 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.

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 Leisure Park Trust

Public Benefit Statement

Purposes of the charity

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.

How people have benefited

Highfields Leisure Park Trust 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.

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.