

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Plymouth Argyle Football Club
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 10 October 2011
Cabinet Member: The Leader
CMT Member: Director for Development and Regeneration
Author: Anthony Payne, Director for Development and Regeneration
Contact: Tel: 01752 304170
Email: anthony.payne@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref: PAFC
Key Decision: No
Part: Part I

Executive Summary:

This report relates to the statement from the Leader made on the 16 September 2011 regarding the future of Plymouth Argyle Football Club and the possibility of the purchase of the freehold of Home Park by the Council on a commercial basis.

Any such purchase would be subject to appropriate due diligence checks and would require Council approval. A more detailed report will be brought to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Corporate Plan 2011-2014:

Value for Communities:

The acquisition and letting of the football stadium would reinforce Plymouth's position as a major regional centre for sport.

Delivering Growth:

To ensure the continuation of the economic value of the Club's activities, which it is estimated by the University of Plymouth to be around £9 -12m per annum from home games, and visits from away-team supporters.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Any proposed capital sum required to acquire the freehold interest in the football stadium, and the proposed rental to be paid by the occupier, would have to be independently assessed to determine whether the proposals represent the open market value for the property and can also be supported under the Council's general well being powers.

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

This report concerns a potential property transaction that would not require the Council to have direct control of the property; therefore no other particular implications arise.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

The Cabinet note the Leader's statement and await further details from officers.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

The alternative option would be for the Council not to take any action. This may limit the opportunity to protect the ground and club.

Background papers:

Leader's Press Statement

Sign off:

Fin	CD R/C orSI 112 012/ 30.0 9.11	Leg	DS 1295 3.	HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member											

1.0 Background

The Leader made the following public statement on Friday 16 September 2011 regarding Plymouth Argyle Football Club:

Plymouth City Council is deeply saddened by the current situation with regards the status of Plymouth Argyle Football Club. It is extremely disappointed that no private sector funded solution has yet been forthcoming to ensure the survival of the city's 125 year old professional football club. The city council would like to be clear that it considers it important that a city the size and status of Plymouth should not if at all possible be without a professional football club.

We are therefore prepared to work to help ensure the survival of the club and protect wider community benefits. That would include the consideration of the purchase of Home Park on a commercial basis. Any decision would of course have to be subject to appropriate due diligence checks and council approval.

1.1 Whilst the Council could not lawfully provide direct aid to any potential purchaser of the football club, it could consider purchasing Home Park on a commercial basis and to provide wider community benefits. Such a purchase would be subject to independent valuation. In leasing the ground to the football club on a commercial basis; this would be a similar position to that which was in place prior to our sale of the ground in 2007.

1.2 Appropriate up-dates (if any) will be provided to the meeting.