

| Report of | Meeting | Date |
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| Director of Commercial, Director of Communities | Scrutiny Committee | Tuesday, 12 October 2021 |

Update of new Leisure Company and future Leisure Projects

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| Is this report confidential? | No |
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| Is this decision key? | No |
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Purpose of the Report

1. To bring before Members of the Scrutiny Panel an update on the setting up of the new Council owned Leisure Company in South Ribble.
2. To update Members of the Scrutiny Panel on progress relating to Leisure Centre improvement projects

Recommendations to Scrutiny Committee

3. That Scrutiny Committee note the setting up of the new Council owned Leisure Company and the progress made as identified in the attached report

Reasons for recommendations

4. Noting of progress made

Other options considered and rejected

5. No other options were considered

Corporate priorities

6. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

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| An exemplary council | Thriving communities |
| A fair local economy that works for everyone | Good homes, green spaces, healthy places |

Background to the report

7. In May of this year full Council took the decision to put the Council's Leisure Centres in a Council owned company to be launched from 1 September 2021
8. The drive behind the setting up of the new Leisure Company is outlined below:
 - a. To connect our leisure centres with the Council's objective of improving health and well-being and reducing health in-equalities across the Borough
 - b. To develop a leisure local model of operation from our leisure centres which seeks to widen access to facilities in hard to reach areas and groups within the Borough
 - c. To deliver industry leading usage and retention levels
 - d. To achieve growing income levels, post Covid-19 reducing the level of leisure subsidy required going forward
 - e. As a wholly owned Council Company, the Company is able to apply for business rate relief which makes the company economically viable for the long-term

The Purpose of Company

9. To manage the Council's leisure centres
 - a. To trade successfully as a company, as a going concern and as a not for profit organisation
 - b. To deliver against an agreed service specification as agreed by South Ribble Borough Council, and feed into the Objectives and aspirations of the Council's corporate plan
 - c. To drive the income levels of the Company, post the Covid-19 pandemic
 - d. To be a good and exemplar employer

Leisure Projects going forward

10. The second part of this update report refers to progress made on the Leisure projects to improve the existing Leisure Centres
11. The improvement of the Council's Leisure Centres is seen as a corporate Project and managed ultimately through the Corporate Programme board of the Council
12. The Council's Scrutiny report has requested an update on these Leisure Projects

The proposal

13. The proposal put before Scrutiny committee is to provide an update as to progress made on setting up the new Leisure Company and progress made on the Leisure Projects
14. Attached to this report are a number of key appendices that provide an up to date summary of where we are up to on the both the Leisure Company and the projects to improve the Leisure Centres. The appendices include
 - a. The report provided to the first Strategic Partnership board of the new Leisure Company
 - b. The up to date project initiation document (PID) for the Leisure Centre improvement projects
 - c. The latest Highlight report for the Leisure improvement projects

Climate change and air quality

15. A key project within the Leisure PID is the compartmentalisation work planned. This is about improving all aspects of the Leisure Centres from an environmental point of view. However, it is worth noting that the carrying out of this work is dependant on a bid to Central Government for funding

Equality and diversity

16. A key part of the role of the new Leisure Company will be to widen access and availability of Leisure Centres to all groups in the community with a view to improving equality and diversity

Risk

17. Full risk assessments are in place as part of the Leisure Project Initiation Document (PID)
18. A full risk assessment was carried out as part of setting up the new Leisure Company

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. As the new Leisure company only commenced trading on 1st September 2021, information is not yet available at the time of writing this report to update on the income and expenditure position for the first month of operation.
20. As noted in Appendix 1 at Section 3, the Finance Team have been working with the Leisure services software provider to develop the interface between the two systems to improve financial reporting and income forecasting and this work is ongoing.
21. Appendix 1 Section 6 refers to the Capital projects that are underway, and those planned, that will be funded from the budgets established within the Capital Programme for Sport and Leisure (as approved by Council on 22nd September), of £3.769 million in 2021/22 and £20.583 million in 2022/23 and future years.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

22. There are no issues to raise from a Monitoring Officer point of view – the report is for noting.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

Appendix A - The report provided to the first Strategic Partnership board of the new Leisure Company

Appendix B - The up to date project initiation document (PID) for the Leisure Centre improvement projects

Appendix C - The latest Highlight report for the Leisure improvement projects

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| Report Author: | Email: | Telephone: | Date: |
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