

COVID-19 RECOVERY – COUNCIL SERVICES – HEALTH AND LEISURE

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That Cabinet consider the recommendations from the COVID-19 RECOVERY - Council Services Task and Finish Group (CS T&FG), which will be made available to Cabinet once the Group has met on Thursday 25 June 2020.

2. Purpose of the report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to determine:
 - 2.1.1 The Councils approach to the re-opening of the Health and Leisure centres whilst adhering to Government guidance;
 - 2.1.2 the approach to the next stage of the furlough scheme for Health and Leisure staff and
 - 2.1.3 a revised timeline for the Health and Leisure review as part of the overall recovery plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Councils 5 Health and Leisure centres closed to the public on the 17th March. Current arrangements are:
 - All Direct Debit payments are currently frozen, any memberships paid for in advance, will have the closure time added to the end of their membership.
 - All centres are being kept operational and cleaned to ensure they can be re-opened once government guidance changes.
 - Across the 5 sites just under 400 staff have been furloughed since March. The remaining staff have been maintaining plant and buildings and supporting other services of the council, including the Local Response Centre. A small team have been working on the development of a Health and Leisure recovery plan.
 - Income losses for April and May equate to £1.2 million, with staffing cost supported by a furlough grant payment of £200k per month. Whilst closed income losses will continue.

4. Council Services Task and Finish Group Overview

The Task and Finish group are being asked to consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on:

4.1 A plan for re-opening of the Health and Leisure Centres

- Ensuring centres are COVID-19 secure:
 - Full risk assessments completed and agreed by Trade Unions
 - One-way systems

- Social distancing requirements maintained
 - Increased cleaning regimes in all the facilities
 - Reconfiguration of gyms to allow 2m distancing
 - Showers closed
 - Cleaning sanitisers available in all public and staff areas
- All centres to be open within a 2-week period of the first re opening
 - The plan to include the re-opening of swimming pools to the public and for the Swim Academy (children's swimming classes) to re-open
 - Programme for Clubs to resume
 - Membership D/D's will re-commence once opening dates of each site are confirmed.
 - Development of new membership offers

4.2 The reopening plan to include the approach to the furlough scheme for staff during the re-opening

4.3 To consider a revised timeline for the Health and Leisure Centre procurement review as part of the recovery plan including the following:

- Re-engaging with all stakeholders including schools, HCC, customer and staff forums.
 - Continuing with monthly meetings with the Trade Unions
 - Updating the financial information provided to bidders
 - Requesting updated bids
 - Undertaking and presenting an evaluation to the Stakeholder group.
 - Shortlisting bidders' negotiations to commence
 - Undertaking Site visits to bidder sites
 - Determining Preferred bidders
 - Undertaking Customer and staff forums (virtual and face to face).
 - Finalising the recommendation to Community and Leisure Panel, Cabinet and Council.

5. Crime & Disorder Implications

5.1 None.

6. Portfolio Holder Comments

6.1 Our Health and Leisure Centres play a key role in improving our communities' physical and mental wellbeing. We are grateful for the patience of our loyal customers and know they are missing their Centres. Throughout the time since our Health and Leisure Centres necessarily closed in March, we have been actively preparing for their safe reopening, once government guidance allows.

Further Information

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