

CABINET – 1 JULY 2020

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COVID-19 RECOVERY –
COUNCIL SERVICES TASK AND FINISH GROUP – MEETING OF 25
JUNE 2020**

HEALTH AND LEISURE

The COVID-19 RECOVERY – Finances and Resources Task and Finish Group at its meeting of 22 June 2020, recommended to Cabinet that the re-implementation of Health & Leisure should be managed in a manner which does not increase costs beyond those currently being incurred as a result of Covid-19.

The Task and Finish Group received a presentation from the Executive Head of Resources and discussed how the reopening of Health and Leisure Centres could be supported in a phased way, both in respect of the opening of particular centres, and the reopening of activities. It was proposed that gym and group exercises would reopen first before Swim Academy (children's swimming).

In respect of Furlough, the Task and Finish Group noted the upcoming changes to the Government's National Furlough Scheme, whereby from 1 August 2020, employers would be expected to share a greater proportion of the costs (an extra £38,000). Members discussed the Council's response in light of these changes and the cost implications to the Council moving forward.

The Task and Finish Group noted that the Health and Leisure Review would recommence in due course, with updated information for bidders likely to be available in September 2020.

With the above in mind, the COVID-19 RECOVERY – Council Services Task and Finish Group would like to make the following recommendations to Cabinet, for consideration as part of Report 5c on the Cabinet Agenda – "Council Services – Health and Leisure".

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Council's Health and Leisure Centres are re-opened on a phased basis, when government guidance allows.
2. That the Cabinet is asked to consider the revised Government National Furlough Scheme and the Council's response as employer to the additional financial implications from 1 August 2020.