

## HEALTH AND LEISURE UPDATE

### 1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Panel to note the report.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As agreed at Full Council on the 25th February 2021, Freedom Leisure will commence managing and operating the Council's five Health and Leisure centres from the 1st July 2021.

### 3 LEISURE MOBILISATION

- 3.1 Since early March 2021, Council officers, as part of a Leisure Mobilisation Board, have been working on the following to ensure a smooth transition process on the 1st July:

- Staff meetings
- Regular communication with Trade Unions
- Formal letters to staff from the Council and Freedom reference TUPE regulations
- Leisure Operating Contract completion
  - Leases
  - Management Agreements with schools
- Maintenance and supplier contracts
- ICT decoupling
- Data sharing agreements
- Customer communication prior to transfer
- Partnership branding and signage
- KPI and Monitoring approaches

- 3.2 Council officers have been working with Freedom Mobilisation teams to ensure that there is minimum disruption to staff and customers at the point of transfer.
- 3.3 The Council has appointed a Leisure Contract Monitoring officer, who will be in post by August 2021. This role will undertake regular monitoring of the Leisure contract, ensuring that the standards set out in the specification are met. The role will also monitor the Dibden Golf contract held by MyTime.
- 3.4 The buildings remain the responsibility of the Council, and recruitment is progressing well for a facilities officer who will co-ordinate Landlord responsibilities that remain with the Council.
- 3.5 Fees and charges at the Council are reviewed on an annual basis by the Portfolio Holder for implementation on the 1st January, with charges increased in line with Retail Price Index (RPI) and the market. As all Health and Leisure centres were instructed to close at the end of December 2020, no review or changes took place on the 1st January 2021.
- 3.6 On behalf of the council, Freedom have now carried out a review of fees and charges. The revised fees and charges will be in place from 1st July 2021, with the majority

being in line with RPI, with the soft play at Ringwood rate increasing from £3.50 to £3.75 to come into line with the market.

- 3.7 As set out in the contract, Freedom will review their fees and charges on an annual basis. The next review will take place in Autumn 2021 and, once the Council has reviewed the Freedom proposal, new fees and charges will be implemented on the 1st January 2022. In line with contract, Freedom will then move forward to undertake the annual review of fees and charges.

#### **4 MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

- 4.1 We ask the panel now to request volunteers for the Health and Leisure Working group. The group will meet on a quarterly basis during the transition year, with the first meeting taking place in October 2021.
- 4.2 The Member working group will provide regular reports to this panel. The first formal report will be in January 2022.

#### **For further information contact:**

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#### **Background Papers**

Community & Leisure O&S - February 2021  
Health & Leisure Review – Preferred Bidder

Cabinet – February 2021  
Health & Leisure Review – Preferred Bidder