

Meeting of:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 12 September 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Re-establishment of a Leisure Centre Working Group
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval from the Scrutiny Committee to form a smaller Working Group for the purposes of assisting in the monitoring of the Council's Leisure Management Contract.
Report Owner:	Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Operational Manager, Neighbourhood Services Healthy Living and Performance
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing Committee Reports Operational Manager, Accountancy
Policy Framework:	This Report is a matter within the Policy Framework and Budget.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Report seeks to re-establish the Leisure Centre Working Group as a sub-group of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. • This Report details the purpose of the Working Group and the role it is expected to play for the Scrutiny process. • Additionally, this Report highlights the Welsh Audit report on the service in 2021 that included the need for elected members to be involved in the monitoring processes for the Council's Leisure Management Contract. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Committee nominate up to six members of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee to form a Leisure Centre Working Group.
2. That the Working Group invites the relevant Cabinet Member to any meetings or site visits.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To re-establish a Working Group for the Leisure Centres.
2. To ensure that the views of the Working Group are shared appropriately.

1. Background

- 1.1 A Sub-Working Group of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee operated successfully for several years prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Working Group was not subject to political balance. Covid forced the closure of the Leisure Centres and curtailed the operation of the Working Group. Given that 2022 Local Government Elections have also taken place since the Group last met and following the recent site visits to all four Leisure Centres by the Committee, it would now seem an appropriate time to re-establish the Working Group.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 It is suggested that the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee re-establish the Leisure Centre Working Group with a maximum of six Elected Members. It is also suggested that the relevant Cabinet Member with responsibilities for the Leisure Centre Management Contract, presently the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Well-being, be invited to any meetings or site visits to ensure that the views of the Working Group are taken into account by Cabinet. In addition, members of the Working Group will be able to provide feedback of visits undertaken to the Healthy Living and Social Care Committee on a quarterly basis, through the Committee's Recommendation Tracking reports.
- 2.2 The re-establishment of the Working Group will assist in addressing part of the Welsh Audit Report (January 2021) that highlighted some of the information that Elected Members should be aware of and regularly updated on in relation to the Leisure Management Contract.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The Leisure Centres already make a significant contribution to the Council's well-being objectives and further investment will provide new opportunities for residents to take up new physical activities. Remaining fit and healthy is the best

prevention known for residents to enjoy healthy lives and the partnership with Legacy Leisure demonstrates the Council's commitment to long term health objectives for its residents and visitors. The re-establishment of the Working Group will assist Elected Members to have a greater understanding of the work carried out in Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Centres.

- 3.2 Leisure Centres link with health services, such as the GP Referral Scheme, and provide a base for many Sports Clubs to offer opportunities to residents for both competitive sport and well-being activities.
- 3.3 The Leisure Management Contract is also a good example of a collaboration project with the Council demonstrating how an external 'not for profit' organisation, Legacy Leisure, and the Council can work together to provide quality services.
- 3.4 Legacy Leisure regularly consults with customers about future requirements and many of the initiatives presently offered at the sites are as a direct result of this.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 The Council's Leisure Centres have introduced a number of energy saving features in recent years either as standalone projects or as part of larger schemes. Many of these initiatives have been highlighted in the recent Member visits to the various Leisure Centre sites.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 Under the terms of the contract, Legacy Leisure is paying the Council for the delivery of this service. This is a unique situation in Wales as all other Leisure Centre operations require a direct revenue payment from the relevant Local Authority regardless of how the operation is managed (Direct Service Organisation, External Leisure Trust, Inhouse Leisure Trust, Private Contractor etc.).

Employment

- 5.2 Legacy Leisure, the Council's Leisure Contractor, is fully compliant with both employment law and the additional employment responsibilities placed upon them by the Council's Leisure Management Contract.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3 There are no specific legal implications associated with this Report.

6. Background Papers

[Welsh Audit report - January 2021](#)