

**Environment and
Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

9 March 2020



Leisure Centre Transformation

**Joint Report of John Hewitt Corporate Director of Resources and
Geoff Paul, Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local
Services**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a progress update in relation to activity levels in County Durham and proposals for the transformation of Durham County Council's (DCC's) leisure centre offer.

Executive summary

- 2 The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously received detail of the management arrangements for some of DCC's leisure centres at the meeting held on 13 July 2018.
- 3 Following consideration of this report and presentation it was decided by the Committee that they would include in their future work programme for 2019/2020 a further progress report focusing on the future management of DCC leisure centres.
- 4 A report on the transformation of leisure centres was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 15 January 2020. Therefore, it was considered timely for a report and presentation to be presented to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

- 5 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- a) receive the report and presentation and comment accordingly; and
 - b) that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is involved in the significant engagement and discussion in relation to the transformation of DCC leisure centre offer.

Background

- 6 At its meeting on 12 July 2019 Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for the ensuing municipal year and included within the work programme was an item on DCC's transformation of leisure centres.
- 7 In accordance with that decision, arrangements have been made for the Interim Head of Culture, Sport & Tourism to attend a meeting of the committee on 9 March 2020 to provide a presentation on Leisure Centres. The presentation will cover the following areas:
- Current activity levels in County Durham
 - Physical activity infrastructure – what's on offer
 - Governance and accountability
 - Leisure centre transformation
 - Next steps

Conclusion

- 8 Following the presentation, Members of Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC will be aware of current activity levels, the physical activity infrastructure, governance and accountability arrangements and detail of proposals for leisure centre transformation.

Background papers

- Presentation: Physically active in County Durham; A vibrant leisure offer to increase participation.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Council has the power under s19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide, and charge for, such recreational facilities as are outlined within the Cabinet report. Local leisure facilities are not generally thought to distort trade between member states and therefore there are unlikely to be any State Aid implications from this proposed investment.

Finance

Exert from January Cabinet report:

The report identifies a need for up to £62.8 million of capital investment. The capital investment is forecast to generate a net annual saving of £1.63 million. It is recommended that this sum is utilised to prudentially borrow £38 million to assist in funding the capital.

Discussions will be required with HMRC to agree to the utilisation of the seven year average dispensation on the Partial Exemption Limit.

Consultation

Local consultation events will be held with Members, service users and residents as part of the next phase of this transformation programme. Details to be agreed Spring 2020.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The investment outlined within the Cabinet report will have a positive impact on the Council equal opportunities duty. Individual Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken alongside Health Impact Assessments as and where necessary.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

The programme will have a positive impact upon crime and disorder as outlined within the Social Value impact of the Cabinet report.

Staffing

Increased 33.29 FTE.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

There are risks with any invest to save project, this has been mitigated by procuring the services of a leisure transformation specialist to work on this programme. The risks are further mitigated by the partner's agreement to work with the Council until the business assumptions are achieved; this would be at the partners cost and it is for this reason that the assumed figures are prudent and achievable.

Procurement

All procurement in relation to this transformation programme will be undertaken under the Council's Contract Procurement Rules.