

Audit Committee – 25th March 2010

6. Update on Yeovil Recreation Centre Audit Action Plan

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Purpose of the Report

This report has been requested by Audit Committee to update members on the action taken to improve the Key Controls at Yeovil Recreation Centre following the internal audit of this service reported in October 2009.

Recommendation

That members note the actions and progress made in the attached appendix (pages 9-11).

Background

The South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) undertakes a Key Control Audit of Yeovil Recreation Centre each year. The last audit report was completed in October 2009 and the Auditor gave the service 'Partial Assurance'.

At the Audit Committee meeting held on 10th December 2009, the Assistant Director for Health and Wellbeing briefed members on the significant progress already made in relation to the audit action plan for the facility and agreed to provide members with a summary of the key changes that had taken place at Yeovil Recreation Centre in the last 12 months at the March 2010 Audit Committee meeting.

The Assistant Director for Health and Well-being also highlighted that only small sums of income are dealt with at Yeovil Recreation Centre and therefore the risk to the Council in income terms is relatively small overall.

Report

Changes at Yeovil Recreation Centre since November 2008

Significant changes to the operation of Yeovil Recreation Centre occurred between the 2008 Key Control Audit and 2009 Key Control Audit, which help to explain the apparent dip in performance.

In November 2008, the responsibility for grounds maintenance transferred from an external contractor to SSDC's Streetscene team. This transition ran very smoothly and resulted in an efficiency saving to the Council of approximately £10,000. As a consequence, the responsibility for the summer operation of the mini golf and pitch and putt courses (including the appointment/management of casual staff and collection and banking of income) became the responsibility of the Council's Facilities Management Officer for the first time from April 2009 (the former external contractor was previously contracted to manage this area of operation). In addition, a brand new refreshment facility within the Jon O'Donnell Pavilion, called 'The Galley', was opened in July 2009, to compliment the new Flagship Play Area at Yeovil Recreation Centre (opened August

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2009). Both of these events have had an impact on operational procedures, which were undergoing significant revision during the same period in which the 2009 Key Control Audit was undertaken.

The changes during this transitional period will almost certainly have had an influence on the Auditor's less favourable findings on this occasion; previous Audit reports have recorded that steady improvements in operational efficiency had been observed prior to 2009.

Audit Action Plan

Ten key areas were identified for improvement within the 2009 Key Control Audit Report. Immediate action was taken by the service to improve current practice, and all but one action has been fully resolved. A breakdown of the areas for improvement and the current performance status can be found within the attached appendix.

The Facilities Management Officer (responsible for the day to day management of Yeovil Recreation Centre) is continuing to work hard to ensure that the required changes are being fully embedded within the service for the 2010 summer season.

Other Implications

None.

Background Papers: *Yeovil Recreation Centre – Key Control Audit – 8th October 2009*