

Leisure Operator Introduction and Presentation

Executive Portfolio Holder:	CLr Mike Best, Health and Wellbeing
Strategic Director:	Nicola Hix, Director – Strategy and Support Services
Service Manager:	Brendan Downes, Lead Specialist, People, Performance and Change, Strategy and Commissioning
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Purpose of the Report

1. This report and Appendix A (published as a separate supplement) are submitted for information and summarise the performance of the Council's Leisure Operator in Year 1 of their contract with the Council. Freedom Leisure will guide members through the presentation attached as an appendix during the meeting.
2. Members are invited to ask any questions of Freedom Leisure personnel or the Portfolio Holder.

Forward Plan

3. This report appeared on the District Executive Forward Plan with an anticipated Committee date of 7th July 2022.

Public Interest

4. The operation of the Council's indoor facilities in Yeovil and Wincanton and Chard is managed by a specialist leisure operator, Freedom Leisure. The Council is interested in receiving periodic reports from the operator to ensure that they are delivering against agreed contract outcomes and maintaining a high quality leisure provision for residents, both within the centres and the wider community.

Recommendations

That District Executive note and comment on the presentation

Background

5. In April 2021, South Somerset District Council and District Executive formally approved the appointment of Wealden Leisure (trading as Freedom Leisure) as the Council's new leisure operator for the next 15 years, following a competitive tender process.
6. Freedom Leisure is a genuine not for profit organisation with HMRC approved exempt charity status. Freedom Leisure currently manage 106 facilities for 24 council partners, schools and academies and have a good record of accomplishment.



7. The leisure contract is expected to deliver the following key outcomes:
 - a. Enhanced leisure centres by April 2022, through the Council investing capital in the centres using the expertise and knowledge of the contractor, which will provide more fit for purpose facilities for the next fifteen years and beyond including the new Chard Leisure Centre facility
 - b. Increases in participation at the leisure centres to more than 550,000 visits per annum, particularly from target groups, including people with disabilities, women and girls, young people, BME groups and older people
 - c. Improvements to customer satisfaction which will result in repeat visits
 - d. Improvements in health, such as a reduction in the number of people with diabetes, obesity levels or people who smoke
 - e. A partnership approach to delivery, reviewing performance and refining delivery to meet the needs of South Somerset residents
8. Performance monitoring reports are provided by Freedom Leisure utilising mutually agreed KPI's and metrics. These are reviewed quarterly by the contract manager and finance specialist together with the Freedom team and any corrective measures agreed.
9. Performance and delivery plans (including the Active Community Plan) will be reviewed by a strategic review group every 6 months. This group will include the Director for Strategy, Commissioning and Support Services, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Property Specialist and the Healthy Self Reliant Communities COP lead.
10. An executive report will be presented to members by Freedom Leisure on an annual basis. This report will look at past performance but also allow members to shape delivery plans for the forthcoming year.

Report Detail – Overview of Presentation

11. Freedom Leisure personnel deliver a PowerPoint presentation to members covering the following:
 - a. Financial Performance
 - b. Utilisation of facilities in year 1
 - c. Active Communities Programme
 - d. Customer service/operational performance
 - e. Utility usage
 - f. Compliance
 - g. Social Value delivery
 - h. Members questions

Financial Implications

12. There are no new financial implications.

Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

13. There are no new legal implication in connection with this report.

14. Not applicable for a presentation.

Council Plan Implications

15. The effective management of the Council’s leisure centres contributes to Council Plan aim to “improve health and reduce health inequalities” and to help the Council “to build healthy, self-reliant, active communities” by “Helping people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities”.

16. The current Council Plan demonstrates the council’s commitment to keep South Somerset green, clean and attractive and respond to the climate and ecological emergency. The first area of focus under this theme is to continue the delivery of the Environment Strategy action plan reducing our carbon emissions by 10% every year, to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

17. The investment proposals put forward by Freedom Leisure as part of their contract tender expected to reduce emissions by 269 tonnes per annum. The increased scope of decarbonisation works utilising PSDS funding, is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 435 tonnes per annum in total across the Council’s three leisure sites.

Equality and Diversity Implications

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	N/a
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	

Background Papers

Reports to District Executive – December 2020 and April 2021