

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing– Councillor Pantelic

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

IMPACT OF THE NEW LEISURE FACILITIES

1 Purpose of Report

To advise the NCS Scrutiny Panel on the perceived impact of the council's leisure capital development programme, which was part of the council's five year leisure strategy, adopted by Cabinet in 2014, which aimed to get more Slough residents more active, more often.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The NCS Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the report and progress made in delivering the council's high level five year leisure strategy and the impact of the new leisure developments on the town and its residents.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

All the actions within the Slough Leisure Strategy contribute towards achieving the overarching vision of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy and will make significant contributions to the delivery of the following outcomes:

- **Protecting vulnerable children** - New leisure facilities will be safe environments for children and will target those who are disadvantaged.
- **Improving mental health and wellbeing** – It is well established and accepted that taking part in regular sport and physical activity contributes greatly to better mental health and general wellbeing.

3b. The JSNA

The JSNA examines the needs of all residents of Slough to identify those groups that experience poor outcomes and access to services. It sets the scene for the development of local strategies and provides evidence for these groups.

3c. Five Year Plan Outcomes

The key drivers for the Leisure Strategy are to deliver the following outcomes of the 2018 Five Year Plan:

- **Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful**
Taking part in regular sport, physical activity and other related positive leisure activity is proven to improve the physical health and mental wellbeing of children and young people, along with educational attainment and confidence and self esteem.
- **Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs –**
Addressing the rates of inactivity in our adult population is a key priority for the council. Improved leisure facilities that are accessible and cater for a range of abilities will be a key area for turning the tide on this inactivity.
- **Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay –** Attractive and accessible leisure facilities will attract people to the borough to live, work and visit.
- **Outcome 5: Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents -** Good quality, accessible leisure facilities are attractive to employers to ensure a healthy workforce, which is imperative for a businesses success.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

All the leisure capital projects have come in on budget and to predicted timescales.

The re-procurement of the leisure contract in 2017, which appointed Everyone Active as our chosen leisure provider for the next 10 years, to operate and manage our new leisure facilities, is expected to provide a surplus in funding of over £10 million to the council over this period.

(b) Risk Management

The leisure strategy capital development team kept a detailed risk register for all the council's major leisure schemes. The risk register was reported to the Leisure Strategy Board fortnightly and a monthly highlight report was produced for CMT.

| Risks/Threats/ Opportunities | Current Controls | Risk Management Matrix Score | Future Controls |
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| Everyone Active fail to achieve targeted performance and cannot make agreed payments | Monthly and quarterly meetings held to discuss performance with contractor | 2 | Ongoing monitoring of financial performance against contract |
| Everyone Active fail to adequately maintain new facilities | Bi-monthly maintenance visits using FM 180 facility management | 2 | Maintain current arrangements |

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| | system by property services. Unannounced visits by client officer | | |
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(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications in regard to this report

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality impact assessments were prepared for areas where closure of facilities would potentially impact existing users e.g. ice users and the provision of a temporary rink.

(e) Workforce

The delivery of the leisure capital programme has initiated a number of full and part time employment opportunities across all phases of the project including construction, new job opportunities in the leisure facilities working for Everyone Active and freelance coaching roles with the Active Slough team.

In addition to this Everyone Active run an apprenticeship programme in Slough offering eight placements a year for Slough residents to work whilst studying for level 2 / 3 qualifications in leisure management or fitness and health.

(f) Property

Arbour Park Community Sports Stadium is currently operated and managed by the council's building management team. The council is responsible for the full costs of operating and maintaining the building.

Under the leisure contract Everyone Active is responsible for the operating and full maintenance and repairs to The Centre and Langley Leisure Centre, Slough Ice Arena and Salt Hill Activity Centre. Their legal responsibilities are detailed in the comprehensive leisure contract and associated leases. Monitoring of their performance in regard to the management and care of the buildings is overseen by the Leisure Client Manager, Michael Shepherd, and routine inspections are carried out by mechanical and electrical specialists through property services.

(g) Carbon Emissions and Energy Costs

The Centre has received a BREEM energy rating of excellent and Arbour Park a good rating. The facilities that were designated as refurbishment schemes were not required to undertake BREEM assessment but all facilities have been awarded very good energy efficiency scores. A more detailed breakdown of the individual buildings is available on request.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 Leisure Strategy

The Slough leisure strategy, adopted in 2014, set out an ambitious five year programme to achieve four main priorities:

1. To provide new, quality core leisure facilities for Slough residents
2. To provide a network of improved and accessible free leisure facilities in neighbourhood parks and open spaces
3. To provide a comprehensive programme of accessible opportunities for local residents of all ages and abilities to participate in regular physical activity
4. To procure a new leisure operator to manage the new, core leisure facilities.

5.2 Capital programme

The leisure capital portfolio was managed and delivered in partnership with Slough Urban Renewal (SUR) with our chosen construction Partner Morgan Sindall Construction. This has resulted, over a four year construction programme, a network of state of the art leisure facilities.

5.3 **Arbour Park Community Sports Stadium** had a two phased opening which enabled Slough Town Football Club to take up residency at the stadium for the 2017/18 football season. Phase 2 was completed in May 2017 with the opening of the first floor and 250 seater stand. The stadium was voted best non-league stadium of the year in 2017 and hosted the FA draw and televised the best FA Cup run for Slough Town FC through Sky Sports. The facility has a full community use programme hosting grass roots clubs for training and fixtures. It has also hosted national squads for training and fixtures too, including the Welsh Women's squad and England Under 18s. During 2018 /19 the stadium was used by hirers for a total of 14,700 hours.

5.4 **Slough Ice Arena** opened to the public in March 2018 and the official opening attracted over 3,000 visitors on the day to take part in skating and climbing sessions. The building was voted best South East community building of the year by LABC and was shortlisted for the national awards.

Over the last year of operation the facility has hosted the following:

- Dancing on Ice – Interview and selection / training sessions
- Who Bares Wins – ITV Cancer awareness programme
- Cinema on Ice
- Skate with Santa
- Build a snowman / snowing on ice session
- Christmas Gala (Everyone Active Figure Club)
- Hosted Slough Jets games, who have gone on to win the National Ice Hockey League 2

5.5 **Salt Hill Activity Centre** opened its doors to the public in June 2018 with the community open day attracting over 2,500 visitors who were able to use the multi activity centre for free throughout the day. The centre is a popular venue for families and in one weekend hosted over 20 birthday parties. Over the past year Berkshire Fire Service have used the indoor caving system for training purposes.

5.6 **Langley Leisure Centre** opened its doors to the public in July 2018 with a formal opening attended by Olympic athlete and world record holder, Colin Jackson. The centre has proved to be a very popular facility for local users and has surpassed expected membership targets and usage.

5.7 **The Centre** opened its doors to the public in March 2019 involving a seamless closure of Montem Leisure Centre and the opening of the new facility. New membership for the facilities have exceeded targets and the new, modern facilities have been warmly received by the community. The centre has recently won the international architectural awards for best leisure centre design for our architects GT3.

5.8 **New leisure contract**

Early in 2015 the council commenced its procurement programme to appoint a leisure operator to manage the new leisure facilities. After a twelve month procurement exercise Everyone Active were awarded a ten year contract, which commenced in June 2017. The new contract offers the council a far more favourable financial package, with the council able to recoup some of the investment it has made in its award winning leisure facilities, with an estimated saving to the council of over £10 million over the next ten years. The council has recruited a leisure client officer to monitor the contract and they meet monthly with the contractor in formal contract meetings. The contractor is required to produce quarterly performance reports and an annual business report.

5.9 **Current levels of usage of Everyone Active managed facilities**

In 2018/19; the first full operating year for Everyone Active, the following usage figures were recorded:

- 898,393 centre visits
- 2,085 swimmers taught every week
- 230,478 fitness visits
- 13,425 school swimmers annually
- 65,853 Ice skating visits
- 139,887 casual swimming visits
- 6,092 fitness members (annual and direct debit)
- 72,904 activity visits
- The highest percentage of users is recorded as 16 years and under at 28%.
- The lowest percentage of users are aged 65+ at 5.4%
- 80% of fitness members have SL1, SL2 and SL3 post codes
- 55% of people with fitness membership have an SL3 postcode

5.10 **Neighbourhood capital development programme**

Over the last five years sports facilities in parks and open spaces across the borough have seen significant investment including the installation of twenty six green gyms, seven new multi use games areas (MUGAs) a skate park, a parkour park, seven artificial cricket wickets, four cricket practice nets and a network of dedicated walking tracks.

5.11 **Summary of impact of new leisure provision in Slough**

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| Active Lives Survey | The Active Lives Survey, an annual survey carried out by Sport England, reports the activity levels of people across the country and is broken down by local authority areas. Since 2012 Slough has seen a decline in the activity rates of its residents and in 2014 was reported as the tenth most inactive area nationally. However in the 2019 published data Slough saw a significant decrease (3.2%) in the number of people reported as inactive (doing less than 30 minutes of activity a week). |
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| Health Beliefs Survey | <p>In 2019 the council carried out the largest ever survey of residents attitudes to health and physical activity. 1,600 face to face surveys were undertaken and this indicated that inactivity is decreasing and activity levels are improving above those reported in the national Active Lives Survey. To view the report follow the link below: https://www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/health-beliefs/</p> <p>However the survey indicated that we need to publicise our new facilities much better to local residents.</p> |
| New leisure facilities | <p>Slough Borough Council's investment in the town's leisure offer has attracted much interest and praise. This has resulted in a number of awards for the designs of the buildings, visits from other developers and local authorities looking to develop their own offer, a visit from Sport England's national directors team and the new facilities being used for popular TV programmes and high profile national sports teams.</p> <p>To date the council have received following awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best national non league football stadium 2017 – Arbour Park • Best regional community building (LABC) – Arbour Park 2017 • Best regional community building (LABC) – Slough Ice Arena - 2018 • Best design community facility (Thames Vally Awards) – Slough Ice Arena - 2019 • Best international leisure facility design (architecture) - The Centre 2019 |
| New leisure operator | <p>The award winning leisure operator Everyone Active became the council's new leisure contractor in June 2017. The 10 year contract is estimated to return over £10 million to the council over the period of the contract.</p> <p>As part of the contract Everyone Active also offer an outreach programme in local neighbourhoods, providing healthy walks, seated exercise, badminton, pilates and zumba classes in community venues.</p> <p>A benchmarking exercise on cost shows that Everyone Active offer the cheapest membership prices in Berkshire, amongst local authority run facilities.</p> |
| Use of leisure centres | <p>Our new leisure facilities are predicted to have over 1.2 million visits in 2019 /20 an increase of over 400,000 visits since 2017 when all facilities were last open to the public.</p> <p>Most notable have been the increases in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adult swimming lessons • Schools using the new centres for swimming lessons • Membership at Langley Leisure Centre • Children's ice skating lessons • Bookings of venues for children's parties. <p>The council have been working hard with Everyone Active to make their performance data more meaningful and we now have the ability to drill down and monitor membership and visits via postcode data,</p> |

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| | <p>which will enable us to target areas of low take up.</p> <p>In the spring our looked after children and care leavers will be given a package of free use of all leisure facilities.</p> |
| New dedicated leisure contract manager | To ensure that out new leisure centres are operated and maintained to very high standards a new dedicated leisure contract manager has been appointed. They report quarterly to the leisure strategy board, chaired by the council's director for adults and community, Alan Sinclair on the operator's performance. |
| Use of parks and open spaces for sport and physical activity | <p>The green gyms in particular have proved to be a very popular resource, which are seeing greater usage across the borough. Salt Hill and Manor Park Recreation Ground also host the 'Big Community Workouts' weekly, based around the use of the green gyms, which is facilitated by qualified community coaches.</p> <p>At seven of the green gym sites we have installed smart devices to measure usage. In the last ten months 63,943 hits have been recorded.</p> <p>All new facilities in parks are free to use.</p> |
| Active Slough | The council's Active Slough team over the last four years have offered a comprehensive and affordable activity programme of over 90 sessions a week to people of all ages and abilities, in accessible venues across the borough. An average of 1,250 participants engage with the Active Slough programme every week. For 2019/20 we have already delivered over 5,500 hours of community sport and physical activity sessions through the Active Slough programme. |

6 Comments of Other Committees

Not applicable

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 In 2014 the council set out to deliver a highly ambitious five year leisure strategy which aimed to address the high levels of inactivity in our diverse communities across the borough. The strategy identified four key priorities as detailed in section 5.1 of this report.

The strategy has successfully delivered against the key priorities, giving the residents of Slough excellent sporting provision through the core leisure facilities and a network of green gyms and exercise provision, free to use in local neighbourhoods.

The council's investment is now starting to see positive results with a large increase in visits to leisure centres and other leisure facilities along with national data reporting a decrease in our resident's inactivity, the first shift since 2012.

8 Background Papers

Not applicable