



REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26TH MARCH 2019

SUBJECT: PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre prior to presentation to Cabinet for a decision.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 28th March 2018 Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 13th December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre later in 2018 once the 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted.
- 2.2 On 14th November 2018 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the adoption of the Strategy had been recommended by the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre prior to presentation to Cabinet for a decision.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the content of the report and the recommendation to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30th June 2019 and, for the period up until closure, to authorise officers to prioritise the transfer of existing block bookings at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to alternative facilities, for example Blackwood Comprehensive School and Islwyn High School.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 So that Cabinet can take into account the views of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee when considering the recommendations to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30th June 2019 and to authorise officers to transfer bookings to alternative facilities in advance of that.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 On 28th March 2018 Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 13th December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre once the 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted. On 14th November 2018 Cabinet approved the adoption of Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended adoption of the Strategy to Cabinet. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years.
- 5.2 The Strategy recognises the multiple challenges of poor levels of health, particularly in certain areas of the County; reducing budgets; the large number of facilities across the County and the deteriorating quality of our older buildings; and increasing population and consumer demand. Over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service.
- 5.3 The criteria for strategic facilities as set out in the Council's Strategy includes a range of facilities and services for sport and active recreation including "wet-side" (e.g. swimming pool, sauna, spa, etc.) and "dry-side" (e.g. sports hall, fitness suite, dance, studio, etc.) activities, they are shared with a day time user (standalone only in major population centres and/or are attractions of regional or national significance). Strategic facilities also have over 250,000 visitors per annum, appropriate access, and the aim of reducing the subsidy per user to less than £1 to £1.20. The adopted Strategy states that this cannot be achieved without rationalisation and modernisation. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the Council's 4 strategic sites and from 1st April 2018 to 1st March 2019 had a recorded usage of 70,841 with a subsidy per visit of £2.11.
- 5.4 While the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G (3rd generation) pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise a capital receipt of circa £2.2 to 2.9m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remains this is likely to reduce to circa £1.8 to £2.3m. Additionally, retention of the leisure centre imposes a constraint on the development of the northern part of the school site. This will impact upon the valuation of the northern part of the school site which, without the leisure centre constraint, accounts for approximately 50% of the total estimated receipt of £2.2 to £2.9 million.
- 5.5 There is an annual revenue saving of £119,740 if the leisure centre were to close. At present it is estimated that there is circa £150,000 of maintenance liabilities, made up primarily by items identified as either priority 2 or priority 3 categorisation, although the last property condition survey was completed in 2012 and is now some 6 years old.
- 5.6 Public consultation in relation to the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre took place between 9th October and 24th November 2017 prior to the decision of Cabinet on 13th December 2017. The summary report of the consultation and specific comments are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

- 5.7 The Cabinet decision of 13th December 2017 to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was the subject of a call-in which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18th January 2018. The Scrutiny Committee resolved to support the call-in and to refer the matter back to Cabinet with a recommendation that additional consultation takes place with the Future Generations Commissioner, the Youth Forum and the Children's Commissioner. Additional consultation was undertaken and the responses from each Commissioner and the Youth Forum were reported to Cabinet on 28th March 2018 and are included at Appendix 2.
- 5.8 Blackwood Town Council responded to the public consultation in November 2017. The Town Council's response is included in full at Appendix 3 and was included and addressed in the reports to Cabinet of 13th December 2017 and 28th March 2018. Since that time installation of a new dual use 3G pitch is nearing completion at Blackwood Comprehensive School and is the subject of a joint use agreement providing for community access. Additionally, the Council has adopted the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 which sets out a vision for future provision which is consistent with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 5.9 Blackwood Town Council have restated their opposition to any potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and have stated that every effort should be made to keep the facility at the heart of the community and proper consideration given to potential transfer of assets to community ownership after meaningful discussions with the local community, leisure centre users and groups, partners and other stakeholders. No expressions of interest have been received in relation to this.
- 5.10 A ten week public consultation ending on 21st September 2018 was also undertaken in connection with the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. Views were sought via a questionnaire and 711 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire. The full report of the consultation responses is available at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. In summary, there was broad support for the Strategy's Vision and proposed Actions to support the Vision. 75 of the 711 respondents indicated that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith and their responses in relation to leisure facilities are included at Appendix 4.
- 5.11 The outcome of the consultation was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 8th November 2018 and then Cabinet on 14th November 2018 where the strategy was formally approved and adopted. After the public consultation on the Strategy a petition was presented at Council on 9th October 2018 by Councillor Kevin Etheridge with 5343 signatories against the possible closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres. On 4th November 2018 a protest march also took place in Blackwood town centre in opposition to leisure centre closures.
- 5.12 Across all of the consultation responses there are two clear concerns in the event of closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre: lack of alternative provision and increased travel time and/or cost of travel to any alternative provision. The new Islwyn High School opened in June 2017 to replace the existing Pontllanfraith and Oakdale Comprehensive Schools and includes a four court sports hall, dual use 3G football and rugby pitch and multi-purpose activity space. The Caerphilly Sports and Active Recreation Strategy states that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Islwyn High School have provided written confirmation of their commitment to making the school's facilities available for use by the wider community. Islwyn High School's facilities are available for hire outside of school hours by clubs and organisations currently using

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Additionally, a new dual use 3G pitch is being installed at Blackwood Comprehensive School which is supported by a signed Community Use Agreement between the Council and Blackwood Comprehensive School guaranteeing community use. The installation of these 2 new 3G pitches represents an enhancement of provision over and above the single, football only, 3G pitch provision at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre on two counts – the new pitches are capable of being used for both football and rugby (with resultant FAW and IRB approval) and there are now two 3G pitches in the Blackwood / Pontllanfraith area rather than one.

- 5.13 In the Sport and Leisure industry, it is accepted that customers are generally prepared to travel a distance of 5 miles or 20 minutes to facilities. In this regard when the user analysis for Pontllanfraith is examined it reveals that over 50% of users are outside the NP12 postcode area (NP12 stretches from the Argoed Ward in the North to the Pontllanfraith Ward in the South and the Pengam Ward in the West to the Penmaen Ward in the East).
- 5.14 The Council's 4 strategic leisure facilities are all accessible via public transport; although only 4% of respondents to the consultation on the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy indicated that they used public transport to travel to the place where they take part in sport and active recreation. The Council will work with public transport providers as necessary, but the majority of respondents to the Strategy indicated that they travel by private car. If the distance of other facilities from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is examined the following can be seen:-

Facility	Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	Travel Time by Car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Newbridge Leisure Centre	3.3 miles	9 minutes
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	2.0 miles	8 minutes
Sue Noake Leisure Centre, Ystrad Mynach	3.1 miles	9 minutes
Heolddu Leisure Centre	5 miles	14 minutes
Islwyn High School	3.1 miles	7 minutes
Blackwood Comprehensive School	2.3 miles	8 minutes
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	7.5 miles	16 minutes
Markham Community Leisure Centre	4.2 miles	10 minutes
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Fleur de Lys	2.2 miles	5 minutes
Lewis School, Pengam	3.1 miles	9 minutes

- 5.15 The Sport & Active Recreation Strategy also identified that there is a mixed economy of provision and opportunities for residents to engage in a wide range of physical activity provided by the ever increasing commercial and not for profit sector. A number of these are facilities based and located within close proximity to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as identified below:

Facility	Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre	Travel Time by Car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Bryn Meadows Golf & Country Club, Maesycwmmmer	2.6 miles	8 minutes
Snap Fitness, Blackwood	1.0 mile	4 minutes
Blackwood Miners Institute, Blackwood	1.0 mile	4 minutes
Fleur de Lys Institute, Fleur de Lys	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Fleur de Lys Community Centre, Fleur de Lys	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Diva Fitness, Pengam	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Planet Fitness, Aberbargoed	3.4 miles	9 minutes
Elite Fitness, Pontllanfraith	1.2 miles	3 minutes

- 5.16 Additionally there are a number of other halls and spaces across the local community available for hire including Penllwyn Millennium Centre, the Oasis Centre, Pontllanfraith Rugby Club, and Cefn Fforest Community Centre, for example.
- 5.17 Clearly, there is significant provision of facilities within a short journey of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Alternative facilities have car parking, including disabled car parking, available. In the consultation some comments were received regarding the difficulty of parking at Newbridge Leisure Centre and officers are continuing to work to improve this provision. A number of consultation respondents indicated that they are not able or willing to travel to alternative facilities and stated that leisure centres should be within walking distance. Most residents within the county borough do not live within walking distance of a council managed leisure centre, although all are able to walk to access other opportunities in our parks and countryside.
- 5.18 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the strategic sites identified in the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for future investment. The financial impacts of closing the leisure centre are outlined in paragraph 5.4 and 5.5 include an annual revenue saving of £119,740, a capital receipt of circa £416,000 to £541,000, the avoidance of the estimated £112,000 cost of transferring shared utilities from the closed school, the avoidance of at least £150,000 in maintenance liabilities and the avoidance of 3G pitch replacement costs of between £200,000 and £300,000 in the next 2-4 years.. The impacts of closure on users have been considered and the extensive alternative provision that is now available is outlined in paragraphs 5.12 to 5.15 above. All of the existing block bookings at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre can be accommodated at alternative facilities and for the period up until 30th June 2019 officers would prioritise those users to take up available capacity in other facilities. Consequently it is recommended that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre closes by 30th June 2019 and that officers are authorised to transfer bookings to alternative facilities in the event that Cabinet agrees the closure.

- 5.19 If a decision is taken to close the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, and thereafter demolish the premises, the Council will be in a position to market the site for an alternative use. There is an opportunity to develop the site in collaboration with a Registered Social Landlord to support the Council's commitment to the delivery of high quality affordable homes. The delivery model could include equal proportions of social rented, shared ownership and market sale dwellings and there is potential for the social housing element to be delivered as council housing. The benefits of this approach include giving the Authority more influence on the development, delivering a development which is more in tune with the needs of the local community and ensuring the homes would be designed to the Welsh Government Design Quality standard.
- 5.20 The release of the site for housing use would help the Authority to increase the housing land supply in the county borough in the short to medium term. The Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out a housing requirement to deliver 8,625 units in the 15 year plan period 2006 to 2021. As of the 1st April 2018 4,713 units had been built and it is clear that the housing requirement figure of 8,625 units will not be achieved by 2021.
- 5.21 The delivery of new affordable homes within the county borough similarly is behind target. Policy SP15 of the LDP identifies an affordable housing target of 964 units over the lifetime of the LDP, 2006 -2021. As of 2018 only 251 affordable units have been built, or less than a third of the target. The release of the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site could therefore make a valuable contribution to the supply of homes and affordable homes in the medium term. The exact detail of the future development of the site would be subject to a further Cabinet report and planning permission.

5.22 **Conclusion**

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the strategic sites identified in the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for future investment. There are significant financial benefits resulting from the closure of the leisure centre which has become considerably more expensive to operate following closure of the adjacent secondary school. In addition to the annual running costs there are substantial repair and replacement liabilities to be addressed, and the opportunity for a capital receipt. Adequate alternative provision is available and therefore it is recommended that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is closed. To keep the leisure centre open would undermine the vision for provision of sport and active recreation set out in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 Assumptions have been addressed throughout this report, and financial assumptions are outlined in section 10 below. The estimate of the potential capital receipt from sale of the site is based on the current understanding of land values, but there are a number of variables and clearly these can change. Notably, the nature of the conclusion of the Brexit process is likely to impact upon the UK economy including land values. The maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is an estimate of £150,000 and is based on a condition survey undertaken in 2012. Demolition costs of £225,000 are stated, but these can be difficult to predict and assumes that there are no significant, currently unknown costs.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. Over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the Council's 4 strategic sites and the proposed closure is entirely consistent with the adopted Strategy.

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 is directly linked to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives, its strategic priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan (2018-2023). The main Wellbeing Objectives in the Corporate Plan that sport and active recreation contributes to are:

- Objective 1: Improving education opportunities for all and improving the learning environment;
- Objective 5: Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle and reduces inequalities in health across the County Borough in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- Objective 6: Supporting citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing - helping keep older people involved and active in their local communities.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The Council's adopted Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 is designed to help deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. The Strategy includes the following in relation to implementing the Act:

- We will need to be bold - not holding on to what we have done in the past, but looking forward to ensure that the decisions we make and opportunities we provide are fit for future generations - responding to the emerging needs of our young people, the adults of tomorrow, and of course looking after the different needs of a growing older population.
- We must also make sure what we provide is going to be sustainable i.e. we can all afford to maintain service provision into the future.
- Future approaches will demand that people take greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity. It is the role of the Council to support them to do this for themselves.
- To deliver a 'change agenda' the Council will also have to make a number of critical decisions. It is vital therefore, that this strategy provides a clear

rationale and priorities for action. It must provide a vision for where we are going and how we are going to get there, so that everyone understands what we can achieve, what to expect of us, as well as the roles that others have to play.

- Finally, the strategy is not focused just on buildings but the activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

8.2 The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

LONG TERM- The leisure estate across the whole of the authority is not sustainable in the long term due to cuts in the revenue available to the local authority. The Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. Securing the provision of sport and leisure services now and in the future requires that difficult decisions have to be made that balance short term considerations against long term sustainability. The financial climate means that it is not possible to continue subsidising all sites and so decisions must be taken now to secure a sports and leisure service for future generations.

INVOLVEMENT- An extensive consultation has taken place with the community, leisure centre users and clubs, democratic representatives, young people and Welsh Government Commissioners. Views have been represented to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. Inevitably residents will wish to see as many local authority services as close to their homes as possible, and this view would be held by all communities within the county borough. In considering the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre we have sought to mitigate the concerns by accessing funding for a new Football Association of Wales and International Rugby Board approved 3rd Generation pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive and ensuring that a programme of activity runs, and bookings can be taken to use the facilities, at Islwyn High School. The other leisure centres and sites in the area have capacity to accommodate the current users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

PREVENTION- The promotion of well-being now prevents need in the future and reduces demand on public services. In planning the proposed closure we have sought to maintain sports and leisure services accessibility for the community as far as is practicable. The Council will continue to support people to take responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.

COLLABORATION- We have collaborated with the Blackwood Comprehensive School and Islwyn High School and their governing bodies to ensure access to the facilities that they can provide. Written confirmation in relation to this collaborative approach is in place. We continue to work with a full range of partners.

INTEGRATION- We have considered how the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre may impact on the well-being goals and in so doing have been mindful of the requirement to provide a sports and leisure offer that is still accessible at other sites. As highlighted in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy it is also

recognised that activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 5 to this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The 2018/19 budget for running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch is £119,740. This is an increase on the 2017/18 budget as a result of an ending of a joint user virement of circa £26,000 from Education (as a result of the Leisure Centre previously being classed as a joint use centre located on a school site) following closure of the school. Also, the Leisure Centre was previously classed as a "joint use centre" situated on a school site and as such attracted significant non-domestic rate relief. The new rating valuation following the school closure results in an increase in non-domestic rates of £17,000, from £20,000 to £37,000 per annum. Additionally, there are costs associated with standing charges for utilities and for security of the vacated schools premises. These are currently estimated to be £12,000 per annum.
- 10.2 Should the Leisure Centre remain open, there is an initial cost requirement of circa £112,000 to transfer shared services such as utilities, telephone and I.T. lines:

Pontllanfraith L.C.: Estimated cost of proposed new supplies	£
Gas	53,642
Electric	22,758
Water	17,213
BT [Data only]	18,000
BT Voice assume N / a	0
Total: £ [excl. VAT]	111,613

There will be a further requirement for ongoing maintenance liabilities to be supported and the maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is estimated at least £150,000.

- 10.3 While the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise capital receipt of circa £2.2 to 2.9m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remains this is

likely to reduce to circa £1.8 to £2.3m. However, as stated in paragraph 5.4 above retention of the leisure centre site places a constraint on the development of the northern part of the school site, which may reduce its value This estimated capital receipts of the three areas of the site without this constraint are shown below:

Area	Estimated Capital Receipt
Leisure Centre & 3G pitch	£416,000 to £541,000
School playing fields – northern area	£1,040,000 to £1,352,000
School – southern area	£741,000 to 963,000
Total	£2,197,000 to £2,856,000

- 10.4 The financial implications associated with closing/demolishing the Leisure Centre are outlined below with appropriate narrative, and are summarised in the table at paragraph 7.9. Caerphilly Adventure Services relocated to Cwmcarn Fforest Drive in November 2018 at a cost of £110,000.
- 10.5 The Council has jointly funded with Welsh Government works to construct a new 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School which are nearing completion. If the 3G facility remains at Pontllanfraith then it is possible that the “carpet” would need replacing within the next 2-4 years, in the period 2020 – 2022, at a cost of between £200,000 and £300,000
- 10.6 There is a one-off cost for demolition of the Leisure Centre complex which is estimated at £225,000.
- 10.7 There are also some voluntary severance costs associated with the closure. These are covered in the Personnel Implications section below and total circa £11,250.
- 10.8 A summary of the costs of closure/demolition and resultant savings/avoided costs is included in the table below:

One-Off Cost of Closure/Demolition (£)		One-Off Receipt/Avoided Costs (£)		Annual Revenue Saving (£)	
Demolition	225,000	Services Diversion Costs Avoidance	112,000	Annual Running Cost Saving	119,740
Potential HR Costs (Voluntary Severance, etc.).	11,250	Maintenance Backlog Cost Avoidance	150,000		
		Replacement of existing 3G “Carpet” in 2020 – 2022	200,000		
		Capital Receipt	416,000 to 540,800		
Total £236,250		Total £878,000 to £1,002,800		Total £119,740	

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Should the leisure centre close 2 staff have expressed an interest in retiring voluntarily supported by Voluntary Severance payments. There are no pension

implications associated with these 2 staff and the voluntary severance/Rhymney Valley District Council loyalty bonus estimates are approximately £11,250. The remainder of the staff currently working at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre can be accommodated within the Sport & Leisure Service as a result of non-filling of posts elsewhere.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The consultation undertaken is outlined in the main body of the report above. The Council engaged in a detailed consultation in respect of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 with the local community and interested groups over a ten week period between 16th July 2018 and 21st September 2018. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy document itself, and consultation process as a whole, was designed to ensure that residents and interested groups not only understood the reasons for the Strategy, but that they also understood the potential implications of the Strategy; particularly regarding the potential closure of facilities. This detailed and wide ranging consultation ensured that residents and interested groups were able to respond and make representations in respect of these implications and for these to be considered by Cabinet before making a decision on whether or not to adopt the Strategy. The Council has obtained legal advice confirming the consultation in respect of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy is detailed and robust, and that further consultation on the closure of individual facilities in accordance with the Strategy is not required.
- 12.2 The Ward Members for Pontllanfraith ward and for those wards neighbouring Pontllanfraith (Blackwood, Newbridge, Abercarn, Penmaen, Ynysddu, Maescwmmmer, and Pengam wards) have been consulted on this report and their responses, together with comments from officers, are presented in the table below:

Response	Comment
Cllr Gary Johnston: I wish to record my comment as I oppose the closing of Pontllanfraith leisure centre as residents at the top off my ward would be affected by this.	The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.
Cllr. Gez Kirby: Please report to Regen scrutiny committee and Cabinet my strong opposition to closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30th June 2019. My opposition reflects the widely-supported local residents' campaign to save Pont Leisure Centre as a valued amenity for our local community.	The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.
Cllr Andrew Farina-Childs: I oppose the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as I believe that this will have a detrimental impact on the residents of Blackwood who use this	The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.

<p>facility.</p>	
<p>Councillor Etheridge is totally opposed to the closing of the Pontllanfraith Leisure in view of the Health and Well Being Legislation. Also the report contains a number of assumptions and no detailed cost benefit analysis. How can you work on assumptions.</p> <p>Can you please add my notice of motion which had 100% support at a previous Regeneration Community to refer the Leisure Strategy which included Pontllanfraith Leisure for a full open and transparent discussion by the 73 Members at Full council but was vetoed by Cabinet so will they even consider the views and comments of the Scrutiny Committee this time. I have concerns</p> <p>Please define any consultation with the staff and trade unions in the report please</p> <p>Reference is made to the transfer of bookings please define where and what agreements have been discussed and agreed with governors of Blackwood Comprehensive and Islwyn High School, and will there be a contract please. Please define the Community Use Agreement in regard usage of the 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive by users outside Blackwood please, and has Blackwood provided written confirmation like Islwyn High please – can this information be added to the report please.</p> <p>Cllr Etheridge also asked that Blackwood Town Council should be consulted on the report can this be added to the report please, and is opposed to the recommendation in the report</p>	<p>The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.</p> <p>That Notice of Motion was not supported by Cabinet and related to the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy it has not been added to this report.</p> <p>The service has kept staff updated regarding the decision making process.</p> <p>This is addressed in paragraph 5.12 of the report.</p> <p>Consultation with Blackwood Town Council is addressed in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of the report and also Appendix 3.</p>

12.3 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Consultees: Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Mike Adams, Pontllanfraith Ward Member
Councillor Colin Gordon, Pontllanfraith Ward Member
Councillor Gez Kirby, Pontllanfraith Ward Member
Councillor Nigel Dix, Blackwood Ward Member
Councillor Kevin Etheridge, Blackwood Ward Member
Councillor Andrew Farina-Childs, Blackwood Ward Member
Councillor Kevin Dawson, Pengam Ward Member
Councillor David Poole, Pengam Ward Member
Councillor Vincent James, Maesycwmmmer Ward Member
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Ynysddu Ward Member
Councillor John Ridgewell, Ynysddu Ward Member
Councillor Denver Preece, Abercarn Ward Member
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Abercarn Ward Member
Councillor Adrian Hussey, Newbridge Ward Member
Councillor Leeroy Jeremiah, Newbridge Ward Member
Councillor Gary Johnston, Newbridge Ward Member
Councillor Roy Saralis, Penmaen Ward Member
Councillor Ben Zaplatynski, Penmaen Ward Member
Corporate Management Team
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director for Communities
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer
Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager
Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Services Development Manager
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education, Planning, Strategy and Resources
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property
James Williams, Solicitor
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer
Shaun Watkins, HR Manager
Liz Sharma, Consultation and Public Engagement Officer

Background Papers:

- Report to Cabinet 20th September 2017 – “Proposals to commence a consultation exercise to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 1st November 2017 – “Consultation with respect to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 12th December 2017 – “Outcome of consultation on the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Cabinet 13th December 2017 – “The future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 18th January 2018 – “Consideration of call-in request – Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Cabinet 28th March 2018 – “Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre – Consideration of the call-in in the context of the leisure review” and relevant minute of meeting.

- Report to Cabinet 14th November 2018 – “Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29” and relevant minute of meeting

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Original Consultation Analysis Report
- Appendix 2 Consultation response from Offices of the Children’s Commissioner & Future Generations Commissioner and Breakdown of Youth Forum response to consultation
- Appendix 3 Consultation response from Blackwood Town Council November 2017
- Appendix 4 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre extract from the consultation on the draft Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29
- Appendix 5 Equalities Impact Assessment