



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30TH OCTOBER 2012

SUBJECT: INVESTMENTS IN LEISURE FACILITIES

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Scrutiny Committee of a number of investments that are planned to the Authority's Leisure Facilities during the current year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Authority currently provides an extensive range of outdoor (parks, playgrounds and sports grounds) and indoor (Leisure Centres) sport and recreation facilities.
- 2.2 The Leisure industry is changing in terms of customer demand and our provision of facilities, services and initiatives needs to change to meet this demand.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The need to get more of the population active has recently been underlined in the report of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales where inactivity is a key contributory factor to poor health within the County Borough. Caerphilly County Borough's sport and recreation facilities play an important role in delivering corporate objectives for Health/Wellbeing, Education and Regeneration.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As stated above, there is a need for our leisure provision to change in order to meet modern customer demands, and maximise income from high customer throughput areas.
- 4.2 In this regard, individual Leisure Managers have provided ideas for investments in facilities across the County Borough, which will improve the customer experience. These investments are as follows:-
- (i) New Tredegar Leisure Centre – Installation of Indoor 3G training surface for football and Rugby (cost £20,000 - £25,000);
 - (ii) Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre – Purchase and installation of interactive water features, play zone and slides for pool (cost circa £20,000);

- (iii) Aberbargoed Ward – installation of modular changing room to bring former sports field (former Bedwellty School Site) back into beneficial use (cost £20,000 -£30,000);
- (iv) Newbridge, Pontllanfraith and Risca Leisure Centres – installation of power plates to fitness suites in each centre (cost circa £28,000);
- (v) Risca Leisure Centre – conversion of tennis courts to floodlit 3G area capable of hosting power league football programme (cost circa £35,000);

4.3 As can be seen from the items above, significant improvements in facilities to improve the customer experience will be achieved for a fairly modest total sum (total £120,000 - £140,000).

4.4 In addition to the service delivery items above, capital asset management investment is planned at 2 of the Authority's Leisure Centres to undertake structural alterations with the aim of improving the facilities for customers. These investments include:-

- Redesign of the reception at Newbridge Leisure Centre (to overcome significant problems with the existing design which is not fit for purpose);
- Conversion of the Bar area at Risca Leisure Centre to usable leisure space that will enable additional leisure services to be offered which will generate additional income.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied. The planned investments will however benefit many different groups in the community.

5.2 Further, all Leisure centres are subject to DDA related Building Regulations, covering physical access such as ramps, reception areas and access to facilities, as well as external and internal signage, and the redesign at Newbridge noted in 4.4 above for example will deliver equalities-related service improvements.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The service delivery items listed in 4.2 above can be funded from the brought forward Community and Leisure Services reserve.

6.2 The structural alterations outlined in 4.4 above can be funded from the asset management capital budget allocated for leisure facilities.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

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