

Leisure Centre Offer 2024-2025 Recommendations/Comments from Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 5th December 2023

The Committee:

- (i) Stressed the importance of:
 - Ensuring sustainability for the future and building headroom into the budget to respond to future challenges, such as a rise in energy costs.
 - The development of a forward plan for future capital investment across all sites.
 - Systems to ensure oversight by the Council and early identification of any future funding issues.
 - Developing and building upon the relationships and partnerships that have been established with community groups and other stakeholders in order to; maximise the possibilities for external funding opportunities and fundraising, and explore all options in respect of the future model, including pricing structure.
 - Effective communication with residents about the benefits of retaining the current partnership model and to ensure understanding of the issues and the implications of the proposals.
 - Establishing a timetable for the establishment of the future model.
 - The recognition that the facilities provided contribute to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Kirklees and have a positive impact in terms of social connectivity.
- (ii) Acknowledged the significant response to the consultation and the work undertaken to analyse the responses, and welcomed the proposed review to identify any lessons learned for future Council consultations.
- (iii) Recognised the benefits of fundraising by community groups being directed towards supporting capital projects.
- (iv) Noted:
 - That a future plan for physical activity across Dewsbury is to be developed and the feasibility of keeping dry-side facilities at Dewsbury Sports Centre will be explored, whilst balancing the sustainability of the whole of the model. It is recommended that timescales for this work should be put in place.
 - That Deighton Sports Arena will remain open, and continue to be operated by KAL, in the short term so that options to maintain community access to the facility can be explored.

- That the position in respect of the revised treatment of VAT for leisure centres is to be explored.
- The re-modelling of finances undertaken by KAL to increase income.