

# Chichester District Council

CABINET

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## Supporting our Leisure Centres

### 1. Contacts

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### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **To note the current financial support to Everyone Active under the Urgent Decision Notice procedure reported to Cabinet and Council in May.**
- 2.2 **To recommend to Council that any further extension of support during the closure and recovery phase, up to a maximum of the current monthly amount, be delegated to the Director of Growth and Place in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Services and Culture.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The government closed all Leisure Centres from the evening of Friday 20 March. Since then we have been working closely with the leisure contractor Sport and Leisure Management Ltd (trading as Everyone Active) who have furloughed all staff at the three leisure centres with the exception of 3.66 FTE staff. These remaining staff are completing building checks and are opening up the facility at Westgate for the Nursery operator to continue to provide places for key worker childcare provision. They are also carrying out essential maintenance so the three leisure centres are in the best possible position to be able to open once the government allows them to do so.
- 3.2 Under the urgent decision notice procedure reported to May 2020 Cabinet and Full Council, the Council have agreed to support Everyone Active during this difficult time.

### 4 Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The Leisure contract plays an important role in ensuring the mental and physical wellbeing and social connectedness of our local community. Public Health England reports that regular physical activity can reduce the risk of many chronic conditions,

including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions. Engagement in leisure activities also contributes strongly to mental wellbeing, by allowing people to be active and to connect with others.

- 4.2 The services provided by the leisure contract will be even more important during the recovery phase, supporting communities to return to fitness, activity and mental wellbeing as well as providing local employment.
- 4.3 If the leisure sector is not sustained through this crisis, the re-mobilisation of the leisure service will be significantly affected, with facilities unable to open and clubs and voluntary organisations unable to re-start activities for communities.

## **5 Proposal**

- 5.1 To support Everyone Active during this difficult time to ensure the continuation of the leisure service provision moving forward over the remaining 6 years of the leisure contract. The contract also has the provision for the option of plus 5 years at the end of the contract.
- 5.2 Continue to review the financial position of the leisure contractor and operate on an open book policy to ensure the transparency in costs for the Chichester District Contract.
- 5.3 To give delegated authority to the Director of Growth and Place to agree future support offered to Everyone Active, up to a maximum of the current monthly amount of approximately £65k, following consultation and agreement with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture.

## **6 Alternatives Considered**

- 6.1 The other option available is not to offer support to the leisure contractor which may result in the leisure contractor terminating its contract with the council due to the inability to cover on going costs. This would result in significant additional costs to the Council through re-procurement, TUPEing staff, or establishing new delivery mechanisms.

## **7 Resource and Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Under the urgent decision notice the Council have to date agreed to cancel the leisure contract management fee and capital fees from March-June. The capital fees will be repaid to the council over the remaining years of the contract.
- 7.2 The Council have also agreed to cover the costs of 3.66fte staff and building costs from April to June. The building costs have been reduced significantly to cover essential contracts and services only.
- 7.3 The Council normally pays Everyone Active on a monthly basis for car parking refunds given to their customers who pay to park in the Westgate car park whilst using the leisure centre. Due to the centre being closed and car parking currently be free, no refunds are being given which results in a saving to the leisure budget.

7.4 The estimated costs and loss of income for the council for the leisure contract during this period of closure is approximately £65k per month.

## 8 Consultation

8.1 Ongoing consultation has taken place with the Leader of the Council, The Leader of the opposition Party and Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Culture since the initial request from Everyone Active.

8.2 UK Active have produced a framework for the re-opening of gyms, leisure centres and wider fitness industry during social distancing. The framework has been developed in full partnership with the major fitness and leisure operators, and has been reviewed by leading medical experts. It has also been informed by best practice from international markets where governments are at different stages of managing the COVID-19 crisis.

## 9 Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 If the leisure contractor is unable to continue with the contract there will be significant additional costs to the Council through re-procurement, TUPEing staff, or establishing new delivery mechanisms.

9.2 This would also result in facilities remaining closed for a longer period and will add to the negative impact on the social and health benefits to communities at a time when these will be most needed.

## 10 Other Implications

	Yes	No
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	X	
<b>Climate Change and Biodiversity</b>		X
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>	X	
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		X
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>		X
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	X	
<b>Other</b> (please specify)		

## 11 Appendices

11.1 None

## 12 Background Papers

12.1 Leisure Impact Assessment

12.2 UK Active - Covid-19- A framework for the re-opening of gyms, leisure centres and wider fitness industry during social distancing