

AUDIT WALES: REVIEW OF LEISURE – PROGRESS UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide background information to Members to aid their scrutiny of progress in implementing the improvement proposals made by Audit Wales in their Review of Leisure Services (2020) report.

Background

2. In December 2020, Audit Wales released their investigation report on Leisure Services in Cardiff. The full Audit Wales report is attached at **Appendix 1**, with the Council's full response attached at **Appendix 2**. The Audit Wales report contains several proposals for improvement, focused on:
 - i) Setting clear priorities for leisure services
 - ii) Reviewing the contract with GLL to ensure it supports delivery of these priorities
 - iii) Strengthening Council contract management arrangements to ensure the contract provides value for money
 - iv) Strengthening Council performance management to ensure the contract is sustainable.

Progress Update

3. Attached at **Appendix 3** is an update on progress in implementing the proposals for improvement, all of which were accepted by the Council. This shows:
 - i) A Strategy has been drafted and tested with stakeholders
 - ii) Local Partnerships has been engaged to carry out a full review covering:
 - o Potential for partnership and collaboration
 - o Current governance and contract management arrangements, including client management and monitoring
 - o Sustainability of the contract and e
 - o Effectiveness of service specification.

Way Forward

4. Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member – Culture and Leisure) will be invited to make a statement. Neil Hanratty (Director of Economic Development) and Steve Morris (Operational Manager – Sport & Leisure) will also attend to answer Members' questions on the proposals.

Legal Implications

5. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

6. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report, its appendices and the information presented at the meeting
- ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations, or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter, and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

7 December 2021