



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



# **Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee**

## **23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**

### **Leisure Review Report**

Chris Hadfield - Operational Manager (Leisure)  
Sarah Stork – Leisure Client Manager



**#GweithioDrosGaerdydd**  
**#GweithioDrosochChi**

**#WorkingForCardiff**  
**#WorkingForYou**



STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER



## Current Leisure Industry Challenges

### Swim Wales

Nearly a third of the 500 public swimming pools in Wales could close due to high energy bills without additional financial support.

### Sport England

Sport England estimate that more than 1000 swimming pools have closed since 2010 due to raising costs of living, worldwide pandemic, aging facilities without the funds to renovate and spending cuts across local authorities.

### Sport England

The Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) provided a total of £80 million to local authorities in **England** as a support package for public leisure facilities with swimming pools.



#GweithioDrosGaerdydd  
#GweithioDrosochChi

#WorkingForCardiff  
#WorkingForYou



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



## Leisure Review - Purpose

- The purpose of the review of leisure provision was to undertake a high-level analysis of the overall leisure provision in the city to provide a view as to whether the supply was sufficient to meet demand
- The purpose of the leisure management options appraisal was to provide an assessment of the Council's existing leisure contract with GLL and of the alternative management models in order to identify a contingency option should the existing contract be terminated early



**#GweithioDrosGaerdydd**  
**#GweithioDrosochChi**

**#WorkingForCardiff**  
**#WorkingForYou**

## Leisure Review - Key Findings

### Review of Existing Leisure Provision

- “The quantity of **swimming provision** is on the whole satisfactory across the City.”
- “The quantity of **health and fitness provision** is more than adequate to meet demand.”
- “Overall, Cardiff compares favourably across these facility types with Swansea, Newport and Wrexham.”





**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



## Existing Contract Review

- “Existing Contract with GLL is robust.”

## Current Contract Performance

- “GLL’s current contract financial performance shows a significant deficit. It is therefore reasonable to assume this deficit is unsustainable for GLL in the long term, hence the need to consider the alternative options available.”
- “GLL has produced a Transformational Plan to reduce the deficit and improve quality of provision.”



**#GweithioDrosGaerdydd  
#GweithioDrosochChi**

**#WorkingForCardiff  
#WorkingForYou**



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



## Management Options Appraisal

Four management options were considered as being appropriate for the Council's leisure portfolio.

- Option A: Continuation of outsourcing (under a retendered contract)
- Option B: Bringing the service back in-house
- Option C: Creating a local authority trading company (Teckal)
- Option D: Creating a new leisure trust
- Recognition of the transformational plan as a vehicle for improving the sustainability of the contract



**#GweithioDrosGaerdydd  
#GweithioDrosochChi**

**#WorkingForCardiff  
#WorkingForYou**



STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER



## Management Options Appraisal

- Analysis shows that Option A would deliver the most favourable financial position to the Council. Then option C and D, and finally option B.
- Option A was identified as being the most financially beneficial, the simplest and quickest to implement, offering the greatest level of risk transfer and offer the greatest level of protection to the service from future budget constraints.
- The difference between option A and B was estimated to be circa £600,000 per annum.
- Should the Council's existing contract with GLL fail the most appropriate option to follow would be to retender the contract.
- Option A would take around 13 months from start to finish to implement.



#GweithioDrosGaerdydd  
#GweithioDrosochChi

#WorkingForCardiff  
#WorkingForYou



**STRONGER  
FAIRER  
GREENER**



**Questions?**



**#GweithioDrosGaerdydd  
#GweithioDrosochChi**

**#WorkingForCardiff  
#WorkingForYou**