



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 DECEMBER 2020
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 13
Subject	INTERIM REPORT OF THE TETBURY AND FAIRFORD LEISURE PROVISION TASK AND FINISH GROUP
Wards affected	Tetbury and Fairford
Accountable member	Cllr Jenny Forde, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Email: jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Andy Barge, Group Manager Strategic Support
Summary/Purpose	The Committee set up the Task and Finish Group to review the approach to leisure provision in Tetbury and Fairford and the future provision of facilities to meet current and future needs of residents.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<i>To note the report</i>
Corporate priorities	Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Consultation with Councillors and members of the communities of Fairford and Tetbury.

1. BACKGROUND

A position statement regarding Fairford and Tetbury leisure centres was presented to the Committee on 23 July 2019. As a result a Task and Finish group was set up due to concerns expressed by certain Councillors and residents of Tetbury and Fairford, following the decisions taken by the companies running the leisure facilities at the schools to close them in 2019. At the meeting on 28 July 2020, the Committee confirmed the composition of the group as being three Councillors and three Officers, and agreed the Terms of Reference.

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. The terms of reference which were presented to the meeting on 28 July 2020 set out two main questions which the group should have regard to:
- (a) What lessons might be learnt from the approach taken to leisure provision in Fairford and Tetbury since 2013, and;
 - (b) The future provision of facilities to meet current and future needs of residents.
- 2.2. The review was to have particular regard to whether the perceived benefits/objective/outcomes of that move had been achieved; and to make recommendations as appropriate, to the Committee.
- 2.3. Councillor Selwyn was appointed as Chair of the Group and an initial meeting with Councillor Andrews, and Officers: Group Manager, Strategic Support, Chief Accountant and Democratic Services, took place on Monday 14 September 2020 to brief Officers prior to an initial meeting of the Group.
- 2.4. The first meeting of the Group took place on 21 September 2020. At this meeting the discussion focused on the future work of the group, timelines and questions arising from the information gathered so far, in relation to the process of awarding the contracts to the schools in 2013, and to the closure in 2019. This first meeting also noted that a leisure facilities strategy had already been commissioned and its findings would inform the second of the two main questions.
- 2.5. Early conversations took place with Officers; the Group Manager, Commissioning and the Business Manager, Contracts, the Leisure Development Officer and Councillor Hirst, Ward Member for Tetbury Town Council and Councillor Andrews, Ward Member for Lechlade, Kempsford and Fairford South. Through these discussions further meetings were to be set up with a former Cabinet Member and other interested parties. At the time of writing this report, some discussions are still to take place.
- 2.6. Whilst the work of the group is still in progress, on investigating the process of placing the leisure centres with the schools and the future needs of the communities, a number of key themes are becoming clear (although no recommendations or resolutions have been concluded):

- (a) The robustness of the evaluation and any viability assessments made on the business plans submitted by the schools for these facilities to achieve a break even operating model and to protect the future of the services for local people;
- (b) The clearer presentation of the comparative options between the SLM provision for Fairford and Tetbury and the schools option, balancing financial cost and social cost;
- (c) The lack of community impact assessments to support the decision making process;
- (d) The monitoring and reporting of the terms of the grant agreements with the schools.

2.7. The final report will be presented to Committee on 23 February 2020.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. None

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1. There are no risks arising out of this interim report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)

6.1. There are no equalities implications arising from this interim report.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

7.1. There are no climate and ecological implications arising from this interim report.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1. No alternative options are necessary for this interim report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None