

 <b>COTSWOLD</b> DISTRICT COUNCIL	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>COUNCIL – 14 JULY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 08</b>
Subject	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND CABINET – TETBURY AND FAIRFORD LEISURE PROVISION TASK AND FINISH GROUP</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Joe Harris, Leader of the Council Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
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Summary/Purpose	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a Task and Finish Group for Groups to review the approach taken to leisure provision in Tetbury and Fairford and establish any lessons learnt. Cabinet considered these key lessons learnt on 7 June 2021 and subsequently recommend them to Council to support future commissioning and procurement activity.
Annexes	None
Recommendations	That Council agree recommendations one to six and note the commentary at section five regarding future leisure provision.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard</li> <li>• Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and well-being</li> </ul>
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No

## **I. BACKGROUND**

- I.1.** An Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group (hereafter referred to as the Group) was set up out of concern of 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.
- I.2.** The terms of reference set out two main questions that 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.
- I.3.** Given that, subsequent to the Group's established terms of reference, Cabinet commissioned a leisure strategy, which includes the scope of the future provision of facilities to meet current and future needs of residents, the Group did not undertake any work on the second line of inquiry.
- I.4.** A copy of the full report, agenda item 9 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 May 2021, can be viewed on the Council's website at the following link:

[Tetbury and Fairford Leisure Provision Task and Finish Group](#)

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LESSONS LEARNT**

- 2.1.** The recommendations are set out below. These are the key lessons Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked Cabinet to note and they align to one of this Council's principles – rebuilding trust and confidence in the council by promoting a culture of openness and transparency:
  - 1. Clear service requirements and desired outcomes need to guide all procurement and service delivery decisions, so that there is a robust process to evaluate quality, viability, social value and community impact, in addition to financial cost.
  - 2. Strategic needs analysis should be used to bring objectivity to good commissioning decision making, so that the desired outcomes are delivered sustainably.
  - 3. The robustness of cost : quality assessments brought to formal procurement evaluations should apply equally to other commissioning routes, so that risks, quality, viability and efficiencies are all considered as part of the due diligence process.
  - 4. Reports to Members should explicitly frame alternative options and the associated risks, costs and benefits so that a clearer understanding between cost and social value informs their decisions.
  - 5. Any significant proposed changes to service provision (or policy decisions) should be subject to an impact assessment, so that any potentially positive or negative impacts are understood, as well as presenting an opportunity to better involve stakeholders in our decision making process.

6. Formal monitoring of relevant grant agreements should be undertaken in conjunction with finance, so that any concerns over financial viability of a service can be identified at the earliest opportunity.

### **3. WHAT IS ALREADY IN PLACE TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS?**

- 3.1. There are a range of mechanisms in place to support and assure the recommendations arising from the Task and Finish Group's work and these include:
  - A. The high level commissioning statement approved by Cabinet January 2020 which sets out the role of Chief Executive as the Council's lead commissioner and the role Publica will take in relation to any new commissioning activity.
  - B. A Publica commissioning and procurement board, which includes the Council's Deputy Chief Executive, to oversee all commissioning and procurement activity.
  - C. A commissioning and procurement user guide, supplemented by commissioning and procurement training.
  - D. Social value is included in all tender documents.
  - E. A contract monitoring team in place for high value contracts.
  - F. Report writing training to support officers in framing alternative options and the associated risks, costs and benefits.
  - G. A refreshed equality and diversity policy approved by Cabinet in April 2021 covering the need for impact assessments to be completed for any new policy decisions or significant proposed changes to service provision.
  - H. An equalities implications section added to Council and committee reports template.

### **4. OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITY TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1. Planned activity to respond to the lessons learnt includes:
  - A. A revised procurement strategy that will include a section on social value.
  - B. A transparency and quality of decision-making project, which will build on the report writing training.

### **5. FUTURE LEISURE PROVISION TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS**

- 5.1. Paragraph 5.7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report references the leisure strategy, which Cabinet approved on [1 March 2021 – agenda item 8](#).
- 5.2. This strategy identified a need for informal community spaces and centres in order to provide a range of opportunities for physical activity and sport - particularly in the rural areas of the district. It suggests retaining existing facilities and where new housing developments takes place we should consider the provision of additional community facilities, or refurbishment of existing, in order to encourage greater participation in physical activity using enhanced partnerships. The focus groups held in Fairford and Tetbury to develop the strategy echoed this view.
- 5.3. One product of the strategy is recommendations for key service and facility interventions. Cabinet is developing action plans for these recommended interventions and will consider these action plans in the autumn. The interventions will be used to try and secure investment and will likely include a focus on existing community assets, active environments – the places and spaces around us which can have a positive or negative impact on whether, how, when, and where we stay active - and consider peoples' changed behaviours to physical activity as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 5.4. As an example of bringing about further behaviour change, 'We Can Move' is a social movement to get everybody in Gloucestershire active. It is a whole system approach that this Council is part of, coordinated by Active Gloucestershire and considers peoples' daily lives to find ways to be physically active.
- 5.5. Similarly, in February this year we launched Crowdfund Cotswold to help fund important local projects, originating from community groups, many of which bring about ways for people to be more active. To date, this Council has pledged £72,000 to boost 13 projects towards their crowdfunding targets, from a total of £110,000 committed to this initiative in partnership with Spacehive – the UK's leading civic crowdfunding platform. These pledges include Tetbury bowls club, Cotswold Lakes Trust Perch Pod and Avening zip wire.
- 5.6. In line with other districts across the county, Cotswold District Council has received £100,000 grant funding from Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to work with the local Integrated Locality Partnership, and others, to build on our community focussed work to reduce health inequalities. Our community wellbeing team will lead this work and collaboration with voluntary and community sector organisations and our communities will feature heavily. The scheme will work in partnership with 'We Can Move' and we will involve residents and relevant community groups in its development and implementation.
- Through this work, we will develop a dedicated physical activity pathway for Cotswold residents to make it as easy as possible to become more active, especially for those who need it most and including patients with a long-term condition (LTC). The aim is to increase the number community-based physical activity opportunities across the district, including specialist exercise classes for LTC patients and community-led activities by using existing assets (facilities, green open spaces etc.). The project is likely to start in the autumn and will last for up to 3 years initially.
- 5.7. Over the past 18 months, dedicated community-led health and wellbeing initiatives have emerged in Tetbury and Fairford/Lechlade/Kempsford areas. 'Working for Wellbeing' in Fairford and Lechlade is aiming to improve local peoples' health and wellbeing by working in partnership, engaging with the local community, providing community activities and signposting to relevant services.
- Tetbury Health and Wellbeing Committee and Working Group, led by Tetbury Town Council, is also taking a holistic view on improving peoples' health and wellbeing through community engagement, community-led initiatives and signposting. Both groups have recently employed a health and wellbeing coordinator to drive local initiatives. The Council has been working in close partnership with both groups and will continue to do so in future to support and enable local initiatives and to collaborate on specific projects.

## **6. FINANCIAL COMMENTARY**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1. No significant risks identified specific to this report.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1.** Not required for this report, but it does contain a recommendation that reinforces the need for any significant proposed changes to service provision (or policy decisions) to be subject to an impact assessment.

## **10. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1.** There are no climate change or ecological emergency implications arising immediately from this report.

## **11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 11.1.** Council can choose not to accept one or more of the recommendations.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1.** None identified.