

Actions arising from previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 May 2024

Outstanding Actions			
Meeting date	Minute	Action Owner	Update
30 January	Fees and Charges - response would be provided on specific fees and charges e.g. crematorium	Deputy Chief Executive	Deputy Chief Executive to provide update during meeting.
Closed Actions			
Meeting date	Minute	Action Owner	Update
27 February	OS.52 written responses to public questions	Assistant Director - Business Services	Responses sent to members of the public
27 February	OS.50 The Chair stated that the Committee resolved to track progress made with GWR following the meeting and asked that this be added to the action tracker.	Chief Executive	Chief Executive has been put in touch with Business Development Director and Regional Development Manager for the North Cotswolds line to maintain communication.
28 November	OS.10 The Democratic Services Officer added that Member training had been arranged on Biodiversity Net Gain and Retrofitting Historic Buildings but was not aware of decarbonisation training, and would follow this up with the Head of Climate Action.	Forward Planning Manager/ Democratic Services Officer	Delivered.
30 January	Written response from Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to Member Question from Councillor Angus Jenkinson	Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture, Business Manager for Leisure and Wellbeing	Response sent.
30 January	Response Related to Leisure Update item	Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and	See below.

Response from Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture for Leisure and Wellbeing and further information on Leisure item

Referring to report pack link below:-

<https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/g2125/Public%20reports%20pack%2030th-Jan-2024%2016.00%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

1. Members discussed that references to bowls were not made in the strategy despite being a popular sport in the Cotswolds. The Cabinet Member stated that this was due to Sports England classification, and stated that a written explanation would be recirculated to Members.
2. Members asked for the costs for the capital programme of work, including figures on the capital fund required to complete works and the quotes that were behind target on page 25 of the report.
3. Members requested further detail on the 14 projects within Crowdfund Cotswold.

Responses

Q1: Members discussed that references to bowls were not made in the strategy despite being a popular sport in the Cotswolds. The Cabinet Member stated that this was due to Sports England classification, and stated that a written explanation would be recirculated to Members.

Bowling greens weren't included in the Playing Pitch Strategy as non-pitch facilities, such as bowls and tennis are assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand, to that used for pitch sports (e.g. football, rugby, cricket and hockey).

Officers have received no indications from bowls clubs or participants that additional green provision is needed in the district, therefore focus should be on increasing participation and improving or maintaining the current stock of bowling greens in the district.

An analysis of current supply of outdoor bowling green provision, through the Bowls England platform, indicates there are nine flat bowling greens in Cotswold District. Suggesting there is sufficient provision to meet both current and future demands, as this figure is comparable to

other rural districts of Cotswold's size. Officers will continue to review the situation and will happily support clubs to explore aspirations in the form of facility development to ensure they can accommodate the existing membership but also future demand.

Recommendations from officers

- Retain existing quantity of greens currently used for outdoor bowls.
- Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements (e.g. identifying funding sources)
- Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.

Q2: Members asked for the costs for the capital programme of work, including figures on the capital fund required to complete works and the quotes that were behind target on page 25 of the report.

Pg21 Section 4.5. Report states 'Capital programme of works to support the implementation of the new Leisure Management Contract, which include improvements to Cirencester and Bourton Leisure Centres.'

Q. Are there any detailed costs available for this?

Response: The Capital works are currently out to tender following design sign off in January 2024. The proposed works include new poolside play areas, new studio flooring, changing room refurbishments, a cycling studio and wellbeing gym for Cirencester, and a fully accessible changing room for Bourton. Full financial details of the final tender that is accepted can be made available but will not be shared publicly due to their commercial sensitivity. In delivering this project on behalf of Cotswold District Council, Freedom Leisure are tasked with staying within the allotted budget within the Capital Programme of £1.2M

Pg23 Section 5.9 Report states (highlight was the element referred to)

'However, the condition of the showers has proven to be so unreliable that this item of work had to be brought forward - which led to the SPSF bid option being compromised as the works need completing before an award has been made. The Council will still engage Freedom Leisure to complete the works using the Capital fund, but the timeframe needed to be shorter to minimise complaints'

Q. How Much?

Response: As stated in the report, this section only refers to shower replacements brought forward to improve the service. The cost for this was £9k, this sum was included in the overall Capital works package and will subsequently be a part of the allotted budget of £1.2M

Question 3: Members requested further detail on the 14 projects within Crowdfund Cotswold.

Pg25 Section 5.18 Report States (highlight was the element referred to)

'In financial terms, the start of the mobilisation period has been **slightly behind the target set in Freedom Leisure's bid**. This has been influenced by a number of factors including:

- Starting numbers were lower than anticipated because of the exit approach from the previous contractor. There is always a risk when an incumbent contractor knows they will not be the future contract provider, that they reduce their proactive efforts to boost memberships and maintain or improve service levels.
- Memberships are close to expectations but there is a slightly lower yield, which causes a small shortfall in the income.

Q. Report says that the original quotes that won Freedom Leisure the contract, we are behind in terms of meeting those targets. How far behind are we?

Response: This section refers to the income being received by Freedom Leisure. At the time of compiling the report we had data from Q1 available (Aug to Oct 2023) Please see table below and accompanying commentary from FL.

Freedom Leisure Cotswold Contract Summary			
August 2023 to October 2023	Actual 3m	Bid 3m	Bid 8m
Income	818,641	928,226	2,475,270
Expenditure	868,263	928,226	2,475,270
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(49,622)	0	0

Commentary

- £109k off bid income.

- Starting numbers were much lower than anticipated because of the exit approach from Everyone Active
- Member units are near expectations, but yield is significantly lower, hence gap on income.
- Membership category and eligibility review in place
- Confident of income recovery, November showed positive growth.
- Inclusive of £40k mobilisation costs

Q3: The table below shows details of all Crowdfund Cotswold projects focusing on reducing inactivity in its broadest sense.

Organisation	Spacehive URL	Target	Total Raised, inc overfunding
Tetbury Bowls Club	https://www.spacehive.com/tetbury-bowls-accessible-toilet	£19,958	£20,994
Naunton Parish Council	https://www.spacehive.com/nauntonplayground	£29,209	£29,516
Down Ampney Parish Council	https://www.spacehive.com/down-ampney-childrens-playground	£37,654	£37,660
Ernest Wilson Memorial Garden Trust	https://www.spacehive.com/wilsongarden	£9,337	£9,347
Avening Parish Council	https://www.spacehive.com/avening-zip-wire	£10,478	£10,479
Into Nature CIC	https://www.spacehive.com/intonaturecic	£4,910	£4,896
Kingham to Bourton Recreational Trail	https://www.spacehive.com/kingham-to-bourton-recreational-trail	£7,585	£7,570
Quenington Parish Council	https://www.spacehive.com/creating-wildlife-areas	£1,809	£1,829



Tetbury Cricket Club	https://www.spacehive.com/tetburycricketclub	16813	£16,817
Ampney Crucis Playground Committee	https://www.spacehive.com/ampney-crucis-playground-appeal	29231	£29,302
Meysey Hampton Playing Fields	https://www.spacehive.com/Meysey-Hampton-New-play-equipment	38280	£38,354
Moreton in Marsh Croquet Club	https://www.spacehive.com/Get-Moreton-Croquet-a-clubhouse	26811	£26,909
Fairford Town Council	https://www.spacehive.com/skateparkfairford	98464	£103,248
Bledington Parish Council	https://www.spacehive.com/bledington-playground-appeal	29857	£29,889

£360,396 **£366,810**