



REPORT of THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

to
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
4 DECEMBER 2025

MEMBER SCRUTINY REQUEST: COUNCILLOR E L STEPHENS – LEISURE CONTRACT POST-IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of its initial assessment of this scrutiny request.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receives this report of the Working Group's initial assessment and adds this request to its scrutiny workplan to enable further scrutiny to be undertaken in the form of a Post Implementation / Performance Review involving all relevant stakeholders to cover the following points:

- defining the scope
- selecting the Procurement contractor
- decision on whether to go ahead, or re-run the procurement
- communications

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A scrutiny item request has been submitted by Councillor E L Stephens as reflected in the proforma at **APPENDIX A**. This request focuses on the need for a Post-Implementation Review (PIR) of this contract and was assessed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group (the Working Group) alongside the separate scrutiny request by Councillor A M Lay regarding communications and messaging associated with the new contract. That aspect is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.
- 3.2 In the Working Group's discussion, it was suggested that there should be a scrutiny PIR possibly being informed by separate reports from at least both Members and Officers. Through this, a clearer understanding of the procurement process would be gained together with an appreciation of the respective positions of Members and Officers and what the Council sought to achieve from the outset. The loss of the sports hall was not foreseen and proved to be contentious with the public, which had impacted on Members.
- 3.3 The Working Group noted the objective of encouraging investment over the lifetime of the contract for the betterment of the condition of the assets. A wider demographic would benefit from enhancement of what had been an under-utilised facility with greater income then being received. It was evident that while there were lessons that

could be learned around communications and messaging around the loss of the sports hall, there was only one affected group that appeared disgruntled with all others having been satisfactorily relocated.

- 3.4 The Working Group gained the clear impression that Members were still of the view that there was at least the perception that something had gone wrong with communication, and that scrutiny could now be used as a critical friend to help similar processes in the future and make them more reactive. While the two scrutiny requests raised separate issues, the communications/messaging element could be concluded quite quickly and the outcomes/conclusions informing the proposed PIR.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Working Group has made an initial assessment of this scrutiny request and has concluded that the Committee should be recommended to add this item to its scrutiny workplan for further detailed review in the form of a PIR of the Leisure Contract.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027

5.1 Provide good quality services

- 5.1.1 Thorough scrutiny processes support improved performance and efficiency which in turn will contribute to the quality of services provided, and functions undertaken by the Council.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Individual scrutiny reviews will enable the impact on customers to be assessed. The subject of this particular scrutiny request directly relates to the experience of customers of leisure facilities provided on behalf of the Council.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Equalities are considered as part of the reporting on review work undertaken by Officers.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Scrutiny reviews enable potential Corporate Risks to the organisation and their mitigation to be identified.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Scrutiny reviews offer the potential for an assessment of financial impact to the organisation.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Scrutiny reviews offer the potential for an assessment of any resource impact to the organisation.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution/Local Government Re-organisation** – None.

Background Papers: None.

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