

**13 June 2018**

**Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

**Leisure Strategy Progress Report**

**Report of:** *Kim Anderson - Partnership, Leisure & Funding Manager/Working Group Lead Officer*

**Wards Affected:** *All*

**This report is:** *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a progress since the last Leisure Strategy Working Group for consideration by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Note the Progress Report and that any comments from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee are submitted to the Community, Health and Housing Committee on 3 July 2018 for their consideration.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Leisure Strategy Working Group was established in August 2017 to review the following areas of the Council's leisure and cultural provision.

This was split into three key areas of work. These workstreams allow for a flexible approach for delivery of Leisure Strategy.

The three workstreams are:-

- a) King George's Playing Fields and Warley Playing Fields
- b) Play areas and Sport Pitches
- c) Brentwood Centre and Community Halls

- 3.2 The purpose of the review was to ensure that the Leisure Strategy delivers Value for Money, provides a sustainable and fit for purpose leisure provision for the residents of Brentwood by:
- a) Reducing revenue and capital expenditure to Brentwood Borough Council in its leisure facilities
  - b) Increase capital investment in leisure facilities
  - c) Explore alternative operational management opportunities
  - d) Reduce the risk to the Council
  - e) Increased sport and leisure participation in Brentwood
- 3.3 A Value for Money Review and Options appraisal was undertaken by 4Global in 2016 to evaluate the options and future provision and operational management of the Brentwood Centre, community halls, play areas and Hartswood Golf Course. The report was circulated to all Members in June 2017. There were a number of recommendations within their report, and while the Council does not necessarily accept all of them, officers would need to identify any areas that required further clarification or investigation before submitting any future recommendations back to Members.
- 3.4 A separate piece of work is also being finalised by consultants to look at the play pitch provision across the borough and a built facilities strategy which are due to completed by June 2018.
- 3.5 Since the last meeting of the Leisure Strategy Working Group (6 November 2017), a verbal update was provided to the Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee on 19 March 2018 which is set out at **Appendix A**.
- 3.6 Further to that update in March, further progress has been in relation to the Leisure Strategy. Alliance Leisure Services have now been appointed to develop a sustainable business plan for King George's Playing Fields. A project brief has been agreed with some key desirables for the site and an update on progress is due to take place on 25 June 2018. Consultations with key stakeholders is currently taking place.
- 3.7 Wider consultation on King George's Playing Fields will take at the Council's Strawberry Fair event on 16 June 2018.
- 3.8 The consultation for the draft Leisure Strategy has now closed and feedback from respondents will be included in the final version which will come back to Community Health and Housing Committee on 3 July for Member consideration.

- 3.9 The refurbishment of the play area in Warley Playing Fields is progressing well and the official opening is planned for 10 July 2018. Pupils from Warley Primary School, Butterfly Montessori, together with residents of Gibraltar House have been invited to attend a mini family fun day to celebrate. Once agreed the Working Group report will be submitted to Community, Health and Housing Committee for consideration on 3 July 2018. A separate piece of work is being undertaken for the installation of an outdoor gym with a contribution from the Brentwood Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.10 A separate Play Area Strategy is due to come to Community Health and Housing Committee on 3 July for Member consideration.

#### **4 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 To ensure that options within each of those strands are fully examined, reviewed and prioritised and that the Leisure Strategy delivers Value for money is sustainable and meets the needs of Brentwood residents.

#### **5 References to Corporate Plan**

- 5.1 The vision of Transformation includes an action to improve the Council's governance arrangements, leading to faster, more effective decision-making. An effective scrutiny function is an essential element of that priority.

#### **6 Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

**Name & Title:** Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Interim Chief Finance Officer  
S151 Officer

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

##### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title:** Daniel Toohey, Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services

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

#### **7 Background Papers**

- 7.1 4Global Report. This report was circulated in June 2017. If Members require an electronic copy of this report, please contact the author of this report.

## **8 Appendices to this report**

Appendix A – Verbal update to Corporate Projects Scrutiny Committee, 19 March 2018

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