

25 July 2018

Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Leisure Strategy Working Group Report

Report of: *Phil Ruck, Chief Executive*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report submits the report and recommendations of the Leisure Strategy Working Group which met on 9 July 2018, for consideration by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee. The Members of the Working Group consists of the following Members: Cllrs Hossack, Poppy, Tierney, Davies and Barrett and they are supported by the following Officers: Philip Ruck, Kim Anderson and Stuart Anderson.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **To note the Leisure Strategy Working Group and agree the recommendations contained within and refer it to the 11 September Community Health and Housing Committee.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Leisure Strategy Working Group (LSWG) was established to inform and assist the Community, Health and Housing Committee in agreeing recommendations on each of the three phases (now revised to six workstreams) of the Leisure Strategy.
- 3.2 The LSWG will review the report submitted by 4Global which undertook a Value for Money Review and Options Appraisal of the Council's Leisure and Cultural facilities together with other relevant information and reports provided by officers and the agree the workplan and next steps for officers for each of the workstreams and inform recommendations that will come back to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Ensure that the Leisure Strategy delivers Value for Money, provides a sustainable and fit for purpose leisure provision for the residents of Brentwood by:

- Reduce revenue and capital expenditure to Brentwood Borough Council in its leisure facilities
 - Increase capital investment in leisure facilities
 - Explore alternative operational management opportunities
 - Reduce the risk to the Council
 - Increase sport and leisure participation in Brentwood
- 3.4 The focus in this report is the future development of King George's Playing Fields and Warley Playing Fields. It was noted by Members that the official opening of the play area in Warley Playing Fields would be on 10 July 2018.

4 Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 As part of the Council's due diligence in delivering a successful Leisure Strategy, Members and officers need to have a complete picture of the current associated costs, risk profiles of the Borough's Leisure facilities and identify opportunities for income generation.
- 4.2 Comments received from Sport England as part of the Local Development Plan consultation, stated that a Leisure Strategy is required that assesses Council owned sports and leisure facilities in order that the Council can continue to work with partners to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the residents of Brentwood. The strategy should not only consider how the Council can provide services, but also how other partners can. The strategy should also use current sports facility evidence to identify strategic priorities to then inform what will be included in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Following this feasibility work, the Council will then be able to determine which projects will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and those funded by planning obligations.
- 4.3 The Council's Asset Management Strategy 2014/15 also sets out the need to obtain maximise income where possible from its asset portfolio.

5 References to Corporate Plan

The Leisure Strategy sits under two main strands of the Vision for Brentwood 2016-19: Environment and Housing Management to develop a Leisure Strategy to provide strong and sustainable leisure facilities for residents and businesses; and Community and Health - to work with community and voluntary organisations to develop the priorities for community development. There are also strong links for the priorities of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-2017, the Local Development Plan, Active Brentwood/Essex and the Council's Asset Management Strategy 2014/15.

6 Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Deputy 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 & 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 None.

8 Appendices to this report

Appendix A – Leisure Strategy Working Group Report.

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