

REPORT TO THE FINAL ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE AND OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

Report No.10

Date of Meeting	07.04.08 (Final Accounts & Audit) & 03.06.08 (Overview & Scrutiny)
Title of Report	Audit Report on Leisure Services in North Wiltshire
Link to Corporate Priorities	All
Public Report	Yes

Summary of Report

To present to Members the Audit Inspection Report for Leisure Centres in North Wiltshire, as produced by the Audit Commission.

Officer Recommendations

1. That the report into North Wiltshire District Council's Leisure Services be noted.
2. Members agree to the recommendations as set out on page 11 section 1 & 2, with the exclusion of the second and third bullet points.
3. Wiltshire County Council is advised of the recommendations in section 3 relating to the future plan for managing leisure services across the County.
4. Members do not agree to the recommendations set out in section 2, bullet points 2 & 3 as these are community run facilities that are not subsidised by the Council and are run as individual bodies in their own right without any Council control or direct involvement.
5. That the Council ensures that any grant funding it considers for the community run facilities is conditional on the operators having in place appropriate procedures and policies the Council deems necessary including those set out in paragraph 23.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
None	None	None	None	None

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Inspection of North Wiltshire Leisure Services was undertaken by the Audit Commission to assess the performance of the Council's current management arrangement for leisure centres in North Wiltshire. Appendix 1 - provides an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council.

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Option 1: To note the contents of the report and agree to the recommendations as set out on page 11 section 1 & 2, with the exclusion of the second and third bullet points and that Wiltshire County Council be advised of the recommendations in section 3 relating to the future plan for managing leisure services across the County. **This is the preferred option.**
- 2.2 Option 2: To agree all recommendations set out within Section 1 & 2 and that Wiltshire County Council is advised of the recommendations in section 3 relating to the future plan for managing leisure services across the County.

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The main messages in the Audit Commission's report are:
- The Council is now providing strong leadership ensuring that the public are getting better value for their public leisure services.
 - The outsourcing arrangements from the former NWLL Leisure Trust to DC Leisure was rapid and led well by Senior Managers and Councillors, insuring the transition provided minimum disruption to customers.
 - The Council is reducing its overall expenditure whilst improving the quality of the facilities.
 - Improved performance measures need to be put in place to ensure value for money in comparison with other centres elsewhere.
 - Need to strengthen links between sports development and the Leisure centres.
 - The Council's run centres are now better maintained and managed.
 - Council's commitment to the wider agenda for Environmental sustainability
 - New contract with DCL is outcome focused which provides a sound basis on which to maintain and improve the service
 - Council's previous maintenance of the facilities was poor and capital improvements slow in progressing.
 - Lack of resources within ADR has delayed implementation of a number of improvements.
 - Council has put in measures to protect its future liabilities for losses incurred by the Community run facilities.

- New administration is providing strong financial monitoring of the performance of the new contractor and overall financial management is strong and improving.
- Arrangements with the County Council and Officers in looking at the longer terms issues regarding the management of the facilities are progressing well.

4. Risk Analysis

- 4.1 The Audit Commission assess risk to the Council in all their work. The main risk to the Council inherent in this report is that the Council needs to put in place clear policies and procedures regarding the community run facilities. The Council will undertake this by means of conditions set out in any grant funding agreements.

Appendices:	• Appendix 1. Audit Commissions Report
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	• None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
None		