



REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: EXECUTIVE

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**CONSULTATION on the PROVISION of LEISURE and
SPORTS FACILITIES in PENDLE**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek approval to the purpose, scope, development and carrying out of the proposed consultation, together with the timetable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the audit and consultation as outlined below be approved.
- (2) That a Working Group comprising two representatives of each political group, the Chief Executive of Pendle Leisure Trust, the Principal Sports and Leisure Development Officer and the Corporate Director be appointed to oversee and agree the details of the exercise.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable the Council to develop an informed strategy for the provision of sports and leisure facilities.

1. At The Budget Council meeting on 22nd February the Council passed the following motion:

Pendle Council notes with approval the decision of the Executive to reject the proposed changes at Pendle Leisure Centre and the request for funding from the Public Works Loan Board.

It notes the decision of the Council in October 2017 on the future provision of leisure centres and swimming pools in Pendle, and on a consultation with people and organisations in Pendle on the future provision of sports and leisure facilities, and requests the Executive to proceed with this work as a priority.

2. This report outlines the suggested purpose and scope of the consultation, together with how the consultation will be drawn up and carried out; and the timetable.
3. The proposal to carry out the consultation arises out of consideration of the financial challenges facing the Council and in particular the challenges for both the Council and the Leisure Trust in continuing to support and provide facilities in what is a discretionary area of spend.
4. It is also apparent that the current provision across the Borough has developed over the years in a rather ad hoc way; that some facilities are provided by other public and private organisations; that popularity and usage of different recreational activities varies over time; and that there are facilities outside the Pendle boundary which are convenient for residents to access.
5. The purpose of the consultation is therefore to provide an up to date and comprehensive audit of sports and leisure facilities available to Pendle residents and to ascertain the views of individuals and organisations as to their future provision. These will help to inform the development of a strategy which will in turn enable the Council and the Leisure Trust to identify priorities for future allocation of limited and diminishing resources.
6. The scope will cover facilities and provision located in the borough or within 20 minutes driving time of the borough boundary: whether free or paid for or requiring membership; whether open to all or just certain groups; whether outdoor or indoor; whether provided by the Council, Leisure Trust, schools, colleges, voluntary sector, town and parish councils, sports clubs or commercial organisations.
7. The range of leisure and sports activities extends from the very informal and casual to highly organised and structured activities with a level of perseverance and effort. To maintain focus on the purpose of the audit and consultation (paragraph 5 above) it will be necessary to keep the exercise within manageable bounds.
8. The Leisure Trust's role in operating the Municipal Hall and the ACE Centre means that the consultation extends to certain other organised leisure activities beyond the purely physical.
9. It will therefore include for example:
 - Leisure centres
 - Sports halls
 - Fitness centres/gyms
 - Swimming pools
 - Football, rugby, cricket and other sports pitches
 - Athletics provision
 - Cycling hubs
 - Golf courses
 - Tennis courts
 - Water based sports
 - Multi Use Games Areas
 - Facilities and activities in parks eg bowling greens
 - Organised keep fit activities
 - Softplay
 - Cinemas, theatres and other arts venues
 - Museums and galleries

10. And that It will **not** include for example:

- Parks and children's play areas (as the Council already has the Transfer of Facilities policy)
- Community centres and village halls as such (but will include organised physical activity classes held in them)
- Green spaces such as the canal towpath and open countryside including footpaths and bridleways (as these are largely for informal, unorganised activity)
- Libraries (as these are the responsibility of the County Council)

11. The proposed Working Group will consider and finalise the list.

12. The consultation with providers of facilities will take the form of an online survey with paper copies seeking their views on demand, future plans etc.

13. The consultation with members of the public will consist of an online survey with paper copies covering participation, demand, satisfaction levels, affordability, accessibility etc

14. Where possible interactive workshops with users groups will be held and also face to face interviews.

15. The consultation will be widely publicised via the Council and Leisure Trust's websites, press releases and social media posts and direct contact with organisations and groups.

16. Infusion Research will be engaged to advise on and help draw up and carry out the survey. It is suggested a small Member/Officer Working Group oversees this work and agrees the detailed scope.

17. The indicative broad timetable is :

Mid March – mid May draw up the audit and consultation

Mid May – mid July carry out the audit and consultation

Mid July – end August analysis of survey responses and drafting of strategy and report

September 20th -submission of report to Policy and Resources Committee

September 27th -Council approval of new strategy.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The exercise will enable the Council to develop a strategy for affordable provision of leisure and sports facilities which will encourage participation, improve health and enhance quality of life.

Financial: The exercise will help the Council make decisions on future spend on leisure and sports facilities. The cost of carrying out the survey will be met from the annual subscription paid to Infusion Research.

Legal: None arising from the report.

Risk Management: None arising from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising from the report.

Sustainability: None arising from the report.

Community Safety: None arising from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising from the report.