

**NOTE OF A CALL-IN MEETING
HELD ON 4th OCTOBER, 2021
VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
TO DISCUSS THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION
IN RESPECT OF INVESTMENT IN LEISURE FACILITIES**

PRESENT:

Councillors

D. Albin
M. Iqbal – Caller In
D. Whipp
T. Whipp – Caller In

In Attendance:

Philip Mousdale Corporate Director
Jane Watson Head of Democratic Services

1. INVESTMENT IN LEISURE FACILITIES

DECISION CALLED IN

At its meeting on the Policy and Resources Committee considered an item ‘Investment in Leisure Facilities.’ The minute is shown below and resulted in a Call-In Notice being submitted by Councillors T. Whipp, M. Adams and M. Iqbal.

- “(1) That it be noted that Pendle Leisure Trust would be financing the undertaking of a further detailed study on the provision of leisure facilities in Pendle, as set out in the report.
- (2) That the outcome of the study, referred to in (1) above, be reported to a subsequent meeting of this Committee once completed.
- (3) That an allocation of £136k (estimated total works of £121,000 plus fees) be agreed from the Pendle Leisure Trust reserve for investment in priority capital repairs to leisure facilities as follows -

Site	Works	Estimated Costs £
Pendle Leisure Centre	Roof replacement - Phase 1 £80k	80,000
Pendle Leisure Centre	Emergency Lighting failure to pool side - replace CBU	4,000
Pendle Leisure Centre	Minor works to car park/entrance pathway	3,500
Wavelengths	Minor works to car park surface and forecourt pavers	2,000
Wavelengths	Rebuild wall/fence and barrier to parapet boundary wall in service car park	19,000
West Craven Leisure Centre	Replace cladding to gym dormer frontage + installation of input/ extract to roof void to alleviate condensation issue	10,000

Marsden Golf Club	Entrance driveway - minor works to road surface	2,500
Fees		c15,000
Total		136,000

And that consideration be given to the remaining works set out at Appendix A of the report, following further discussions by the Budget Working Group and the outcome of the study by the Leisure Trust.”

REASON FOR CALL-IN

The agreement of £40,000 to be spent on a study looking at having just one leisure facility servicing both Colne and Nelson is perverse, given the Council’s policy to retain all three leisure centres. Approval for the study to be carried out should be cancelled. The cut in investment in repairs to £136,000 is detrimental to the future of the facilities and their successful operation.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION

The full amount of investment, as recommended in the report to Committee, should be carried out and the study to look at closing one of the two leisure centres should not be carried out and the freed-up funds be used to invest in the leisure centres.

DISCUSSION

Councillor D. Albin started by saying that the proposed review/study was broad ranging and not just for the leisure centres. It would also include other facilities which were run by the Leisure Trust. It was confirmed that if the review/study was not undertaken and a strategy not put in place then Sport England would not allocate any funding to the Leisure Trust in the future.

It was reported that a Project Steering Group was to be set up to co-inside with the review/study and membership would include three Borough Councillors and two Pendle Council officers.

Councillor D. Albin reported that he, along with three other Members of his Group had recently visited the Leisure Centres in the Borough along with the ACE Centre, Seedhill and Colne Municipal Hall and met with the respective managers. The reason for the visits was to look at the condition of the buildings/facilities and see what work was needed and to compile a list with a view to identifying priorities. It was suggested that this list be made available to the members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members were advised that an updated report was to be submitted to the next Policy and Resources Committee identifying additional areas where urgent work was needed in some of the Leisure Trust’s facilities.

AGREED

That this issue be considered further along with the updated report on the Investment in Leisure Facilities at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 14th October, 2021.