

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Lisa Arnold – Strategic Head of Service Community and Wellbeing, CES Management and Admin Support
Meeting	20 October 2022

INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW UP - MANAGEMENT OF LEISURE CENTRES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider a progress report on the recommendations made in the internal audit report of the Management of Leisure Centers issued on the 24 February 2022.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the actions being implemented to address the audit recommendations relating to the Management of Leisure Centre’s audit.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable Audit Committee to consider an update and progress report on the audit recommendations.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 N/a

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is community.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Leisure Services operate the three main leisure facilities strategically located in the north, central and south areas of Blackpool;

- Blackpool Sports Centre
- Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre

- Palatine Leisure Centre

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Leisure Services operates health and fitness facilities at all three of its leisure centres. The facilities include dedicated fitness studios including an Express Fitness EGYM suite at Blackpool Sports Centre, indoor cycling studios and exercise class studios at each site. The Express Fitness EGYM suite has equipment initially installed in September 2019 and expanded over the lockdown period to include a flexibility, strength and cardiovascular circuit. In addition Blackpool Sports Centre hosts a double sports hall, athletics arena and field, 3G pitches and outside netball courts.

Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre and Palatine Leisure Centre also operate sports halls, swimming pools, offering public swimming, learn to swim programmes and a school swimming service with the latter currently engaging with Blackpool primary schools.

6.2 The scope and assurance statement of the audit was as follows:

Scope

The scope of the audit was to review:

- The financial losses to the leisure centres as a result of Covid-19;
- The recovery plans in place for the leisure centres and how realistic they are;
- The impact on leisure centre staffing levels, ability to recruit and whether this is likely to be challenging going forward.

Assurance Statement

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly had a significant impact on the performance of the three Council run leisure centres. The service have identified a number of areas of improvement which will assist in the required recovery. We therefore consider that the current approach is adequate with some risks identified and assessed and several changes necessary. We have made a number of recommendations to further enhance the approach, particularly around detailed and meaningful performance reporting, and the adoption of a more detailed business development plan.

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 6(a): Internal Audit Recommendations and Agreed Actions.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The controls being implemented will be done so within current budget constraints.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Risks need to be effectively managed in order to comply with relevant legislation.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 To enable the Audit Committee to gain assurance that risks are being effectively managed.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Where equality analysis is appropriate these will have been undertaken whilst making decisions relating to the subject.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Any matters relating to sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations will be considered when making decisions relating to the subject.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 The progress report has been prepared in conjunction with the relevant Head of Service and Chief Officer.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 N/a