

Question: CQ20.01

Cabinet – 22 June 2021

Re: Agenda item 20 – SLM Leisure Contract and Financial Assistance

Questions submitted by: Councillor Martin Fodor

The report brings us up to date on the interim position regarding the city leisure facilities contract.

This highlights the need to assess a choice between contractual and non-contractual options.

In view of this situation the 5th purpose listed in the report identified needs careful consideration: to **prepare for future leisure facilities' procurement**.

Recent experience has shown how important access to leisure facilities is and the report shows the marginal position we are in currently.

It is noted meanwhile that a leisure investment strategy is under development currently [para 9]. This clearly has to be settled before the procurement of services from April 2022.

This report, however, does not show any **timescale** to enable us to ensure adequate, timely, and early enough scrutiny has been undertaken.

Questions

Can you confirm:

1. That there will be both a clear chronology with stages and stakeholder input identified, so we will know when the key options are being assessed and choices that are being researched and drafted?

And;

2. That this will be early enough to allow the council and scrutiny function space to discuss this and feed in early direction – i.e. giving the procurement process space to be scheduled for scrutiny?

Reply:

Question 1:

- Officers together with leisure consultants have already undertaken work where the consideration of different investment scenarios across in-scope leisure centres and swimming pools is concerned.
- The work to date has included supply and demand analysis, needs analysis, design feasibility studies and financial analyses.

- Based on this and ongoing work a report is due to cabinet later in the year outlining the council's proposed leisure investment strategy ahead of public consultation.
- A clear timeline once confirmed will be made available and there will be opportunity for key stakeholders and members of the public to provide feedback.

Question 2

- Sufficient time will be built in for scrutiny of the process. We've confirmed that the report is intending to be presented at September's cabinet meeting.