

**WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2019  
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES)**

**GLL UPDATE – APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2019**

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) to provide a presentation update to members of this committee on their management and operation of those sport and leisure sites in the borough they manage under contract to the council.
- 1.2 This presentation update covers the period from 1 April to 30 September 2019.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That members of this committee note the contents of the presentation update that sets out GLL's work in the borough on the council's behalf.

**3 Explanation**

- 3.1 GLL (who trade under their 'Better' brand) merged with the council's former leisure partner, Finesse Leisure, in May 2018. They have taken on the terms and conditions of the existing long term sport and leisure partnership contract which runs to January 2029.
- 3.2 There are seven separate sports and leisure sites in the borough that are now contracted to GLL by the council. They are the Digswell Playing Fields, Hatfield Leisure Centre, Hatfield Swim Centre, King George V Playing Fields, Moneyhole Lane Playing Fields, Panshanger Golf Complex and Stanborough Park.
- 3.3 The contract does not include the Gosling Sports Park which, while operated by GLL, was acquired by them under a separate arrangement with its former independent leisure trust in June 2016.
- 3.4 A presentation update accompanies this report and will be delivered at this meeting by senior management officers from GLL.

**4 Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1 GLL work within a management agreement and separate leases and tenancies for the seven sport and leisure sites they manage on the council's behalf in the borough.
- 4.2 This forms the basis of a performance management framework which enables the council to hold them to the terms and conditions of their contract, and sets out the roles and responsibilities of both organisations in this partnership arrangement.

**5 Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 The terms of the management agreement between GLL and the council include the payment of an agreed management fee for the remaining period of the contract.

5.2 Following the merger between GLL and Finesse Leisure in May 2018 there will be projected revenue savings of approximately £7.2 million to the council up to the end of the current contract in January 2029.

## **6 Risk Management Implications**

6.1 As a national leisure organisation GLL has a very robust approach to risk management across all of its managed sites in the UK, which currently number in excess of 300 venues. It holds and updates risk registers for each site in accordance with its established policies and procedures. These are checked by the council as part of its client audit role.

6.2 A local operational risk relating to GLL's management of the seven sport and leisure sites it manages on behalf of the council in this borough is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis here.

## **7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)**

7.1 There are no security and terrorism implications directly arising from the content of this report and its accompanying presentation.

## **8 Procurement Implication(s)**

8.1 There are no procurement implications directly arising from the content of this report and its accompanying presentation.

## **9 Climate Change Implication(s)**

9.1 There are no climate change implications directly arising from the content of this report and its accompanying presentation.

9.2 However GLL are encouraged by the council to adopt sustainable environmental practices in its operation and management of those sport and leisure sites it manages on the council's behalf.

## **10 Human Resources Implication(s)**

10.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications directly arising from the content of this report and its accompanying presentation.

10.2 GLL directly employs its own workforce in the operation and management of those sport and leisure sites it manages on the council's behalf.

## **11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)**

11.1 GLL are a major provider of sport and leisure services in this borough through their ownership of the Gosling Sports Park and their management of seven other sport and leisure sites on the council's behalf.

11.2 As such they have a significant impact of local public health and wellbeing through the operation of both indoor and outdoor facilities in this borough, some of which are free to use and others which are charged for.

## **12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)**

12.1 There are no Communication and Engagement implications directly arising from the content of this report and its accompanying presentation.

12.2 GLL has its own national communications and media service and a standard approach to engaging with its customers and with local residents. It works closely with the council's Communications Service on issues of mutual interest across local sport and leisure services.

### **13 Link to Corporate Priorities**

13.1 The subject of this report is linked to the council's corporate priority 'Our Community' and specifically to 'Improving Public Health and Wellbeing' and 'Supporting Local Sport and Leisure'.

### **14 Equality and Diversity**

14.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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#### Background papers to be listed

None.