

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
CABINET – 4 APRIL 2017  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT & CULTURAL  
SERVICES)

**RELEASE OF CAPITAL FUNDING – FINESSE LEISURE 2017-18**

**1 Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the release of all agreed capital funding for Finesse Leisure in 2017-18.

**2 Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the release of funding of £100,000 from the capital programme for 2017-18, which is the maximum amount allocated to Finesse Leisure for the year.

**3 Explanation**

- 3.1 Historically Finesse Leisure submitted an annual list of capital projects to the council that it wished to undertake across its managed sites in the following financial year. This is then considered, challenged and prioritised as part of the council's budget setting process.
- 3.2 For 2017-18 it has been agreed to allocate a fixed total of £100,000 from the capital programme to Finesse Leisure. In preparation for this the council's Head of Policy and Culture has met with Finesse's Director (Finance) and Director (Operations) to identify which projects can be funded from this.
- 3.3 Following these discussions Finesse Leisure has expressed a preference to invest all of the council's capital funding in 2017-18 in a refurbishment of the main changing area within the Hatfield Swim Centre. This part of the Centre is looking very tired and dated and it is a regular source of customer dissatisfaction recorded both by Finesse Leisure and by the council.

**Implications**

**4 Legal Implication(s)**

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the content of this report as it is a request for the release of capital funding only.

**5 Financial Implication(s)**

- 5.1 Approval to release this funding will result in capital expenditure of £100,000 by the council in 2017-18.

## **6 Risk Management Implication(s)**

- 6.1 A risk assessment has not been prepared in relation to this report. This request for the release of capital funding forms part of an annual programme of works proposed by Finesse Leisure to invest and improve the leisure and sport facilities they manage in the borough on behalf of the council.
- 6.2 All risks associated with the contracting of services to Finesse Leisure are monitored and reported as part of the council's risk register, and as part of client meetings between the Head of Policy and Culture and senior managers at Finesse Leisure.

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

- 7.1 Finesse Leisure manages and operates seven different sport and leisure sites in the borough on behalf of the council. None of them are currently identified as presenting any security or terrorism implications for the borough.

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

- 8.1 Following approval of the release of the agreed capital funding proposed in this report, Finesse Leisure are required to seek competitive quotes which are consistent with the council's procurement and contract procedure rules.
- 8.2 Quotes will be obtained through the Supply Hertfordshire portal in the same way as other bids for capital work funded by the council.

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

- 9.1 There are no direct climate change implications arising from the content of this report as it is a request for the release of capital funding only.
- 9.2 However where approved projects seek to enhance the facilities managed and operated by Finesse Leisure, work will seek to limit or reduce the carbon footprint of any new equipment procured.

## **10 Link to Corporate Priorities**

- 10.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority to maintain a safe and healthy community, and specifically to the achievement of providing a wide variety of leisure covering arts, culture, fitness and sports.

## **11 Equality and Diversity**

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out in connection with the proposals in this report as it requests the release of approved capital funding only.

**Name of author**  
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