



Subject:	Short term future of Loughside Recreation Centre
Date:	13 June 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To present members with an update on the ongoing part closure of Loughside Recreation Centre.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider the background information provided below along, with approval to continue with the current operating model at Loughside Recreation Centre pending the outcome of the LTP Phase 4 strategic review.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Loughside RC was closed, along with all BCC leisure centres, in March 2020 in compliance with Covid-19 legislation. While other centres re-opened on a phased basis, as the pandemic restrictions were eased, it was agreed that Loughside would remain closed. Initially this was

	<p>due to difficulties in complying with social distancing guidelines and related operating restrictions.</p>
3.2	<p>As restrictions were further eased and other leisure centres returned to pre-Covid operating models, it was agreed that Loughside should remain substantially closed but that provision be made for access to changing and toilet facilities to cater for users of the outdoor grass pitches. Subsequently one wing (approximately ¼ of the building) was adapted to allow restricted access, via dedicated external doors, to a suite of changing rooms and toilets. There is no access from the newly created 'changing pavilion' area to the rest of the building. A Partner Agreement was signed with Loughside FC under which the club opens/closes and is responsible for cleaning the ringfenced changing pavilion section of the building. GLL remain responsible for all statutory functions (H&S, fire alarm checks, legionella flushing, daily inspections, etc.). This operating model has been in place since the end of 2021.</p>
3.3	<p>Re-opening Loughside would require substantial investment including major roof repairs, a new passenger lift, mechanical & electrical upgrades and various repairs to the fabric of the building. Major issues relating to the fabric of the building have existed since before the pandemic and substantial investment in reactive maintenance was required on an annual basis leading up to 2020 to keep the building open and fully operational.</p>
3.4	<p>Alongside the condition of the building, Loughside has for many years recorded very low demand consistently returning the lowest throughput, space occupancy and income figures in the leisure estate.</p>
3.5	<p>The long-term future of Loughside RC, along with Ballysillan, Belvoir, Ormeau Park/Ozone, Shankill and Whiterock, is earmarked for inclusion in the LTP Phase 4 strategic review.</p>
	<p><u>Outcomes and proposals</u></p>
3.6	<p>In the circumstances it would not be prudent to recommend the investment required to reopen the building and return to the pre-Covid operating model. Consequently, members are requested to agree that Loughside remains partially closed and continues to operate within the current model until the LTP 4 strategic review is concluded.</p>
	<p><u>Communications & Public Relations</u></p>
3.7	<p>None</p>

3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None