



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee.
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Avoniel Leisure Centre - Update</b>
<b>Date:</b>	11 April 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Adrian Walker, Acting Leisure Operations Manager

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members on the pool closure at Avoniel Leisure Centre. Avoniel Leisure Centre is 34 years old and whilst pool leakage has been an ongoing issue for the site it has been managed carefully by the centre management.</p> <p>During mid August 2012 leakage increased significantly and a decision was made to drain the pool and progress with exploratory excavation works in order to investigate the source of the leak. The pool has been closed from Monday 20 August 2012.</p> <p>Numerous exploratory works were conducted and a number of minor leaks were identified and repaired. Works were suspended for a period to facilitate the removal of asbestos under licence granted by the Health and Safety Executive. This resulted in a delay in the investigations into the source of the leak. The original schedule of exploratory works was re-established during December 2012.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Colleagues from facilities management hosted a site visit for elected members during January 2013 and Members were updated on the planned schedule of works and progress. During March 2013 works to refurbish changing rooms and the health suite corridor were commenced. This has required the addition of two temporary external changing facilities until the refurbished changing rooms, become operational. Again the temporary units have been located within 10 feet of the centre entrance and are plumbed and heated. All internal options were exhausted prior to implementing this option. In addition the health suite has been closed from April 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to facilitate re-tiling of the corridor. Facilities management currently advise that all remedial works are scheduled for completion during early June with a tentative re-opening date of mid June.</p> <p>New customer signage has been delivered and located within the entrance foyer, stairs area and cafe windows onto poolside at Avoniel. This is bright in colour and</p>

	<p>replaces the previously blacked out window coverings in the cafe area. Written customer updates available on site also confirm the current position regarding the remedial works and what remains to be undertaken.</p> <p>Management have arranged weekly transportation to Ballysillan and Olympia Leisure Centres in order to help accommodate displaced senior citizen groups. New classes have temporarily been added to the dryside programme to offer alternatives following the removal of pool based classes. In addition Templemore swimming pool has accommodated a small number of school / club groups affected by the closure. Re-opening events are being scheduled during the summer and the already established summer scheme will commence as planned.</p>
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<b>3</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The projection for lost income is approximately £130,000 from August 2012 - May 2013.</p> <p>Costs for the hire of temporary changing units are £250 per week therefore an estimated cost in this area is £2000.</p> <p>Costs for the hire of 2 buses to transport displaced senior citizen groups are £125 per bus per week. Therefore the overall cost is expected to approximate to £3500.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>The level of staff required at the centre has reduced with the pool being closed. A number of staff have been temporarily redeployed to other centres through consultation with staff and Human Resources.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Management will not be in a position to finalise all associated costs and asset implications until the remedial works are nearing conclusion. It should, however, be noted that substantial refurbishments and repairs will positively impact upon the asset base at Avoniel.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<p><b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b></p> <p>A high proportion of older people use Avoniel pool and we are directing them to alternative swimming pools in the City. A number of additional activities have temporarily been put in place. Membership has been suspended temporarily where requested.</p>
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<b>5</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Members are asked to note the contents of this report.</p>
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<b>6</b>	<p><b>Decision Tracking</b></p> <p>A further update will be provided at committee in May 2013.</p>
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<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None