



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Update on Avoniel Leisure Centre
Date:	9 May 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, ext 3400
Contact Officer:	Adrian Walker, Acting Leisure Operations Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members on the pool closure at Avoniel Leisure Centre.</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 and the current work is on-schedule.</p> <p>Colleagues from facilities management hosted an elected member site visit during January 2013 and updated upon the schedule of works.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>During March 2013, works to refurbish changing rooms and the health suite corridor were commenced and the two temporary external changing facilities continue to be operation providing service continuity.</p> <p>The temporary changing areas have unfortunately been the target of vandalism by local young people. As a result the centre has organised a young people's diversionary activity evening in conjunction with the participation unit involving local community groups with potential sponsorship from Mc Donald's. This diversionary activity takes the form of activities for young people on a Friday night from 8pm --- 10pm and has initially been scheduled for eight weeks. The activities include trampolining, hip hop dance, football and indoor games. The first session involved over 60 young people and there has been no repetition of the vandalism since this initiative started.</p> <p>The health suite has been closed from 3rd April 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 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 replaces the previously blacked out window coverings in the cafe area. Written progress updates on site also confirm the position of remedial works thus far and what remains to be undertaken. This has further been enhanced by recent photographs of the work in progress</p> <p>Management continue to provide transportation to Ballysillan Leisure Centre for the displaced senior citizen groups. Additional classes are also continuing in the dry facilities. In addition Templemore swimming pool has accommodated a small number of school / club groups affected by the closure.</p> <p>Re-opening events are being scheduled during the summer and the already established summer scheme will commence as planned.</p> <p>Members are asked to consider whether a further site visit would be appropriate prior to the centre re-opening.</p> <p>It is proposed that this will be the last routine report on Avoniel.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<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 bus to transport displaced senior citizen groups are £125 per bus per week. Therefore the overall cost is expected to approximate to £1750.</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>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	<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>

5	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is requested to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the contents of this report• consider if it wishes to visit the centre again prior to its re-opening in June 2013• note that this will be the last routine report on Avoniel Leisure Centre

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Adrian Walker, Acting Leisure Operations Manager.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>None</p>

8	Documents Attached
	<p>None</p>