



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	SHANKILL AND BALLYSILLAN LEISURE CENTRES – WET CHANGING ROOM REPAIRS
Date:	8 August 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Adrian Walker, Acting Leisure Operations Manager

Purpose

To inform and provide members with the appropriate information relating to a request to close the Shankill Leisure Centre and Ballysillan Leisure Centre wet changing rooms and swimming pools for a total period of 8 weeks (4 weeks per centre) from September – December 2013.

Relevant Background Information

Previous corporate funding was allocated for upgrade works within leisure services. To date, the changing rooms within Andersonstown, Shankill (dry side) and Avoniel Leisure Centres have been upgraded although the latter was as a result of a general refurbishment following an enforced pool closure.

Presently, as part of the corporate programme, plans are underway for the provision of a new playing surface which will be laid in the Indoor Tennis Centre although this does not form part of the present report.

Facilities Management colleagues have identified an appropriate contractor to undertake the upgrade works in both Shankill and Ballysillan Leisure Centre wet changing rooms and have requested a closure of those areas at the following times:

Shankill – September and October 2013
Ballysillan – November and December 2013

Key issues / events.

Given the facilities available within both centres it will, unfortunately, not be possible to maintain access to the swimming pools whilst the changing rooms are being upgraded. Therefore the respective swimming pools will be required to close during the refurbishments.

Ballysillan operates with one set of changing rooms covering both wet and dry functions and management will therefore source temporary changing units to accommodate

fitness suite, main hall, squash and coached activity users. Due to the proposed location of temporary changing rooms at Ballysillan (outside the rear of the facility, south facing) it would not be possible to maintain swimming pool access as customers would still be required to enter the pool using the current changing rooms which would not be accessible.

The timing of the repairs has been organised to minimise the potential disruption to both facilities and to ensure that the centres are fully functional during January 2014 which traditionally represents the busiest month for leisure facilities.

Consideration has been given to closing one changing room at a time in order to maintain a reduced service although the schedule of contractor works has made this not possible to achieve.

It is proposed that, where permitting, Ballysillan will provide access to the displaced schools / groups / clubs of Shankill during the period of upgrade and this process will be reversed upon works commencing at Ballysillan during November.

Resource Implications

Human Resources

Appropriate staff will be afforded the option of using the reduction in service as an opportunity to avail of annual leave. Alternatively additional training will be offered and deep cleaning around the wet side of the centre can be undertaken. No additional overtime is anticipated during this time and staff may, upon request, be temporarily located within other leisure facilities.

Asset and Other Implications

Alternative swimming availability at Falls Leisure Centre & Grove Wellbeing Centre remains during these short closures.

Projected income losses will be estimated at £10000 for Shankill and £12000 for Ballysillan.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members approve the proposed closures to facilitate changing room repairs.

Decision Tracking

Leisure Operations Manager to update on progress and any issues arising.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

None