

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR  
TO THE EXECUTIVE  
17 OCTOBER 2008

**Leisure Contracts Annual Reporting**

**1.0 Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides background information to elected members on the two Annual Reports attached relating to the two leisure contracts currently operating within the Vale.
- 1.2 There are different elements found within each report due to the differing make up of the two contracts under which the services are provided. Members are asked to take this into consideration when evaluating the two reports.
- 1.3 The Contact Officer for this report is Chris Webb Leisure Facilities Manager (chris.webb@whitehorsedc.gov.uk), 01235 540358.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 *The Executive are recommended to agree to these reports are for information only and there are no recommendations.*

**3.0 Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

- (a) This report supports the Council's Vision
- (b) The report does not conflict with any existing Council policy

**4.0 Background and Supporting Information**

- 4.1 The Council has two leisure contracts for operating its main leisure facilities.
- 4.2 Contract one is with DC Leisure (operating through a sub-contractor) Community Leisure Services who manage the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre situated in Audlett Drive Abingdon. This is the Council's largest leisure facility and is considered one of the finest centres of its kind. This contract is for ten years and started on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002, it therefore terminates on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. It operates at no cost to the council, with the operator meeting all expenditure from income.
- 4.3 The second is with SOLL Vale Limited who manage the leisure centres in Wantage and Faringdon and the athletics facility at Tilsley Park. This contract is also for 10 years and started on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004, it therefore terminates on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.
- 4.4 The Council has good working relationships with both providers and has a number of informal meetings on a wide range of issues as well as holding formal monthly meetings to discuss the performance of each contract. In addition there are monthly

monitoring visits to each facility to record the findings over a comprehensive set of customer and industry based criteria including cleanliness, repairs, health and safety, staffing, and equipment.

- 4.5 In the last year the Council's internal audit team have audited both contracts and recommended that an annual report from both contracts is presented to members. In discussion with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure it was agreed that these reports would be provided for the Executive having been drafted in conjunction with Council Officers and the portfolio holder.
- 4.6 The reports not only review the previous years performance but identify issues and challenges for the service in future years. This provides a basis for planning the future of these services and to give direction to officers on what additional service developments members may wish to see.

#### 5.0 **Options**

- 5.1 Members may wish in future years to have a short presentation from representatives of the contracting partners in order that more detailed questioning can take place.
- 5.2 Members may wish to continue to receive reports as attached in the knowledge that officers and the relevant portfolio holder have been involved in the drafting of the report and questioning of the issues contained within.

#### 6.0 **Conclusions**

- 6.1 The reports are considered a useful way of communicating the performance of the leisure facilities and their operators to a wider audience of interested parties and fulfils an internal audit recommendation.

CHRIS WEBB  
LEISURE FACILITIES MANAGER

MIKE MACKAY  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Background Papers:\*list all background papers to the report or state 'none'\*

Annual Report from Community Leisure Services on the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre 2007/8

Annual report from SOLL Vale on the Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres and Tilsley Park 2007/8