

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **3rd November 2022**

Title: **Leisure Contract - Fusion Quarterly Q2 Update Report**

Portfolio Area: **Health & Wellbeing – Cllr Jonathan Hawkins**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents and progress of Fusion’s Quarterly Report – Q2 for 2022.

1 Executive summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Fusion’s Quarter 2 performance and a presentation summary for the past 3 months shown in Appendix A.

2 Background

- 2.1 Nationally the leisure sector continues to experience difficult times following the slow recovery from Covid-19 in the operations of leisure centres.
- 2.2 The current global and UK economic instability, the energy crisis, the cost of living challenges, increased supply chain costs and ongoing staff recruitment and retention issues have all resulted in costs increasing and income levels not growing as expected.
- 2.3 The provision of leisure centres is a discretionary service. However the activities align with the Council’s corporate strategic plan – ‘Better Lives for All’ in providing quality services and community wellbeing. This includes increasing active participation in sport and leisure activities.

3 Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The leisure contract sets out specific performance indicators which Fusion will deliver through its plans and targets, these include being a more active district, promoting community development,

improving health and wellbeing of local residents, improving quality of services and delivering environmental improvements.

- 3.2 The attached quarterly presentation from Fusion highlights key performance areas and provides an overview on new marketing, activity programmes and a new post for Sport and Community Development in the South Hams.
- 3.3 For August the Centres had their highest usage level, reaching 65,000 visits, a positive performance driven by family activities, casual swimming and the influx of visitors to the region.
- 3.4 Overall leisure centre memberships in September '22 were at 87% compared to pre-Covid levels, 5,857 against 6,764 in March'20;

Total	March 2020	September 2022	%
Dartmouth	560	558	99%
Ivybridge	1,665	1,386	83%
Quayside (Kingsbridge)	1,523	1,315	86%
Totnes	1,117	808	72%
Meadowlands (Tavistock)	1,075	1,145	106%
Parklands (Okehampton)	824	645	78%
Total	6,764	5,857	87%

Swim school has been in very high demand and overall memberships have passed pre-Covid levels, being at 102% compared to March '20.

Total	March 2020	September 2022	%
Dartmouth	162	123	76%
Ivybridge	820	1,004	122%
Quayside (Kingsbridge)	778	647	83%
Totnes	402	386	96%
Meadowlands (Tavistock)	519	496	96%
Parklands (Okehampton)	286	364	127%
Total	2,967	3,020	102%

- 3.5 The centre usage figures and recovery from the Covid-19 restrictions have been good and are in line with national data trends taken from Sport England – Moving Communities up to January 2022. No further recovery data has been provided for this year.

4 Proposed Way Forward

- 4.1 The solar energy project, which received approval for a change in its funding recommendation by Council in July, has been delayed by

a change in contractor to install the panels. Fusion are still seeking to appoint an alternative contractor following site visits and a final tender submission. They have received two initial quotes, both of which look viable at this time.

- 4.2 For Totnes Leisure Centre, Fusion have recently taken the decision not to proceed with the proposed investment at the facility due to the current business case not being viable at this time. Various factors are currently facing Fusion, as highlighted for the national leisure sector, in regards to rising operational, staffing and energy costs, cost of living crisis, rising building costs and the overall economic climate regarding inflation and interest rates.
- 4.3 The local Totnes – Tadpool project group will consider the next steps as to how the facility can be improved and measures to increase usage.

5 Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Leisure is a discretionary service. The management of the council's leisure centres are agreed in a formal contract agreement with appropriate reporting structures.
Financial	Y	The investment borrowing and contract arrangements were approved as part of the contract award. Management fee changes were reported at Executive on 3 rd March 2022 E.94/21 and approved by Council on 31 st March 2022. Management fee payments have been received from Fusion for the 2021/22 financial year. For 2022/23 management fee payments, these have been confirmed with Fusion and monthly payments will be made from October '22 to March '23. All management fee payments are set out with the appropriate indexation applied.
Risk	Y	Mitigated through the formal procurement process and the business case appraisal.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	Council, Communities, Wellbeing
Climate Change – Carbon /	Y	Contract targets to reduce energy usage

Biodiversity Impact		
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	All leisure centres remain open and have activities open for all sections of the community
Safeguarding	Y	Relevant policies and practices in place through the contract.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	Improved though better facilities and part of service delivery.
Other implications		none

Supporting Information

Appendix A – Fusion Quarterly Report Q2; July - September 2022