

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE19 January 2015RIVER PARK LEISURE CENTREREPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVEContact Officer: Simon Eden Tel No: 01962 848313 [seden@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:seden@winchester.gov.uk)RECENT REFERENCES:

OS112 - River Park Leisure Centre: Public Representation – 27 October 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Mr Martin Wilson, a member of the public, made representations to the Committee about the tendering and management of the contract for the operation of the River Park Leisure Centre to the Committee last year. He also sought a variety of information from the Council about that contract under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Chief Executive's report of October 2014 (OS112) responds to those representations, and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services responded to the Fol requests. This report deals with two outstanding matters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the Committee:
  - i) agree to inviting DC Leisure to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss performance of the contract; and
  - ii) note the figures for gross annual revenue generated by RPLC in exempt appendix 1.

## THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 January 2015

### RIVER PARK LEISURE CENTRE

### REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### DETAIL:

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Mr Martin Wilson, a member of the public, made representations to the Committee about the tendering and management of the contract for the operation of the River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC) to the Committee last year. He also sought a variety of information from the Council about that contract under the Freedom of Information Act.
- 1.2 This report considers two matters arising from this representation and these requests.

#### 2 Representations on the contract with DC Leisure

- 2.1 The Chief Executive's report of October 2014 (OS112) responds to Mr Wilson's representations. It was thoroughly discussed by the Committee at its October meeting. During those discussions, the contractor's performance was discussed. A subsequent report by the Council's Internal Audit Team, discussed at the Audit Committee on 4 December, made recommendations about contract monitoring. The minutes of that discussion record:

"Members discussed whether a more significant role could be undertaken by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee in considering major contracts in depth. For example, could the approach that Committee had adopted in relation to monitoring the Joint Environmental Services Contracts be also adopted for the leisure centres."

- 2.2 During discussion of a separate paper on options for refurbishing or replacing RPLC at their meeting of 8 December, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted:

"The Audit Committee had also recently considered an Internal Audit report on the Council's contract monitoring arrangements, and would monitor progress in implementing recommendations. He [the Chief Executive] ended by suggesting this Committee may wish to scrutinise DCL's performance, as they had with other contracts."

- 2.3 The Committee are asked to confirm they would like to invite representatives from DC Leisure to a future meeting to discuss the performance under the contract for the management of the Leisure Centres – both RPLC and Meadowside in Whiteley. If so, a date and outline agenda can be agreed separately with the Chair.

### 3 Freedom of Information Act Request

- 3.1 In May and June 2014 Mr Wilson wrote to the Council with a request for certain information about the Council's contract with DC Leisure, including:

*“What is the gross annual amount of revenue generated by River Park Leisure Centre and Meadowside Leisure Centre from 1997 to date?”*

- 3.2 This aspect of the request was refused, as the FoI legislation permits, on the basis that it falls within a “commercial interest” exemption. Mr Wilson requested that decision be reviewed, and late last year the Chief Executive reviewed and upheld the decision not to disclose this information.
- 3.3 One Member asked that, notwithstanding the decision not to disclose, that information be shared on an appropriate basis with the Committee. This is now set out in the Exempt Appendix to this report.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#### 4 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

- 4.1 None.

#### 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 None.

#### 6 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 6.1 None.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Letter from Howard Bone to Martin Wilson dated 12 September regarding Freedom of Information request 1531/1638

### APPENDICES:

Exempt Appendix 1 - Places for People Leisure income for WCC owned leisure centres