

NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	28 November, 2013
TITLE	Update on the Gwynedd Leisure Centres Sufficiency Review
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PORTFOLIO LEADERS	Councillor Paul Thomas
What needs to be scrutinised and why?	An opportunity to consider and scrutinise the recommendations of the Report of the Gwynedd Leisure Centres Sufficiency Review completed by 'Just Solutions' external company.
Is there anything else the Scrutiny Committee needs to do?	Note and agree to the next steps.
What are the next steps?	1. Report back to the Area Forums. 2. Consider the implications of implementing the recommendations. 3. Develop an action plan.

1. Background

- 1.1. As part of a Strategic Review of the Leisure and Energetic Activities field, a sufficiency review was commissioned on the leisure centres provision by 'Just Solutions' external company.
- 1.2. This was done as a consequence of the company having completed similar work in other nearby authorities and for the entire north Wales region. The members will recall that the Cabinet Member circulated a Decision Notice to this end in January, 2013 (http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/gwy_doc.asp?cat=7861&doc=29362&language=2&p=1&c=1). Specific discussion sessions were held in the Area Committees and every Member had the opportunity to contribute to the review that has taken place.
- 1.3. Briefly, the purpose of the review was to:
 - 1.3.1. Inform the Council of the local necessary provision to address future needs, identify possible schemes for improvement, rationalisation and development.
 - 1.3.2. Secure the best possible management arrangements in order to take advantage of the improvement agenda and what the people

of Gwynedd wish to have as facilities, which was identified earlier in the Review.

2. The Current Situation

- 2.1. The company carried out the field work between January 2013 and the end of May 2013, and a final draft of the report was received in October 2013.
- 2.2. An executive summary of the report is provided in Appendix 1 which notes recommendations and the direction of the provision to the future, together with messages on the operational procedure.

3. The Financial Situation

- 3.1. Members will be very aware of the financial situation that the Council faces. The full Council, at its meeting in December, will consider an update on the financial challenge, and the timescale of the financial challenge for individual services will subsequently become clearer.
- 3.2. As you know, the service is not a statutory service which poses a particular challenge for the Council at a time when we will be looking at our core services. Comments in the national press already note this with the service often being used as an example of a service that is under threat.
- 3.3. Consequently, and whilst this was always a consideration when the work of producing the sufficiency report was completed, there will be a need to weigh up what the service can achieve within the new financial climate ahead of us.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. During the Area Committee meetings, I noted my intention to report back to those forums when it was possible practically. This is so that Members have an opportunity to voice their opinions on the recommendations and obtain feedback from the Consultants.
- 4.2. Particular attention should be drawn to the fact that the proposals in the Appendix are those made by the Consultants only. As a Cabinet Member I will consider what is practical to implement and request the approval of the full Cabinet when significant decisions need to be made.