

20 **OPTIONS FOR OPERATING AND MAINTAINING EXISTING LEISURE FACILITIES IN ORMSKIRK, SKELMERSDALE AND BURSCOUGH.**

The Interim Head of Wellbeing and Leisure introduced his report the purpose of which was to provide Cabinet and Council with an update on the revised leisure centre operator approach following the Council meeting held 15 December 2021. The report also highlighted key information concerning the proposed alternative leisure centre operator strategies following an Officer led optional appraisal. It also contained a cost forecast for each of the alternative leisure centre operator strategies.

Members of the Committee were asked to consider the findings in the report and that any agreed comments be forwarded to Cabinet in advance of the Cabinet meeting on the 24th January 2023.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Generally, in favour of Option A.
- Short term contracts could be problematic.
- Struggle to get staffing on a casual basis i.e. pool attendants, life-guards
- Repair costs, current buildings have deteriorated
- Opening the centres up to groups who previously wouldn't have had the opportunities and the community connection. Crucial to engage with new clubs and bringing them on board.
- At present no swimming club operating at Nye Bevan.
- Importance of sports development.
- Implementation of a café in the Burscough Sports Centre and placed at the front for the community to see and engage with it.
- Use of the trust legacy funding for the Burscough Sports Centre. This needed to be used to buy something and not used for repairs on the Burscough Sports Centre.

In conclusion Members were keen for Officers to explore implications to set up a Local Authority Trading Company for Leisure to maximise benefits to the Council and community including savings against National Non Domestic Rates – this operating model would need to be reviewed by Leisure Management Committee initially prior to any formal report to Cabinet/Council.

RESOLVED: A. That the following agreed comment be reported back to Cabinet

"That Option A be the preferred option."

B. That the Interim Wellbeing and Leisure Manager and the Leisure Partnership Manager be thanked for all their

hard work on this.