

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING MEETING

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

RECORD OF DECISION

An Individual Executive Decision Making meeting was held on 24 July 2020.

PRESENT: Councillors D Davison (Chair) and Mayor A Preston.

OFFICIALS: S Bonner, S Hydon, L Littlewood, C Lunn, T Parkinson and S Reynolds.

20/2 **COVID-19 RELATED LEISURE COSTS**

The Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report to approve the funding of any additional, unrecoverable costs relating to the phased opening of leisure centres (Middlesbrough Sports Village (MSV) 25 July 2020, Rainbow Leisure Centre 1 September 2020 and Neptune Centre 1 April 2021). This would be undertaken initially on a three month trial basis.

The report required a decision as the costs of reopening in a COVID-19 secure way would exceed £150,000.

The report outlined that the Government had confirmed that gyms and leisure centres could open from 25 July 2020, and the Council's leisure provider SLM had costed the different options for doing so in a COVID-19 secure way. This would bring significant additional cost, although a number of options were available to reduce these costs. Under the contract the Council had with SLM, these additional costs would ultimately fall to Middlesbrough Council. The report set out the available options and associated costs, and proposed a recommended course of action.

The Chair invited the Mayor to speak.

The Mayor made reference to representations received from the public, outside bodies/organisations and Trade Unions in respect of the recommendations contained within the report.

The Mayor advised that, following further consultation with both Executive Members and Senior Officers, he did not agree with the officer recommendations contained within the report, and proposed the following recommendations:

1. That the MSV re-open as soon as possible; and
2. That the Neptune Centre and the Rainbow Leisure Centre both re-open on the same day - i.e. 1 September 2020.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended

Other options originally considered included keeping all three facilities closed until 1 April 2021, and opening them all on 25 July 2020. The proposed option represented the one that balanced the need to provide the public with access to leisure opportunities, whilst limiting the Council's potential financial exposure.

ORDERED

That in response to the revised recommendations proposed at the meeting:

1. That the MSV re-open as soon as possible; and

2. That the Neptune Centre and the Rainbow Leisure Centre both re-open on the same day - i.e. 1 September 2020.

REASON

The decision was supported by the following reason:

It was important that people had access to good quality leisure facilities in Middlesbrough, but this needed to be balanced with the costs of making them COVID-19 secure. As these costs could contractually fall to Middlesbrough Council, it was necessary to have Executive approval for the necessary amounts.

The decision will come into force after five working days following the day the decision was published, unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.