

FULL COUNCIL

2 FEBRUARY 2021

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, TOURISM AND SPORT

1. COUNCIL UPDATE REGARDING LEISURE, TOURISM AND SPORT PORTFOLIO

1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Members that since the last Full Council meeting on the 8 December 2020, my latest decision making session of this portfolio was held on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report highlights the background to the decisions made. Members wishing to view all the associated paperwork can find these on Mod.Gov

1.2.2 <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

1.2.3 Attached to this report is a list of decisions made.

1.3 Decision - Tuesday 15 December 2020

1.3.1 Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2020/21 as at 30 September 2020

1.3.2 I received a report outlining the Portfolio's latest forecast financial position and noted the latest approved revenue budget is £501,000. The forecast outturn expenditure for this year is £1,029 million giving an adverse variance of £528,000. This includes an adverse variance of £839,000 due to Covid-19 after funding from the Governments income recovery scheme has been applied.

1.3.3 The Officer presenting the report was at pains to stress how important it was that Cabinet had sight of the latest financial position that covered the period to the end of September. She reminded members that the Council's financial position continues to evolve alongside the impact of the pandemic itself and the local situation for Solihull. Government guidance continues to change, further clarity on pressure emerges and new funding announcements are made. The estimates of the financial impact of Covid-19 included within the report are indicative, based on current assumptions and are likely to change over the course of the coming months.

1.3.4 Members asked a series of questions around the report including; Have the Council been able to successfully obtain funding from every single government source of additional Covid financial support? Is there any early indication of how this financial situation will impact on the Core Theatre moving forward? What impact will the current financial situation have on Commonwealth Games funding?

1.3.5 I then formally made the decisions as set out in full in the Appendix.

1.4 Good News and Items of Interest

1.4.1 Tudor Grange and North Solihull Leisure Centres – Key Worker Testing Stations

1.4.2 I am delighted to report that on Monday 18 January we opened both our Council Leisure centres as Key Worker testing stations. By the time of Full Council I will be in a position to formally announce how many tests are being carried out at each centre. That the Council has been able to assist with this vital work, at what is a pivotal moment in the fight against Covid-19 will I am sure be welcomed by every member.

1.4.3 Age UK Solihull and Encore Café get Festive

1.4.4 Age UK Solihull have made hampers and bags of treats for 150 Solihull residents in need over Christmas. In order to provide them with a Christmas dinner, the team at Encore at The Core were really pleased to help support this event by producing the festive dinners and desserts for distribution. Sadly, The Core Theatre and its Encore Cafe Bar remain closed, due to Covid restrictions, but the staff were keen to get involved with this worthy cause and get back in the kitchen to do some cooking! Encore contacted their regular local suppliers and businesses and the team were overwhelmed by the support and goodwill shown. The whole dinner was sourced through charitable donations and special thanks obviously go to Age UK and all at the Encore, as well as the following companies: Arthur Brett; A W Lashfords; AA catering disposables; Morrisons and Waitrose Supermarkets.

1.4.5 National Leisure Relief Fund

1.4.6 On the 14 December 2020 Sport England launched the National Leisure Relief Fund to support publicly owned leisure facilities through the Coronavirus pandemic. Following consultation with the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive as well as the Director of Public Health, an application was submitted on the 14 January. A decision on the bids is currently anticipated in the latter part of February 2021.

1.4.7 Mr Robert Elliott

1.4.8 Many members will know Robert Elliott as the Manager at Hogarths Hotel in the Borough. For many years he has also been the Chairman of the Solihull Tourism Board as well as being the President of the Solihull Chamber of Commerce. In both roles he brought tremendous enthusiasm, commitment and a determination to drive both organisations forward for the benefit of Solihull. He also made a real difference to many youngsters in the borough by leading work with Schools to ensure practical on the job careers advice and work experience. He is now standing down from both roles as he has accepted a role at Hereford and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce as Director of Business Development and Engagement. He will be missed.

1.4.9 Future Items

1.4.10 Financial implications of coronavirus on the portfolio.

1.4.11 Continuing support to the local Leisure, Culture and Tourism industry following the coronavirus.

1.4.12 Cultural development following the publication of the Sampad report.