

Agenda Item 6: Leisure Services Strategy



Councillor Eileen Callear, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Visitor Economy commented:

“Despite financial pressures, unlike many local authorities, we have continued to invest in our indoor leisure facilities and keep them under council management. This means that we have kept prices low and quality high. We have gone beyond just keeping our leisure centres open and have continued to invest so that our gyms, swimming pools and indoor spaces are great places to visit.

“Our leisure facilities play a vital role in contributing to people’s physical and mental wellbeing – now more than ever - and we are proud to be one of the first councils to use our public health funding to support discounted access to leisure services.

“In 2019 over 64,000 people took up our free swimming admission offer – allowing them to stay fit and healthy, avoid more complex health issues and protect the NHS. We have now extended free swimming to all residents under the age of 25 and are supporting a new generation of swimmers with over 2,000 young people learning as part of our Swim 4 Life programme.

“Not only this, the income we make from our leisure services is reinvested to protect the most vulnerable in our community.”

Councillor Eileen Callear, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Visitor Economy