

### **Item 8 – Appendix 3**

We had the first full cross party member working group on Weds 24th Feb where we discussed what prices the Council should set as part of the contract with the new provider. There was feeling in the group that the prices we set should be to protect the most vulnerable in society. We suggested which groups should be entitled to a concession and how a 'passport to leisure' scheme might work. The proposal being the latter is incorporated into a general 'membership' scheme so as not to single out those who may need to access concession rates. See the notes attached for full details.

At the time of writing this report we did not have the full schedule of dates and timeline for the tender going out, however the working group are due to discuss the specification at our next meeting (hopefully before Easter). We will have the timetable of dates to show you by the time we meet at O&S on 8th March.

Our suggestion would be that perhaps O&S ask to scrutinise the draft tender document at our next meeting on 5th April but that looks to be our last chance as our next O&S is then on 1st June and the tender process will have already started by then.

Kind Regards

Kristie Naimo  
District Councillor  
Brunswick Ward

## **Decisions relating to the Specification for Leisure Centre Management**

### **Decision 1 – which prices should the Council control?**

It has been agreed that the Council will control a limited number of prices, particularly where the product is considered to be a major 'social good' to which access for all should be protected. The more prices controlled, the less attractive the financial offer from the potential operators. These will be **maximum** prices, and the operator is free to charge less if they wish, including the introduction of off peak charges.

#### **Agreed:**

Concessionary Swim (based on list of concessions below)

Junior Swimming lesson (30 mins lesson)

Casual concession gym session

Casual concession fitness class

School swimming lesson (currently worked as a price per child)

GP Referral session

Passport to Leisure joining fee (FREE)

### **Decision 2 – how should these be controlled?**

The Operator will agree, by negotiation with the client officer a price each year of the contract.

### **Decision 3 – which groups should be entitled to the concession rate?**

The Council has already stated that it will insist that the operator gives discounted concessionary rates to certain groups within the population. These rates should only be given to those groups where it is felt that full price will be a genuine barrier to participation.

One concession rate for all of the following.

Individuals with a registered disability

Individuals in receipt of state benefit (as the current definition – reviewing the criteria each year as government legislation changes)

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Juniors (5 – 18yrs)

Seniors of state pension age

Students – full time of any age; any student under 25years

GP referral clients (for when they come to use the facilities outside the sessions)

Children aged 4 and under – FREE

Registered Carers when accompanying their charge – FREE

Children accompanying an adult in receipt of benefit – FREE swim

**NOTE:**

Require the operator to offer a Talented Athletes Scheme in the Specification – up to them what they include in this.

**Decision 4 – how will the Passport to Leisure scheme work?**

The Council has agreed to implement a Passport to Leisure scheme to ensure that those on low incomes are not precluded from using the leisure centres nor stigmatised when paying for an activity. There are a number of ways in which such schemes can be operated.

Operator needs to describe their scheme as part of the tender.

**Agreed:**

WDC require the operator to implement a “Membership card scheme”.

This will be open to all on completion of a membership registration. (Charge one off joining fee).

As part of the “membership scheme” the Council requires the operator to run a “Passport to Leisure” scheme offering the agreed concessionary prices to specified user groups. There will be no charge for a “Passport to Leisure” member to register. Anyone wishing to access the concessionary rate must join the “Passport to Leisure”.

**Decision 5 – which Clubs should be protected in the Specification?**

The Council has already announced publically that the Dolphins Swimming Club for those with a disability will be guaranteed their existing booking at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre. It would also be possible to guarantee other bookings for key groups in the same way, if required.

**Agreed:**

Dolphins (disabled swimming club – NCLC)

Warwick Climbing Club but only if they work in partnership and offer junior activities.