

Agenda Item 12

Annex to report on item 12: Report on decisions taken under Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution.

The following decisions were taken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) using the emergency powers set out in the Council's Constitution.

ITEM 3	INTERIM SUPPORT TO FUSION LIFESTYLES DURING SHUTDOWN OF LEISURE FACILITIES DUE TO CORONA VIRUS REGULATIONS.
Decision:	
To agree a package of support to Fusion Lifestyles to maintain the contract during the period that leisure facilities are required to remain closed in line with that contract, and Government advice which defines the current situation as a "Change in Law" under that contract and to settle existing payments outstanding between the parties.	
Date decision made:	11 May 2020
Decision taker	Gordon Mitchell, Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) Decision taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks, the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Law and Governance.
Was the decision taken under emergency or urgency rules?	Urgency powers delegated to the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) in Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution:
Is this a Key Decision?	Not key
Reasons for decision	To maintain the contract during the period that leisure facilities are required to remain closed in line with corona virus regulations.
Alternative options considered:	Consideration was given to the legal position in respect of the Corona Virus Regulations, the contract between the Council and Fusion Lifestyle (FL) and the extent to which FL had mitigated their costs.
Wards significantly affected	None
Declared conflict of interest:	None

ITEM 4	ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO FUSION LIFESTYLES TO ENABLE THE START OF THE PHASED RE-OPENING OF LEISURE FACILITIES.
Decision:	
This additional support enables the first phase of the re-opening of facilities which will have reduced revenue due to additional social distancing rules and lower anticipated usage.	

Date decision made:	17 July 2020
Decision taker	Gordon Mitchell, Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) Decision taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks, the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Law and Governance.
Was the decision taken under emergency or urgency rules?	Urgency powers delegated to the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) in Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution:
Is this a Key Decision?	Not key
Reasons for decision	This support enables Hinksey Outdoor Pool to open and Ferry Leisure centre dry side until October and then full opening of Ferry at that point.
Alternative options considered:	Officers considered various options for phased re-opening and compared with facilities remaining closed and the associated residual costs.
Wards significantly affected	None
Declared conflict of interest:	None

ITEM 5	FREE PARKING AT PARK AND RIDES
Decision: To provide free parking at Council-run park and ride sites (Redbridge, Seacourt and Peartree) for a limited period from August 2020. Oxfordshire County Council is making a matching offer for its two sites (Thornhill and Oxford Parkway). Guide revenue loss in discussion with Parking Management estimated at circa £30-35k, based on post-lockdown usage data, for the month of August.	
Date decision made:	28 July 2020
Decision taker	Gordon Mitchell, Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) Decision taken in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance and Asset Management and Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford, the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Law and Governance.
Was the decision taken under emergency or urgency rules?	Urgency powers delegated to the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) in Part 9.3(b) of the

	Constitution.
Is this a Key Decision?	Not key
Reasons for decision	The Council has worked in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council to provide free parking at all of Oxford's five park and ride sites to make it easier for people to visit the city centre, rediscover Oxford, spend money in the local economy, and so support business and protect jobs. It's a supportive initiative at a challenging time for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses, with city centre footfall still heavily down on last year (circa 60%) and the number of vacant units rising. It is thus an intervention to support our tenant and business rate base (in and beyond the city centre, as the initiative could produce positive footfall benefits in local shopping areas e.g. Summertown and Headington, too), and a measure of support for Park & Ride services which have suffered from the guidance being to avoid them unless necessary (they're currently running at 15% of usual capacity), and so support a return to use of a vital transport mode into the city centre.
Alternative options considered:	The alternatives were to maintain parking charges, which would not help to boost the local economy, or to run a slightly different scheme to County (e.g. Mon-Weds only in line with the #EatOutToHelpOut scheme), which would be less supportive and create perverse incentives for motorists to drive further to seek out free parking.
Wards significantly affected	None
Declared conflict of interest:	None

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