

Report to Portfolio Holder for Lifestyles, Health and Wellbeing

Subject: August Bank Holiday Opening for Leisure Facilities 2022

Date: 12th August 2022

Author: Leisure Manager

Wards Affected

Borough Wide

Purpose

To seek a decision and approval on the opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities on the August Bank Holiday Monday on 29th August 2022.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1) Approval is given to the proposed opening hours for the Council's leisure facilities on August Bank Holiday Monday - 29th August 2022, as set out in the report.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Previously, reports have shown that there has been relatively poor income and attendances at the leisure centres over bank holiday periods as most regular and block booking customers do not attend. As a result of this low usage, and an increase in costs associated with opening on bank holidays, leisure centres have previously closed, with the exception of Carlton Forum Leisure Centre. This site has usually operated between 7.00am – 3.00pm. Opening Carlton Forum on a bank holiday has allowed customers, especially those on a monthly or annual membership, to have

access to a leisure facility to exercise within the Borough.

- 1.2 Both the Richard Herrod Centre and Bonington Theatre have traditionally remained open on bank holidays. Compared to an average day, usage of the Richard Herrod Centre is modest, although opening does enable the Gedling Indoor Bowls Club to use the facility, which is part of their agreement. Usage at the Bonington Theatre is dependent upon the films available and showing at the cinema, but usage levels have typically been good.
- 1.3 By operating a reduced service over bank holidays it has allowed staff to take annual leave, where required, without having to obtain full cover.
- 1.4 For the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June, a decision was made to open all the leisure facilities, except Redhill Leisure Centre.
Over the two days there was a usage of 1441, income of £1,598 and additional staff expenditure of £9,716 (excluding Bonington Theatre). A breakdown of additional staffing expenditure and income is shown in Appendix A and a breakdown of the centre user's demographics is shown in appendix B
- 1.5 Typically Calverton Leisure Centre has always closed on bank holidays, although it was opened for the two-day Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday. Usage at this site was considerably lower than expected.

2 Proposal

It is proposed that:-

- 2.1 The leisure facilities are opened as per the following times for the August Bank Holiday Monday - 29th August 2022,
 - Arnold LC – 7am-4pm
 - Bonington Theatre – screenings at 10.30am, 1.30, 4.30 & 7.30
 - Calverton LC – closed
 - Carlton Forum LC – 7am-4pm
 - Redhill LC – closed
 - Richard Herrod 12pm-9.30pm.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 To close all leisure facilities, which would reduce expenditure but would

not permit access to any leisure or recreation activities on this day.

- 3.2 The leisure facilities could be operated with the normal operating hours. This option would entail an excessive use of resources and staffing of the facilities for extremely low levels of customer use.
- 3.3 As per 2.1, but also to open Calverton and/or Redhill Leisure Centre 7.00am – 4.00pm, which will allow access to a gym, an additional pool and increase the opportunity to access sports hall activities, especially for children and families as the bank holiday falls during the school holidays. However, it is thought that the availability within Carlton Forum and Arnold Leisure Centres are adequate to meet the demand.
- 3.4 Alternative Leisure Centre facility opening hours to those contained in the proposal options could be specified and decided upon.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Staff contracted to work at the sites which are opened on this day will be expected to attend work, otherwise they will need to utilise leave, as is normal practice on closure days.
- 4.2 Where appropriate, employees working on agreed closure days will have appropriate enhanced rates of pay applied to them.
- 4.3 Opening any facility on a bank holiday will incur additional staffing costs, compared with normal days. However, the financial impact needs to be considered alongside the desire to open leisure facilities for access by the public on these days.
- 4.4 Any additional staffing costs associated with this Bank Holiday have not been accounted for within the base budget and will need to be found from efficiencies made elsewhere within the leisure centre budgetary provision.

5 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the revision to the opening hours for the bank holiday.

6 Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

There are no apparent carbon reduction/sustainability implications arising from the contents of this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A - breakdown of additional staffing expenditure and income for the 2-day Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday.

Appendix B - breakdown of the centre user's demographics for the 2-day Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday.

9 Background Papers

None identified

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To allow for a continued leisure provision over the August Bank Holiday to ensure that a level of customer service is provided at the Council's leisure facilities.
- 10.2 As a result of the current cost of living crisis, with residents less likely to be able to afford to go away on holiday, as well as the proximity to the end of the school summer holidays, opening the leisure centres more than has traditionally been the case may allow for some residents to access the facilities who may not have done previously.
- 10.3 Usage at Calverton LC was low over the Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday and it may also be difficult to obtain staff for this day to offer a full range of facilities at this site.
- 10.4 To allow staff to take annual leave without the need to provide full cover at some sites, thus minimising additional staffing costs.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer