

Management Response

Local Authority: Blaenau Gwent CBC

Report title: Delivering with Less – Leisure Services – Blaenau Gwent Council

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WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Ref	Proposal for Improvement	Intended outcome/ benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Accepted (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
P1	<p>Learning from the existing leisure services arrangement:</p> <p>Ensure that learning from the current Trust arrangement is considered when establishing the new leisure services arrangement; including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensuring that the Council's responsibilities stated within legal agreements for any outsourced services are clearly understood by officers and Members;• clarifying and agreeing service development expectations as well as financial targets from the outset;• ensuring financial targets are realistic and achievable; and• monitoring performance in a timely way so that the Council can foresee any potential poor performance or concerns over future financial sustainability of the arrangement in good time to take corrective action.	Future leisure services arrangements are better managed by the Council	Y	Y	The review of Leisure and learning has been taken on board in Phase 2 of the review. This learning will be included in future specifications and governance arrangements.	End of October 2019	Anne-Louise Clark

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P2	<p>Learning that the Council can draw from the leisure service review process to inform its other service reviews:</p> <p>Ensure that the Council's programme of service reviews work to realistic project scopes; including by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> timescales are realistic and achievable; there is adequate and timely member involvement to allow for effective scrutiny; adequate resources are allocated to complete service reviews; options are well defined; and proposed options are fully costed with proposed timescales for implementation to support effective decision making. 	Clearer and better managed service reviews	Y	Y	The approach to Strategic Business Review including service reviews are now following a process that ensures transparency, involvement, timely reporting and scrutiny	End of December 2019	Anne-Louise Clark and CLT
P3	<p>Preparing for an alternative delivery model(s):</p> <p>Put plans in place to ensure continuity of leisure services and smooth transition to sustainable and efficient alternative delivery model(s).</p>	Leisure services are set up to deliver the Council's strategic priorities and are sustainable in the long term	Y	Y	The review of Leisure Services is about ensuring sustainable delivery of Leisure and Culture Services. Further commissioning or recommissioning will ensure smooth transition to longer term provision	End of October 2019	Anne-Louise Clark