

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2020/21
Decision No.
2179

Record of Decision by Executive Portfolio for Leisure and Community Monday, 18 May 2020

Portfolio	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Petition - Squash Courts at Fareham Leisure Centre
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

Purpose:

To consider a petition seeking to prevent the closure of the squash courts at Fareham Leisure Centre.

At the meeting on the 4th November 2019, the Executive agreed to award a 10-year contract for the management of Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centre to SLM, otherwise known as Everyone Active. It also agreed the capital investment for the contract, particularly at Fareham Leisure Centre, to deliver improved revenue and to expand and modernise the range of facilities it currently provides.

The capital investment proposals in the bid from Everyone Active includes the conversion of the squash courts into a large soft play area and a climbing wall. The purpose of this redevelopment of facilities is critical in delivering improvements to the revenue position.

After the decision of the Executive there has been a series of correspondence from squash players who use the facilities, challenging the decision and objecting to the loss of squash provision at Fareham Leisure Centre.

This report outlines details of two petitions that the Council received on 20 March 2020, submitted by a resident seeking to prevent the closure of the squash courts.

Options Considered:

The Executive Member for Leisure and Community was advised of an amendment on page 7, with the word 'users' being replaced with the word 'uses'. Paragraph 7(b) therefore reading – Squash court bookings by distinct members at Fareham Leisure Centre has declined by 16% since 2010, with the average number of uses in 2019/20 being 179 per month or 2,148 each year.

The Executive Member for Leisure and Community considered the report together with representations made by Councillors; Mrs K Trott, R Price and Mrs L Clubley.

In making her decision the Executive Member for Leisure and Community also considered comments that she had received from six squash court users.

Decision:

RESOLVED that The Executive Member for Leisure and Community considered the contents of the report along with the amendment to paragraph 7(b) on page 7, and determined that no recommendation should be submitted to the Executive to review the decision to convert the squash courts at Fareham Leisure Centre.

Reason:

The petitioner is asking the Council to reconsider its decision to support the conversion of the squash courts at Fareham Leisure Centre.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor S Bell (Executive Member for Leisure and Community)
Monday, 18 May 2020

