

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 13 December 2022  
**Subject:** Contracts and Commissioning  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Nigel Avey

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## **Recommending:**

**The report of the Contracts and Commissioning Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Waste Management**

### **Waste Management Contract**

Officers have begun work to start the procurement process for the Waste / Street Cleansing Contract which expires in November 2024. Market engagement events have been held with potential waste contractors.

Officers continue to monitor the performance of Biffa and work in a positive manner to improve service delivery and ensure the issue of missed collections is resolved and kept under control.

### **Recycling Pilot**

Epping Forest District Council and Biffa are running a pilot scheme using wheeled bins for recycling in selected roads in Theydon Bois and are looking for residents to volunteer to have a blue lidded recycling bin. All recycling can be placed loose in the bin so no need to use the clear recycling sacks or to collect them from outlets. Glass can also be placed in the blue lidded bin instead of the current blue box.

A bin hanger with further details how residents can get involved in the pilot have been delivered to properties in Theydon Bois. A leaflet will also be delivered to residents that are part of the pilot explaining what can and cannot be recycled and provide details of a questionnaire for residents to complete and provide their feedback.

## **Leisure Management**

### **Contract Performance**

Swimming membership has recovered quickly after the pandemic, with all sites showing growth from September 2021. Waltham Abbey leisure centre and Ongar leisure centre swimming memberships have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. Fitness membership numbers are still below pre-pandemic levels, but significantly above comparative data after the pandemic.

### **Real Living Wage**

Staff shortages is a concern and a national problem in the leisure industry. Swimming lessons have been impacted by the difficulty in the recruitment of swimming instructors. Places Leisure are a Real Living Wage employer since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and every member of staff working in the leisure centres will earn a real living wage. This is expected to assist with staff retention and provides great reputational benefits. This will also give an opportunity to encourage and build relationships with schools/colleges and provide apprenticeships.