

# **Report to: Neighbourhoods Select Committee**

**Date of meeting: 20 November 2018**

**Subject: Leisure Contract Update**

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**Committee Secretary:** Vivienne Messenger (01992 564265)

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

### **That the report be noted.**

The Leisure Contract Partnership Board met on 27 September 2018. The leisure contractor presented its performance report which showed that usage was up in virtually every category of membership and casual usage across all centres.

Of particular interest were the discussions regarding the feasibility study looking at the potential to locate a new leisure centre in Epping at the St John's Road site. The outcome of the feasibility study will be published in December 2018. In the meantime, site survey work and demolition planning are underway.

The new centre at Waltham Abbey Ninefields opened on 17 November 2018, slightly ahead of schedule. Users of the old centre toured the new site for several weeks prior to opening and early feedback was very positive indeed.

The existing Waltham Abbey Pool site closed on 7 November 2018. The site was handed over to Essex Housing for hoarding and securing on 9 November. The contract for demolition will be let shortly after and the site will then be cleared prior to the housing development.

Epping Sports Centre is experiencing some issues with the sports hall floor and the roof. These problems are a reflection of the age and structure of the building.

Ongar Leisure Centre is also having some issues with the boilers and the pool, again due to age. Parts were scavenged from the recently closed Waltham Abbey Pool site to help keep the Ongar boilers going. The consultants conducting the feasibility study into the new Epping centre have been asked to look at options for Ongar as part of their work. Ultimately however, Ongar will need significant capital investment at some point in the next 2-5 years.

Loughton Leisure Centre is benefitting from the new gym extension and usage is much increased as a result. A noise complaint from a neighbouring property has largely been resolved.