

BEST VALUE REPORT ON LEISURE SERVICES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This item introduces the final Best Value report on Leisure Services now published by the Best Value Inspectorate. Members have already seen the Inspectorate's draft report.

2 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The final report has now been received from the Best Value Inspectorate in relation to Leisure Services. Whilst some minor changes have been made, the report remains largely the same as the draft already circulated to all Members, which was used as background information as part of the Leisure Contract selection process. A copy of the final report is attached as [Appendix 1](#).
- 2.2 The majority of the issues raised by the Inspectorate will be addressed through the new Leisure Contract with Holmes Place. Certainly, the Inspectorate view the prospects for improving leisure services under the new contract as promising, although proof will only be provided once the contract comes into operation and the various improvements and initiatives implemented.
- 2.3 As to the comments concerning the policy direction for the whole service, this will need to be linked in more closely with the development of the Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy, as it emerges.
- 2.4 Similarly, with regard to the specific comments on tourism, in the first instance this is being addressed through the context of the Thames Gateway. Once that overall strategic framework is in place, specific detailed elements can be taken up by the District.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The work around Best Value in Leisure Services, together with the awarding of the Leisure Contract, has taken significant officer and Member resources. That said, the contract package, and the benefits to the Council as a result, have justified the time and resource spent on this important area of the Council's service operation.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Best Value review process is a legal requirement arising from the Local Government Act 1999.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Committee **RESOLVES** to note the content of the report and through the Overview & Scrutiny process, monitor the key recommendations by way of the regular review of the new Leisure Contract. (CEX)

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