

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills, and
Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 31st January 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community
and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Employment, Learning and Skills and
Community

SUBJECT: New Leisure Service Division.

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the creation of a new Leisure Services Division as part of a restructure that has taken place within the Community & Environment department.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 1 September 2021 a new Operational Director Community & Environment was appointed following the retirement of the previous post holder.

On that date the Community & Environment Department was organised as shown in the table below.



A review was undertaken by the new Operational Director and it was considered that the existing structure, which had evolved into being over 10 years ago, no longer fitted the way in which the Council organises its portfolios. Furthermore there were anomalies in terms of the reporting

structure with a number of sections having no Divisional Manager (and thereby reporting directly to the Operational Director).

Stresses within the two Divisions that made up the department were also a consideration. It was felt that the workload of the technical teams within the Open Space Service and Waste & Environmental Improvement could be better organised if those teams merged.

The Community & Environment department is one of the biggest in the Council and it was realised that changes to the structure would have to be undertaken as different phases.

A phase 1 proposal was presented to the Senior Management Team in October 2021 and was agreed. It then progressed through Steering Group and meetings took place with the relevant portfolio holders. From 1 January 2022 the Community & Environment department was configured as per the table shown below.



A Divisional Manager was appointed to head the Environment Services in late November 2021 and is now in post.

3.2 The new Leisure Services Division also came into being on 1 January 2022 and consists of the following services:

Brindley Theatre and Events
Community Centres
Leisure Centres and Sports Development Team
Libraries

The division will also have responsibility for the promotion and development of the council's cultural aspirations.

The new Leisure Services Division suite of services align with the Leisure, Community and Culture portfolio.

At the time of writing the post of Divisional Manager Leisure Services was in the process of being recruited and it is hoped that they will be in place by 1 March 2022 (if not earlier). Once the Divisional Manager is in

post they will be tasked with looking at the suite of services to see what realignments, within the division, might be beneficial going forward.

There are a number of major capital investments that will be taking place within this service area including a new leisure centre and an extension at the Brindley which will allow library service functions to be housed there. These projects will form an important part of the Divisional Manager Leisure Services work.

- 3.3 There will be future phases of restructure within the Community & Environment department in the coming months.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The creation of the Leisure Services Division will assist the council to deliver on its policies through a better integration of its services.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The first phase of the restructure of the department including the creation of the Leisure Services Division has been delivered at no additional cost to the council.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

All of the core services that make up the Leisure Services Division contribute directly to this priority.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Library Services provide space and resources for learning.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Leisure centres and the functions of the Sports Development team support the health and wellbeing of communities across Halton

6.4 A Safer Halton

All of the core services that make up the Leisure Services Division contribute directly to this priority.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The creation of a new Leisure Centre and the Brindley extension will contribute directly to this priority.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks associated with the report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.