Transforming Leisure in Reading with GLL

Ben Stanesby – Active Reading Manager

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Reading's Historic Provision

4 centres built in 1970's and 1980's and a pool in the early 20th Century. Condition and throughput reflected age.

Lentral Pool closed 2018 - originally 33m pool plus teaching and diving pools.

Arthur Hill Swimming Pool, operated 1911 - 2016.

• Old Rivermead closed 2023 - leisure pool, gym, sports hall, bowls hall.

Meadway Sports Centre retained - Dual use, 20m pool, Sports Hall, Gym and Squash courts.

South Reading Leisure Centre - Swimming pool, Sports Hall and studio, gym and multi-use spaces.

Palmer Park Leisure Centre & Stadium - Athletic and Velo tracks and gym. Extended 2022 Swimming Pool, Softplay and larger gym.

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Historic Management

- Managed in house until 2021.
- Use reflected age and condition of facilities.
- Limited management information and unsophisticated out-reach programme.
- Contract started July 2021, building works commenced August 2021 and service delivery priorities were reset:
 - Deliver modern, financially and environmentally sustainable leisure facilities.
 - Increase physical activity and reduce health inequalities.
 - Contribute to the ambition of a net-zero carbon Reading by 2030.

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Delivery of an ambitious £40m investment programme of modern leisure facilities

Rivermead Leisure Centre

- 25m, 8 lane competition pool.
- Teaching and diving pool.
- Splash pad fun zone for younger children.
- 120-station gym with 3 studios.
- 6-court sports hall with 250 spectator seats.
- Accessible toilets and changing facilities.
- Soft play, new reception area and café.
- Outside play area.

Delivery of an ambitious £40m investment programme of modern leisure facilities

PALMER PARK LEISURE CENTRE & STADIUM

Palmer Park Leisure Centre

- 25m community pool.
- 100-station gym and studios.
- Soft play, with party rooms.
 New changing rooms, toilets and accessible changing facility.
 New café.

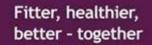
Delivering an ambitious £40m investment programme of modern leisure facilities: South Reading & Meadway

South Reading Improvements - 2023/24 £700k

- Swimming pool changing rooms
- Accessible change
- Pool tank structure
- RFCCT Intervention unit

Meadway Improvements - 2023 £300k

- Swimming pool changing rooms
- Sports Hall and changing
- Creation of large Studio







Low Carbon Leisure

Low carbon energy package worth over £2.5 million.

Rivermead - two air source heat pumps

- Reduce gas use by c.1,400,000 kWh/year.
- 80 per cent reduction in the carbon emission rate.
- Most of the additional electrical load offset by 770 new solar panels.

Palmer Park - one air source heat pump

- Reduce gas use by c.400,000kWh/year.
- 57 per cent reduction in the carbon emission rate.
- Active Travel.
- Key Performance Indicators:
 - 2.5% reduction pa in energy consumption.
 - 1% reduction pa in water consumption
 - Implementation of an Environmental Management System.

Improving Service Reach

© Clear contract outcomes to increase participation in physical activity and reduce health inequalities.

Improved opportunities to promote local employment including new apprenticeships.

- Targeted physical activity programmes e.g. falls prevention, adult weight management.
- Community partnerships e.g. Reading FC Community Trust, festival of inclusion.
- Piloting activity in community centres.
- 🕱 Monthly review between leisure, Public Health & GLL.
- Embedding Quest in contract management.
- Transparency through Committee assessment of contract performance.

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This year onwards

- New and improved pools opened spring and summer 1000 (2024).
- Increasing active participants to over 1 million annually.
- Building on targeted work increase physical activity and reduce health inequalities.
- Embedding evidenced performance management framework
- £1.9 million for lifecycle maintenance capital works to maintain energy improvements in future and ongoing decarbonisation of facilities.

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