

# Overview and Scrutiny – Swimming Challenge

Update April 2023

This report submits the update response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Challenge Session report recommendations which examined Swimming provision in the borough.

Recommendation	Details	Progress
<b>Recommendation 1</b>	<p>That the Overview and Scrutiny be provided with the leisure centre review report and be engaged with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next steps on leisure centre contract extension</li> <li>• Public consultation and procurement of new leisure contract</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendation 1 has been superseded by the Councils decision to bring the leisure centre operation in house.</b></p> <p><b>As part of the Leisure Insourcing Programme a period of engagement will be undertaken between May – September.</b></p>
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	<p>That the council examines and supports options for catch up swimming sessions for children who missed lessons because of lockdown and review viability of different swimming programmes offered and how these would be reinstated. That the Mayor should review the budget so that swimming provisions (pre Covid-19) can be reinstated</p>	<p><b>GLL has successfully delivered an Intensive school swimming project and continues to target year 6 children who have not achieved the 25m swimming standard. The reopening of Tiller and York Hall pools following council investment has meant the a comprehensive swimming programme is now in place</b></p>
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	<p>Greenwich Leisure Ltd and the council to explore promptly how to address the travel challenges faced by schools in the borough so that children can access swimming provision</p>	<p>Completed July 2022</p>
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	<p>The council to consider if covid funding or reserves can be used to support swimming provision</p>	<p><b>Swimming provision will be reviewed as part of the insourcing of the leisure centre service.</b></p>
Recommendation 5	<p>The council to examine the different options of keeping St Georges Pool on existing site, noting the strong lobby from residents and cross party support to keep the pool where it is. That details of financial</p>	<p><b>Recommendation 5 has been superseded by the Council decision by Cabinet on the 1 August 2022 to replace the existing centre with a brand-new facility (but kept at same location).</b></p>

	planning for reopening St George's is shared transparently with the Committee	
Recommendation 6	The council to develop a long-term capital investment strategy for leisure centres to ensure that they can be maintained to good standards including where needed major refurbishments. This should also include establishing a Lido and other new swimming provision in the borough. Leisure provision in Borough for the future should consider taking the projected rise in the population on board	<b>Capital Investment in existing swimming pools (Tiller and York Hall) and the re-provision of the St Georges Leisure Centre will ensure swimming programmes will continue and expand as the service comes in house. Future investment needs were included in the Leisure Estate strategy completed in 2022, and will be reviewed as part of the insourcing process.</b>
Recommendation 7	GLL and council communications to assist with wider reach to parents, dispelling myths swimming in the winter season will cause colds and better visibility of consultations	<b>A communications workstream forms part of the insourcing process. Developing key messages that will breakdown barriers to participation, including dispelling myths, will form a major part of the workstreams activities, as will developing meaningful and appropriate engagement and consultation methods to enable users and non-users to shape service delivery.</b>