

Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee Meeting 23 Jan 2020.

The main item at this meeting was the Review of Leisure Contract. There are three main facilities involved: Penrith Leisure Centre, Appleby Swimming Pool and Frenchfield Sports Pavilion and grounds and the maintenance of four other grass pitches across the district. The contract is with Greenwich Leisure Limited. EDC appointed FMG consulting to review the contract.

Considerations were: reduce the cost, improve the service, greater community engagement.

Methodology: review local and national information, review performance, consult stakeholders, review commercial arrangements, identify improvements to revenue and service, analyse management options, undertake social and economic assessment of impact of service in Eden.

Review of business performance: the business is performing well. Maintenance and staff costs are within benchmarks.

Feedback: pricing is reasonable, free parking is positive, transport is a challenge, accessing the pool can be difficult.

Options: re-tender, bring service in house, establish a charitable trust, asset transfer to the community.

Considerations: affordability, ability to meet Council's strategic objectives, ability to raise capital, level of control retained by council, impact on cost, ability to attract external grant funding, impact on customer satisfaction, opportunity for community involvement.

FMG presented the report to EDC officers on 29 Jan and it will go to full Council in April.