

**Oxford Leisure Partnership Board Zoom meeting  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 11:00am**

	Initials:	Project Role
<b>Oxford City Council:</b>		
Ian Brooke	IB	Head of Community Services
Cllr Mary Clarkson	CMC	Cabinet Member for Culture Tourism & Leisure
Lucy Cherry	LC	Leisure And Performance Manager
Jasmin Carne	JC	Communities Support Officer
<b>Fusion Lifestyle:</b>		
Gregg Holland	GH	Fusion Regional Business Manager
<b>Representatives:</b>		
Margaret Simpson	MS	Older Persons Representative
Ruth James	RJ	Ferry User Group Representative
Nicola Brown	NB	City of Oxford Swimming Club
James Morbin	JM	Leys Pools & Leisure Centre User Group Representative
Suzanne Jeffery	SJ	British Ice Skating Association
Philippa Muir	PM	Hinksey User Group Representative

**Apologies for absence:**  
 Cllr Steve Goddard - Shadow Board Member  
 Graham Ashby (GA) – Fusion Oxford Contract Manager  
 Tayyaba Hameed - Community Stakeholder Representative  
 Greig Box-Turnbull - Oxford City Stars Ice Hockey  
 Maggie James - Equality & Access Manager | Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

**Oxford City Council update**

OCC are focussing on decarbonisation works alongside Fusion and centre user groups to keep centres open where possible or with minimal disruption.

*Key notes:*

- Project delivery is challenged with materials delivery and logistics

The Council has and continues to work very hard to support communities and residents through Locality Hubs. Further work emerging around supporting community groups and linking with community grants to allow continuity of support in our city.

*Looking ahead:*

Data, learning and intelligence will help identify future Covid-19 impacts on leisure such as:

- Returning students to the city  
**Action: IB to share the Oxford Brookes University Sports contact details with GH**
- Energy price increases
- Furlough ending/reduction in Universal weekly credit (£20)

Securing the future of public sport and leisure services: The LGA alongside the Association for Public Services Excellence (ASPE), and Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) consulted with over 250 councils and a wide range of stakeholders to seek their views on what needs to change so that public sport and leisure services can operate sustainably and deliver the best outcomes for communities. (<http://libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk/publications/securing-future-public-sport-and-leisure-services>)

*Key notes/recommendations:*

- Some other national public leisure facilities have closed
- The value of Learn to Swim
- Inclusive access
- Mobility sessions/women’s sessions
- Social prescribing – [National Academy for Social Prescribing: A social revolution in wellbeing Strategic Plan 2020-23](#)

- Preventative sessions
- Climate & decarbonisation

### **Fusion Update**

A steady user increase has been seen since restrictions were lifted in July 2021.

Key notes:

- Noticeable challenges to recruit to leisure posts nationally, which Fusion locally are experiencing (similar to that for hospitality services) to some posts **Action: Fusion and COSC to link with each other to explore options, reducing costs and flexible arrangements for dates/ times of future swimming instructor courses.**

### **Decarbonisation Programme update:**

Key notes

- A financial review is taking place to include forecasting
- Importance of sustainability of services
- Mitigate closures where possible (Leys to have a 6 week closure during quieter time Nov/Dec)
- Hinksey work is progressing
- Council approved progressing Barton, Hinksey, Leys and Ferry leisure Centre schemes.
- Engagement with stakeholders will continue and be further developed. The Council has created a new Lower-carbon leisure centres webpage to help keep stakeholders informed (<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/greenerleisure>)
- Programme delivery timelines are due from the project managers.  
**Action: LC will share headline programme delivery timelines**  
**Action: COSC and Fusion (GA/ GH/ Lewis Campbell) to meet to review timetables and alternative options available during the period of closure for the Leys Pools and Leisure Centre Scheme.**

### **Fees and Charges**

Key notes:

- A careful balance and consideration between a framework for a sustainable leisure offer in Oxford.
- Fusion have submitted their proposals for 2022/23 charges to the Council, further discussion will need to take place. In summary protecting legacy members, overall 3.5% inflationary increase across core fees and charges
- Fusion are proposing to implement the Council approved 2021/22 incremental fees and charges in November 2021.
- A new 2022/23 membership architecture has been drafted by Fusion.  
**Action: LC to circulate to group for comment to be returned to [Gregg.Holland@Fusion-Lifestyle.com](mailto:Gregg.Holland@Fusion-Lifestyle.com) and [lcherry@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:lcherry@oxford.gov.uk).**

Useful reading links

- Moving Communities: <https://movingcommunities.org>
- Move Together: <https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/move-together>
- National Academy for Social Prescribing: <https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk/>

### **AOB**

**Next Zoom meeting:  
17 November 2021, 2pm to 3pm.**