

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Making the Decision

Sylvia Wright – Head of Leisure & Culture

### Recommendation

- That “Fusion Lifestyle” (Fusion) are permitted to reopen Soar Valley and South Charnwood Leisure Centres Health and Fitness facilities from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020 respectively, in accordance with relevant government guidelines and in a ‘COVID-secure’ manner.

### Reason

- To permit the facilities to re-open in accordance with government guidelines.

### Authority for Decision

Under s.8.3 of the Constitution the Head of Leisure & Culture has delegated authority to manage the Council’s leisure centres.

### Decision and Date

 24.07.2020

### Background

The Government have announced that Leisure Centres can reopen from the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

Fusion have indicated that they can reopen the Health and Fitness facilities at Soar Valley and South Charnwood Leisure Centres at zero cost to the Council, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August respectively. These dates are before Cabinet meets to consider the wider impact of Fusion’s proposals, including aquatics for all centres and the facilities to be provided.

In order to support Fusion’s recovery and in view of the zero financial impact to the Council taking this decision is considered appropriate and avoids any legal implications that could be brought by Fusion if they are prevented from reopening these centres.

Due to the advanced preparation required for the reopening of Leisure Centres to meet with Government advice a timely decision is required.

## Financial Implications

The decision to allow Fusion to reopen the two leisure centres as detailed is at no financial risk to the Council and therefore support for this decision is merited.

Fusion have proposed a phased approach to the reopening of the Councils Leisure Centres. The options include no costs associated with a full Health and Fitness provision for Soar Valley and South Charnwood Leisure Centres for the duration of the option modelled by Fusion i.e. until 31 March 2021.

Officers have confirmed as part of negotiations to date that no further unavoidable payments to cover unavoidable costs while closed to the public (hibernation costs) will be paid in relation to these centres from July 2020 onwards.

Fusion's proposals for other leisure centre re-openings will be considered as part of the forthcoming Cabinet report.

## Consultation with the Leader

The Leader has been consulted and understands the rationale for the decision.

## Consultation with Chief Executive and relevant Strategic Directors

Consultation has been effectively concluded via the Council's COVID-19 organisational response to the pandemic. The Chief Executive and all Directors support the recommendations of this report.

## Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Failure to support or delay decisions on Fusion's recovery proposals could lead to litigation	Unlikely (2)	Significant (3)	Moderate (6)	Delegated Decision to allow phased reopen to commence at no cost to the council pending full Cabinet approval

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None