

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 29 February 2024

Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure 2024/25

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Culture and Communities Committee is asked to note:
 - 1.1.1 The service payment of £10,985,286 to Edinburgh Leisure for 2024/25; and
 - 1.1.2 A further payment of £165,000 to Edinburgh Leisure towards capital improvements across the Council's sport and leisure facility estate.

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Executive Director of Place

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Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure 2024/25

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report contains the details of the proposed Council Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure following approval of the Council's budget on 22 February 2024 and seeks approval from the Culture and Communities Committee to make that payment.

3. Background

- 3.1 As instructed in 2012 by and as reported to the Council in 2013, Edinburgh Leisure agreed to operate under new service and funding agreements. These service and funding arrangements remain in place and the Council will work with Edinburgh Leisure to make any adjustments required for 2024/25.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Edinburgh Leisure operates over 50 sport and leisure facilities across the city on behalf of the Council, attracting 3.6 million visits in 2022/23. The range of facilities include sport and leisure centres, swim centres, golf courses, tennis courts, sports pitches, and pavilions. Edinburgh Leisure also deliver coaching activities, health and wellbeing programmes, and initiatives for people of all ages and abilities all of which helps Edinburgh to become an active and healthy city.
- 4.2 Edinburgh Leisure also manage community access to sports facilities at all 23 secondary schools across the city (the net income from community access being remitted to the Council).
- 4.3 Whilst significant progress has been made, Edinburgh Leisure's operation has not recovered to pre-Covid levels of footfall and usage. In order to support Edinburgh Leisure to maintain its existing levels of services and facility access, the Council made provision within the 2023/24 approved budget for further additional contract payments of up to £2m.
- 4.4 The amount detailed in paragraph 1.1.1 includes £1m of COVID Recovery Funding and an additional payment of £3.2m approved by the Council at its Budget meeting on 22 February 2024. Conditions for the additional payment include requirement for Culture and Communities Committee – 29 February 2024

Edinburgh Leisure to pay their staff at least the Real Living Wage, keeps all leisure centres open, and works with Council officers to conduct an efficiency review during the coming year.

- 4.5 Edinburgh Leisure are a partner for the delivery of objectives within the Council's Business Plan and officers from both organisations will continue to work together to make progress and impact against key areas of net zero, poverty and wellbeing.
- 4.6 Edinburgh Leisure are also involved with the development of a new Physical Activity Sport Strategy for the city as well as assisting with the expansion of their community access to schools' role.

4 Next Steps

- 5.1 Payment will be made by the Council following the annual Services and Funding Agreement being signed off by the Council Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of Edinburgh Leisure before 1 April 2024.

6 Financial impact

- 6.1 The service payment of £10,985,286 and capital funding of £165,000 is provided for within the approved budget for 2024/25.

7 Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 The service payment to Edinburgh Leisure allows the delivery of several programmes that aim to improve equality of access and support those on low income. Projects include the £10 Get Active Card, Community Access Programme and Open All Hours.

8 Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 Edinburgh Leisure work in partnership with the Council to improve the energy efficiency of its estate and contribute to the city's Net Zero targets.

9 Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 Approval of this report will allow Edinburgh Leisure to manage and operate the Council's sport and leisure estate, providing services and programmes for the residents of Edinburgh and contributing towards key Council strategic priorities.
- 9.2 The management of the relationship between the Council and Edinburgh Leisure will be governed through the 2024/25 Services and Funding Agreement.

10 Background reading/external references

10.1 None

11 Appendices

11.1 None.