

<b>Report on</b>	Cyclical Leisure Equipment Replacement Programme
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Sean Cavlin, Leisure and Business Development Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek member's approval to re-allocate and utilise remainder of the 2021/22 budget assigned to 7 year cyclical leisure fitness equipment capital replacement programme for the current purposes of addressing areas for equipment replacement and/or additions where health and safety issues have been highlighted.
	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously, in July 2018 (minute reference: D159/18) Members approved a cyclical fitness equipment replacement plan within the leisure department and that a phased approach be adopted in line with Mid Ulster District Council Procurement guidelines. As part of this approval, Officers were asked to develop and implement a cyclical replacement plan for all leisure facilities equipment that would see its replacement on a 7 year cycle. This would support the leisure transformation agenda by ensuring Council facilities and equipment are modern and of sufficient quality.
2.2	In October 2018 (minute reference: PR199/18), Members approved the release of budget for the 7 year cycle at £300,000 per annum. This has been included within the approved Capital Framework.
2.3	In January 2019 (minute reference: DO12/19) Members approved the schedule which itemised years 1-7 investment plan. To date, the refurbishment of fitness suites at Cookstown LC, Dungannon LC and Maghera LC have been completed, alongside the installation of bespoke cycle studios at Greenvale LC and Cookstown LC. Additionally, new spin bikes have been purchased for Dungannon LC along with various items of leisure equipment to support the ongoing group exercise coaching programme within the leisure facilities.
2.4	The next phase of this project has focused on the year 4 priority, which is the refurbishment of the fitness suite at Greenvale Leisure Centre and Members approved the tender award "in committee" at its June 2021 Development Committee (minute reference: D119/21)

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	As part of the approved £300,000 budget allocation within the 2021/22 financial year and following the award of the fitness suite refurbishment contract at Greenvale Leisure Centre, it has been identified that there will be an underspend within the overall budget for this year.
3.2	As an exponential growth in outdoor recreation has been experienced over the last 12-18 months due to the covid pandemic and various restrictions/lockdowns etc, Officers within the leisure department have identified some health and safety issues and negative user experiences at a small number of its outdoor pitches.
3.3	The issue focused on pitches where there are structured and organised sporting club activities taking place and where there are co-joining opportunities for informal recreational use by walkers/runners via designated walking trails around the perimeters of pitches.
3.4	In these cases there is an absence of low level fencing and ball stops to assist with segregating the structured pitch sporting activities with that of the informal recreational use on the surrounding walking trails. (i.e. stray footballs impacting walkers/runners, children moving between the designated walking trail and entering the pitch while structured sporting activities are ongoing, etc).
3.5	This has mainly been identified at Moneymore Recreation Centre, Ballygawley Playing Fields and Benburb Playing Fields along with issues of ballstop nets at a number of sites that are not in place and/or have fell into dis-repair.
3.6	Therefore, in line with Council's procurement processes, it is proposed to permit Officer to utilise the anticipated under-spend from the current year budget to address these issues by seeking to procure and install low level, accessible fencing solutions at designated sites along with the addition/replacement of ballstop nets.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	<p><b>Financial:</b></p> <p>These costs are estimated at £65,000 and are within the current Capital Framework and within the levels previously agreed by Members in October 2018, with the 7 year cycle at £300,000 per annum.</p>
	<p><b>Human:</b></p> <p>Leisure staff will be required to dedicate time to the procurement of specific equipment, with key staff identified to liaise with the successful supplier(s) before and during install.</p>
	<p><b>Risk Management:</b></p> <p>In line with Council Policies and Procedures.</p>

4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p><b>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:</b></p> <p>None anticipated.</p> <p><b>Rural Needs Implications:</b></p> <p>None anticipated.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>
5.1	<p>That Members note the contents of this report and approve the recommendation to re-allocate and utilise remainder of the 2021/22 budget assigned to the 7 year cyclical leisure fitness equipment capital programme for the current purposes of addressing areas for equipment replacement and/or additions at outdoor pitches where health and safety issues have been highlighted.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>
6.1	<p>N/A</p>