

Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel – Questions requiring a response.

Minute No.	Item	Councillor	Question	Answer
23/26	Corporate Performance Q1	Cllr Martin	Query on whether PI 15 could include detail on extensions to planning applications.	<p>The number of planning applications over 26 weeks old with an extension of time in place is available so will now be included with the commentary reported for PI 15. It should be noted that planning applications within the time allowed by an extension of time are not overdue for the purposes of external performance management of local planning authorities.</p> <p>Further information can be found via the link: https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/development-mgmt/managing-performance/extensions-time-agreements/decisions-positive-planning</p>
23/26	Corporate Performance Q1	Cllr Pickering	Clarification sought on how One Leisure performance was expected to partially recover by the end of March.	<p>We are confident in forecasting that the current year end position will not get any worse than the current performance gap (c. 39,000). However, we are confident that we will be able to reduce this for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The low-cost operator Sports Direct Gym in Huntingdon closed its door in September. Huntingdon Leisure Centre has seen the benefit of this, with a net gain in its member base of 60, and it is forecast that the net gain for October will be another 40. This is 100 new members using the centre now until March 2024. Overall, OL gym attendance in September improved by 2,000, moving the deficit from -17k to -15k for this activity type. 2. January to March are the busiest months of the year for leisure, when we will benefit from net growth compound in gym members and swim school seen over the previous nine months of the year (approx. 300 gym and 200 learn to swim).

				<p>3. We will see an increase in pitch surface usage as both the 3G and Hockey pitch at OL St Ives Outdoor have been resurfaced. Both pitches have already seen an increase in demand, with the 3G pitch now fully booked at peak time until the end of the season in May 2024. There was some negative downturn in usage (approx. 3k) in September while these two surfaces were out of use for resurfacing but this will be recovered from now until March 2024.</p> <p>4. We have appointed a new Activities Manager who will work across One Leisure Centres looking at programming opportunities to increase participation and revenue. Their primary focus will be to drive gym and swim usage as these are the biggest areas of focus.</p>
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