

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Phill Brightmore
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Leisure and Recreation
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	David Armstrong – Corporate Director for Delivery Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1 LEISURE & CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

We have made significant progress with our detailed review of all leisure, culture, parks and library services. I am unequivocal in my view that we find the best, most sustainable model of delivery for these vital services.

They are all unique, they are all valued and they all play a massive part in delivering our 20 Pledges and improving the quality of life our residents enjoy. That's why I will not accept or propose any option which does not allow these services to improve, to adapt to meet more modern needs, and thrive into the future.

I also remain steadfast when I pledge that any new model will not lead to compulsory redundancies. Our staff are important, they do a fantastic job and they will be supported.

For both the Floral Pavilion and our municipal golf courses, I am clear on what I feel the best option is. I want these services and facilities to thrive. I want them to be successful, attracting customers and revenue to enable them to continuously improve. To get there, I believe the best option is to bring in a specialist to run them on our behalf.

We want to give these services the best possible chance to be successful. We want them to be able to increase their business, attract more customers and revenue, and be able to expand. I believe our plan will deliver on that challenge and will ensure Wirral residents can benefit from improved services.

I also want to highlight to Members the upcoming 10th anniversary of the opening of the new Floral Pavilion. At the time of writing plans are being put in place for a very special event on 13 December – more news about this will be announced soon.

The Floral Pavilion was the centrepiece of the hugely successful New Brighton regeneration. It was and remains a much-loved local attraction. It is time, in my view, for it to take the next steps in its development and become a thriving, successful theatre in its own right. This way, theatre-lovers can look forward to the next ten years of the Floral Pavilion with huge confidence.

Read more about the Floral Pavilion in the [Liverpool Echo](#).

We are continuing to develop proposals for the remainder of the services within this review and, over the coming months, I will be bringing forward initial proposals, which we will then use as a basis for more conversations and consultations with everyone who has an interest in these important services.

It's important our services continue to improve and modernise what they deliver. I was pleased recently to announce early opening at the Oval in Bebington. We are having to continually do more with less, as council resources are squeezed, so I am pleased to be able to say this is yet another example of us maximising the opportunities provided by our leisure centres for Wirral's residents.

People tell us they want to be able to use our gyms and leisure facilities at times which suit them and by providing this service we hope more people will benefit and help support our leisure facilities. It is my hope that we will be able to continue making improvements such as these across all our leisure centres and I must add my continued thanks to staff who work so hard to ensure we make every effort to provide a high quality service to the public.

Read more about this in [Wirral View](#).

Finally, I want to congratulate the team at Landican Cemetery and Crematorium for winning a prestigious national award. Landican won the top honour for 'Best Service Team of the Year: Cemetery and Crematorium Service' at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) awards in Edinburgh.

They absolutely deserve this recognition for all their hard work. This year sees more than £300,000 being ploughed into improvements at Landican, and shows how the Council is working hard to ensure the facilities are up to a standard Wirral residents expect when they are saying farewell to loved ones.

These times are particularly difficult and stressful, and it is my hope that that these improvements will ensure Landican will be able to continue to provide the highest possible quality of service to those using them.

Read more about this fantastic achievement in the [Wirral Globe](#).