

Report to the Council

Committee: Full Council
Date: 11 October 2022
Subject: Contracts and Commissioning
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Nigel Avey

Recommending:

The report of the Contracts and Commissioning Portfolio Holder be noted.

Waste Management:

Missed collections update:

As you aware we are suffering from ongoing missed collections at present, we have been working closely and in daily conversations with Biffa to resolve these issues as swiftly as possible. This largely due to the waste contractors poor fleet management. Vehicles are breaking down and vehicle maintenance impacting on the rounds. Hire Vehicles are being used but these are not equipped with CCTV cameras so this impacts on the missed collection process. There is a national shortage of new and hire vehicles as well as long lead in time for new parts and new vehicles.

We are doing all that we can within the contract to mitigate and improve the current situation. An additional vehicle from a different waste contractor has been brought in to help clear the missed collections.

Leisure Management:

Contract Performance

We are beginning to see a positive return to leisure centres compared to FY19-20 levels and leisure centre usage trends remain well this financial year, with good performances across the four centres. Swimming remains very strong with high numbers of attendance; however, gym membership continues being slightly down on forecast.

During the pandemic, EFDC provided financial support to Places Leisure to maintain operations of the leisure centres. The recovery rates in leisure centre usage have enabled Places Leisure to resume the payment of fixed monthly management fees.

New Epping Leisure Centre

The new Epping Leisure Centre project is currently in the second stage of the procurement phase, with the contract award anticipated Q1 of 2023. The construction phase of the new Epping Leisure Centre is expected to commence Q3 of 2023, with a two-year construction period.

Procurement and Contracts:

Procurement have been working with officers on numerous projects, such as the Bakers Lane Leisure Centre Invitation to Tender, Harlow Gilston Garden Town PR and Communications, Installation of a new Playground in Ninefields, Waltham Abbey, the HR and Payroll contract and the Finance Systems project.

A meeting of the Procurement and Contracts Working party was also held this month where the new Procurement Contract Register was demonstrated with a view to going live soon – the register will also have a reminder function so that officers are prompted to address their expiring contracts in good time, which will provide the opportunity to maximise the value obtained from re-tendering.