

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 December 2006

Subject: Leisure and Young People Portfolio

Item: 7(i)

Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Whitbread

Recommendation:

That the report of the Leisure Portfolio Holder be noted.

On Sunday 3 December 2006, SLM, the Council's Leisure Management Contractor, launched the final phase of their £1.3m Capital Investment this year, at Ongar Leisure Centre. Officially opened by the Chairman of Council the new Health and Fitness facilities will allow local people to enjoy keeping fit in a top quality facility offering the most up to date equipment. The Pool Changing Rooms at Ongar have already been fully refurbished and disabled access to all parts of the Leisure Centre has been achieved by the installation of a new lift.

This completes a programme of investment by SLM which includes a refurbishment of the Fitness Suite of Epping Sports Centre with all new fitness equipment, a refurbishment of the Changing Rooms and Fitness Suite at Waltham Abbey Pool which also included an extension of the building to provide a movement studio for a range of classes and activities. All the improvements have been well received by existing and new users.

The Leisure Task and Finish Panel continues to make good progress and is set to conclude its reviews by the end of the Municipal Year, when the Council should be in a position to determine the future management of the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve and Waltham Abbey Sports Centre.

I would also recommend to Members a Christmas visit to the District Museum in Sun Street. Work is currently underway to refurbish the main entrance and shop area, to provide a more exciting and informative first impression of the Museum. This is in addition to the installation of new flooring and display cases in the Archaeology Gallery enabling us to exhibit more from the District's Social History Collection as well as secure loans from the National Museums. Work on the entrance is due to complete for opening on the 16 December 2006.