**Altrincham Leisure Centre Consultation 2022**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q1)        How much are the refurbishments going to cost? How much is being spent on each centre?**

Refurbishing an existing building coupled with inflation, changeable construction costs, materials, and the impact of Brexit and COVID make predicting the cost of refurbishment across 3 sites challenging. The Council are currently carrying out a range of surveys across all sites to help give some cost certainty. Trafford Council and Trafford leisure are proud of the refurbishment at our flagship move Urmston and this is a benchmark and aspiration for the other leisure centres. The cost of the refurbishment at Urmston in 2020 was £7m.

**Q2)        When is it going to happen (Altrincham, Sale, Streford)**

To refurb all centres at once would be very challenging and would leave the borough and its residents without important leisure facilities and programmes such as our swimming programme. Trafford Council are therefore proposing to phase the refurbishments of our leisure centres to support a smooth refurbishment programme and ensure residents have a consistent leisure offer in the borough. We aim to start construction early 2023 and finish work by 2026.

**Q3)        How long will the works take?**

To refurbish a leisure centre takes anywhere between 60 to 85 weeks from the start of construction to reopening of the centre. This timeframe can also be impacted on, depending on the amount of works, layout of the building and if facilities on site remain open to the public. For example, keeping the sports hall open while the pool is refurbished or vice versa would extend the length of overall construction on the site.

To refurb all centres at once would be very challenging and would leave the borough and its residents without important leisure facilities and programmes such as our swimming programme. The refurbishment programme of our leisure centres will be phased to support a smooth refurbishment programme and ensure residents have a consistent leisure offer in the borough where possible. The aim now (pandemic implications to one side) is to start construction early 2023 and finish work by 2026.

**Q4)        Why are you not building brand new leisure centres?**

Trafford Council and in turn Trafford Leisure continue to work within a challenging financial environment as we come out of the pandemic.

The money required for new buildings of just Altrincham and Stretford leisure centre’s (circa £46m in Oct 2018) posed a significant financial risk for the council as repayment was based on increased profit and income of the centres. A refurbishment reduces the investment and what we can all see now from the successful move Urmston is what can be achieved with a refurbishment. A refurbishment also provides a significantly more sustainable option and will reduce the carbon omissions compared to a new build.

**Q5)        Why is Altrincham Community being consulted (again)?**

We value our residents and want to ensure that our communities are at the heart of the decision-making taking place and that their voices are heard and inform how our leisure centres look and feel. We appreciate and recognise that previous consultation has been carried out and this will help inform our approach and won’t be lost. We also acknowledge that a lot has changed since 2018/19 and want to ensure we capture the current thoughts and feedback of our residents in this exciting opportunity.

**Q6)        Will the leisure centre close during the works?**

We are still to confirm if buildings will remain partly open during the refurbishment period. Keeping buildings open while refurbishment works take place in other areas of the building is challenging and has an impact on the length of time construction takes. However, Trafford Council and Trafford Leisure are committed to our residents and want to ensure a leisure offer and access to Leisure facilities within the borough whilst the refurbishment programme takes place.

**Q7)        What will happen to my membership?**

No changes to membership will be made without talking to members first, with the relevant options provided. Trafford Leisure maintained options for all our customers during the refurbishment of move Urmston, with existing customers benefitting with the best options in ~~most up to date~~ membership pricing and value. Trafford Leisure want to reward loyalty and will take a similar approach going forward.

**Q8)      Will my membership increase when the refurbished centres reopen?**

Trafford Leisure’s core prices for membership haven’t increased overall in the last 10 years at Sale, Altrincham, and Stretford. That reflects the facilities (not the staff and activities), which aren’t as comparable with other providers in the borough. Trafford Leisure approach to pricing will remain the same post investment, providing value for money. You can see this in practice at move Urmston where membership prices overall did increase in line with the facility upgrade and customers are very happy with the value for money.

Those customers who need the financial support to take part in physical activity are still supported where appropriate by Trafford Leisure and Trafford Council – for example residents with a disability or those over the age of 65 are provided with discounted membership and pay and play pricing. Play and pay pricing is a firm part of Trafford Leisure Pricing Strategy.

**Q9)        What will happen to my child’s swimming lessons or gymnastics club during the works?**

Refurbishing a leisure centre will have a short-term impact on programmes delivered from the centre such as Swimming and Gymnastics. It can’t be avoided. However, we will be looking at what other venues locally and across Trafford that programmes such as Gymnastics and swimming can be relocated to in the short term. Once the refurbishment is finished programmes will be housed back at the relevant leisure centre.

**Q10)      What will happen to Trafford Leisure's staff during the works?**

It is important our residents stay active, healthy, and happy during and post refurbishment. Trafford Leisure staff will play a key role in this, supporting customers on site, remotely and working at other locations across Trafford. They will also play a vital role in bringing the new move centres to life post refurbishment. Our refurbishment plans will be developed jointly with staff representatives and will replicate the successful way this was done at move Urmston.

**Q11)      Will the works create disruption in the local area/roads etc**

The refurbishments may cause some limited disruptions on occasion; however, it’s not anticipated that the works will cause any prolonged disruptions to the local area. We will be able to update further on this as plans are developed.

**Q12)   What about Old Trafford Sports Barn**

With approval from the Council executive, officers are currently reviewing the process needed when considering a community asset transfer for the Old Trafford Sports Barn. In the short term this doesn’t change anything, and Trafford Leisure will keep customers and staff fully updated as this progresses.

**Q13) What about Partington Leisure Centre**

The council with support from Trafford Leisure are working with the Football Foundation to secure investment into a second 3G pitch at Partington as well as relaying the current pitch. The council are also looking at options for funding to develop a wider scheme in the Partington and Carrington areas which includes an improvement to the leisure facilities.

**Q14) Why is Altrincham Leisure Centre being refurbished first?**

Altrincham Leisure Centre is in the process of being refurbished first due to the deteriorating condition on the building.