

## Neath Port Talbot Council's Leisure Services are to be brought back in-house

3 years ago



At their meeting on February 1st, 2022, Cabinet members agreed to bring Neath Port Talbot Council's leisure services back under the council's management (in-house).

A decision to outsource was taken in 2002 leading to the not-for-profit trust Celtic Leisure being appointed to run leisure services in 2003.

The Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, Cllr. Ted Latham said: "There are a number of advantages to bringing these facilities back to in-house and this decision will enable us to continue supporting many more people to live healthier lives.

"The council will have full control of leisure centres and other facilities, enabling us to determine the approach to opening hours, service delivery, fees and charges to ensure our leisure offer is focused on helping reduce inequality and improving the health of residents. There will also be benefits to existing staff who will have the security of transferring into the council's employment.

"Also, leisure services can be jointly marketed and operated alongside other local tourist and leisure offers to ensure a joined up approach, contributing to our objective of establishing Neath Port Talbot as a place people want to visit."

Following the Cabinet decision, council officers will now work with Celtic Leisure to facilitate an in-house leisure service and undertake the necessary consultation work.

A report will be brought to members setting out proposed arrangements that will be necessary to establish a council controlled leisure service - the report will include the outcome of any public consultation for

members to determine.

Cllr Ted Latham added: “We now look forward to bringing our leisure services back in-house with the aim of increasing participation by our residents in sport and physical activity, encouraging people to become more active to improve their health and wellbeing.”

The Cabinet decision is subject to a three-day call in period.

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