

## Council selects new partner to manage the Park Leisure Centre for next 15 years

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**Following a competitive procurement process, Life Leisure have been appointed as preferred partner for the 15-year contract.**

Life Leisure, the trading name of Stockport Sports Trust, was established in 2002. They are a not for profit social enterprise company and registered charity. They currently manage 12 facilities in Stockport and Stockport Borough Councils sports development service. They will be looking to increase the usage of the Park Leisure Centre building upon their extensive experience and track record.

Life Leisure will be investing in the Park Leisure Centre including refurbishing the swimming pool changing rooms and replacing all the equipment in the fitness suite. Furthermore, they will be creating a sports development service, providing activities for residents right in the heart of their local community.

The contract will also bring additional jobs to Park Leisure Centre as well as additional training opportunities for current staff who will be transferred to Life Leisure.

The procurement will also result in financial savings whilst maintaining the service for the users. Removing the Councils subsidy for this service is an integral element within the Councils multi-year Budget Strategy which requires 2.7m of savings and reductions by March 2020.

Councillor David Pidduck, Leader of the Council said, One of the few things health experts agree on is that active people are healthy people. So I am delighted to announce the appointment of Life Leisure to run the Park Leisure Centre because it will result in more opportunities for more residents to become more active and healthier. Im particularly delighted because Life Leisure have a strong track record of increasing activity amongst hard to reach groups or people who dont normally use leisure centres or gyms. We made it clear from the outset that we were looking, not just for an operator, but a long term partner that shared our vision for the Borough and I am really looking forward to working with Life Leisure to make that a reality.

Malcom McPhail, Life Leisures CEO, said: We are delighted to have been appointed as the preferred partner for Barrow Borough Council and are really excited about the opportunity to further develop both the facility and its programming but also extend sport and physical activity opportunities out into the local community. At Life Leisure our vision revolves around improving peoples lives by providing high quality facilities and access for all, championing and providing opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and communities. We look forward to working with the Council and local partners and most importantly working with the local community. Above all, we want to change the lives of the people of Barrow for the better..

The Council is currently finalising the contract withLife Leisure which commences on 1stAugust 2018.