



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFTADAETH GAÐARN | DYFODOL SICR

CABINET STATEMENT

TITLE: INVESTMENT IN LEISURE

DATE: 17th January 2007

BY: Councillor Graham Thomas, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism

The purpose of this statement is to provide an update on the investment that the Council is making to improve leisure centres in the County Borough.

The Council manages 13 leisure centres, the ages of which range from 10 – 39 years. Some of these are in considerable need of major refurbishments and modernisation. The Council is investing £5.4 million over three years to fund these improvements so that people in Rhondda Cynon Taf can benefit from first class leisure services.

Work commenced in Spring 2006 and we have delivered a number of projects. There are new fitness centres at Llantwit Fadre and Abercynon as well as a revamp of the changing rooms in Abercynon. The work at Aberdare Swimming Pool began in November and we look forward to a new look improved facility there. The projects at Tonyrefail Leisure Centre and the Rhondda Sports Centre in Ystrad are at the pre-tender stage.

All centres involved in the programme of work, which is being phased over 3 years, will receive essential structural and upgrading work. Over the course of the programme, fitness centres will also be developed at Ferndale Leisure Centre as well as Bronwydd and Treherbert Swimming Pools. The changing rooms at Ynys Swimming Pool and Hawthorn Leisure Centre will also be renovated.

The work to enhance the leisure facilities on offer for people in Rhondda Cynon Taf also presents an opportunity to introduce more environmentally friendly measures at all 13 leisure centres. These will include: replacing pool covers, changing pump systems, introducing doors that are self closing to store heat, putting electrical timers on vending machines, changing the lighting and introducing waterless mens' urinals.

Taking part in sport and physical activity is a crucial part of having a healthy lifestyle. Therefore in order to encourage people to do this, we must have quality facilities in place for people to use. This investment programme demonstrates our commitment to first

class leisure services in Rhondda Cynon Taf, which can also be seen by our free leisure provision and the “More Card” discount scheme. I hope that residents will reap the benefits of the improvements and get involved in sport and physical activity.