Item 5

20th September 2022

Report to Linn Area Partnership of 15 September 2022

Report by Chief Executive of Glasgow Life

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LINN WARD VENUES UPDATE

Purpose of report

To advise the Committee on:

(i) The current status of all Glasgow Life venues and service recovery within the Linn Ward;

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

(i) note the Glasgow Life venues status and service recovery in the Linn Ward.

1.0 Strategic Context

1.1 Prior to the global pandemic, Glasgow Life delivered culture, sport, tourism and events on behalf of Glasgow City Council from 171 venues and sites across the city

1.2 The full lock-down in March 2020 resulted in the immediate closure of all 171 sites and venues and brought an end to all associated income streams worth £38 million in 2020-21. Since then, Glasgow Life has worked with the City Council on the re-opening of venues and sites alongside the recovery of a range of services across the city.

1.3 There are 9 Glasgow Life venues and sites, Linn Park Adventure Play, Linn Golf, Castlemilk Library, Coupar Library, Coupar Institute, Castlemilk Community Centre, Castlemilk Pool, Castlemilk Sports Centre and in Linn Ward. 6 venues of which are currently operational. To date, Glasgow Life has re-opened 6 of the venues with Barlia Pitches operating under a separate arrangement.

1.4 The remainder of the paper focuses on the venues and services recovered and provides an update on the status and progress of the remaining 3 venues.

2. 0 Glasgow Life Communities & Libraries

2.1 Castlemilk Library re-opened at the end of April 2021. As part of the COVID recovery process the Library currently provides standard book lending and PC access alongside the digital on-line offer. In addition, Jobs and Business Glasgow, Family Finance and MacMillan are all co-located within the venue. Glasgow Life Adult Learning English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL), and Digital Learning Team sessions are also taking place within the venue.

2.2 Coupar Library re-opened in January 2021 following additional funding made available by the Scottish Government. Like Castlemilk, the Library also provides standard book lending and PC access services. In addition, a Bookbug programme runs on a Wednesday at 2pm to support family literacy.

2.3 Both libraries are operating pre-covid hours. Library attendances continue to recover with Castlemilk Library achieving attendances of 14,336 and Coupar attendances 23,283 over the last 6 months. A total of 12,789 and 14,707 books issued respectively. There are currently no infrastructure works planned in the immediate future.

2.4 A staff recruitment programme should be concluded by early September, which will enable both libraries thereafter to recover the full range of pre Covid programmes including Lego Club, Craft Club, Reading Groups, Knitting Group and Home Library Service.

2.3 Castlemilk Community Centre remained opened throughout the pandemic offering essential childcare provision and food distribution. In June 2021, following the announced relaxation of restrictions, Glasgow City Council agreed to widen access for the seven centres, currently open for essential services to existing tenants and re-commencing Lets.

2.4. Operating from Castlemilk Community Centre, the Castlemilk Pantry run by Ardenglen Housing Association has proved a lifeline for many families, with membership now reaching 3000 with members queuing outside the venue for access. Discussions are underway to expand operating hours.

2.5 More generally, Castlemilk Community Centre is recovering well with lets around 94% of pre-covid levels. During June and July there was a total of 385 lets with 6270 attendances. In August, one dance school held a 5-day West of Scotland Dance Festival with attendances over the 5 days of more than 1,500.

2.6 Couper Institute Hall remains closed until more funding becomes available. However, Glasgow City Council has allocated £1.1m in its budget this year to support the reopening of more community venues operated by Glasgow Life. Coupar Institute is within the scope of this exercise. The decision on where to focus this budget across the city will be made by the Council based on a consultation and prioritisation process agreed at the City Administration Committee in June 2022.

2.7 Since Linn Park Adventure Playground reopened in May 2021 there has been over 5000 attendances involving 549 families. The facility is a valued asset for children with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and their families. The service currently operates 6 days per week (closed Mondays) - weekdays for school visits and weekends and holidays for family visits.

2.8 During term time 16 ASN Glasgow City Council Schools utilise the Park Tuesday to Friday. The facility provides public access at weekends through family sessions, bookable in two-hour slots on Saturday and Sunday. As a result of recent engagement and consultation with children and their parents, Glasgow Life introduced a weekly early evening session on a Wednesday from 5-7pm. The sessions began on Wednesday 20th July 2022 and are due to conclude at the end of September due to the impending darker nights. This will be followed by a winter programme which is currently being planned.

2.9 GCC are currently in receipt of a CAT/PMGC application for Linn Park. This application is complex due to procurement challenges. Recent discussions appear to have identified a possible solution. This is currently being progressed.

2.10 In addition to the venues Communities & Libraries teams deliver a range of services this includes the Family Learning team with a designated Family Learning Officer covering the Linn Ward, delivering programmes in nurseries and primary schools across the area. The team have a strategic link in education. This year the team provided training, support, and resources to every early year's establishment in Glasgow, with the achieved aim of increasing levels of meaningful family engagement around making the transition to primary school.

2.11 As part of this approach 5 GCC nurseries and a further 5 Partnership Nurseries in the Linn ward attended family learning team training and delivered the programmes to families in the area over an eight-week period. A further 8 schools are targeted for follow up training to deliver Families in Partnership 2 - Everywhere Bear Programme. Supporting transitions in to Primary 1.

2.12 As noted previously ESOL and digital classes are available in Castlemilk Library. In addition to the venue-based work Glasgow Life has continued to offer a range of high quality online adult literacy and numeracy support classes (ALN), as well as English classes for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). For those interested in developing their communication and literacy skills there are also several follow-on progression classes in the form of Creative Writing classes.

2.13 Since the pandemic Glasgow Life has placed a strong emphasis on delivering targeted programmes that focus on skills development and employability as well as supporting

services that help young people's health & wellbeing. Glasgow Life have also been actively recovering youth work services and continue to work in partnership with local organisations in the Linn ward, particularly Castlemilk Youth Complex & Streetwise who provide a wide range of activities and opportunities for young people living in the Linn Ward. Glasgow Life Youth Work teams provide a range of accredited programmes to learners, including but not limited to the Community Achievement Awards (CAA) and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Glasgow Life currently co-deliver the award in the Linn Ward with Streetwise where there are Bronze and Silver groups currently active.

3.0 Sport

3.1 Castlemilk Pool re-opened in May 2021 and continues to operate on restricted opening hours. While there is an aspiration to increase the operating hours of the venue, many industries are experiencing recruitment challenges. Despite best efforts, the Leisure Industry and in turn, Glasgow Life Sport have been directly affected by the reduced numbers of applicants seeking to work as pool lifeguards within swimming pools.

3.2 With a considerably reduced available workforce, Glasgow Life Sport have taken the decision to retain several of the operating procedures introduced during the Coronavirus restrictions to run our pools. By adopting this approach, Glasgow Life are confident of maintaining a level of consistent service to customers until such times as this situation is resolved. The current offer includes lane swimming, recreational swimming, and club use. To date there has been 10,918 customers visit the venue this financial year.

3.3 Castlemilk Sports Centre is no longer required to support the NHS Vaccination programme and is now fully operational and provides a Glasgow Club offer of fitness Classes, gym access along with use of the Sports Hall for a variety of sports. Since 1st April the Sports Centre has recorded 18, 502 visitors.

3.4 Barlia Pitches are currently operational under a Licence to Occupy (LtO) agreement between Glasgow Life and Castlemilk Youth Complex / Castlemilk Community Football manging the pitches. Discussions have recently been initiated to extend the LtO to include the use of the changing pavilion. Talks are at an early stage, but all parties are hopeful that an operating model can be agreed that enables the property to be utilised, particularly as we approach the winter months. In addition, work is also underway to progress the PMGC application which it is hoped will provide longer term stability for the venue.

3.5 Linn Park Golf Club remains closed. The golf course sits out with the scope of the current Glasgow Life operating budget with no confirmed opening date. Maintenance continues to be carried out on the course. From a PMGC perspective all golf related Expressions of Interest's (EOI's) are now being considered collectively by a working group put in place by GCC to consider all options. There have been 2 EOI's received via People Make Glasgow Communities for Linn Park Golf.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Committee is asked to:

(i) note the status Glasgow Life venues and service recovery in Linn Ward;