

## Scrutiny Topic Registration

<b>Name of person proposing topic:</b> Cllr. Ryder	<b>Date:</b> 08/09/08
<b>Contact:</b>	
<b>Suggested title of topic:</b>	
Accessibility for all community groups at Leisure@. Ethnic and the disabled.	
<b>What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?</b>	
Has appropriate facilities, time and partnership discussions been addressed by the management at Leisure@ to facilitate the needs/aims of such community groups.	
<b>What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review?</b>	
To ensure that this council is being fair to all who wish to participate within Leisure@.	

## Priority and urgency

Is the topic urgent?	
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If so, please consider which of the following might apply:

Is there a strict time constraint?	
Is there currently high media coverage?	
Is there high public pressure to respond?	
Does it involve a high risk to the council?	
Any other reasons:	

## Issues

Please consider whether the following might apply:

Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	
Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?	
Is it directly related to an item on the council workplan?	
Has there been media interest in the topic?	
Can scrutiny help in the development of council policy?	
Any other issues or details:	

## Officer Implications (for office use)

Please give your comments on this proposed topic, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resource constraints etc

During the closure period, time was taken to consider how leisure@ could better meet the needs of both disabled communities & also BME groups. Consideration had been taken of the feedbacks received through the customer forum (including representatives of the Disability Forum) and meetings with officers from Healthy Communities, PCT & County Council with respect to the disabled and BME groups. Historically there were no programmed activities available and only a private hire booking for a local disabled swimming club Sunday mornings, open only to its members and therefore exclusive. The teaching pool will also be warmer at this time and therefore better suited to disabled users. In the review of programming, leisure@ has sought to extend and grow the service available to the disabled and now offers a session on a Saturday morning open to the wider disabled community without the need for membership. This is linked with morning activity programmes in the sports hall for disabled young people run with Active Gloucestershire and the sports development team. Wheelchair football is offered after this session in association with Sports Development & the Gloucestershire FA. These Saturday morning programmes have created a hub of activities aimed at the disabled community between 10am & 1pm.

Plans are being considered to provide holiday programmes targeting disabled young people to compliment this work as a clear need was identified ahead of the floods in 2007. The sports programme will be extended to adults and represents our work with sports development following the receipt of one off "second homes money".

Discussion has also taken place with the county council to improve the facilities at leisure@ in terms of the changing places agenda for the disabled to provide improved changing facilities for the disabled community using Cheltenham.

Through liaison with the Healthy Communities Officer & BME Officer following their consultation work leisure@ intends to programme both swimming and hopefully exercise programmes for specific BME groups.

The existing disabled swimming club has been invited and currently attends the Saturday morning slot; this also offers them the opportunity to grow membership and reduces the costs that were a constraint upon their activity. Assistance has been offered to this club in terms of locating resources to assist with transport to enable greater participation. In addition the services are now being rolled out working with the PCT in terms of rehabilitation work and delivering services in the community through outreach.

**Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register**

Business Plan Aim 9:  
We will take action to maintain our vibrant and stimulating cultural life, where everyone has access to a wide variety of social, sporting and cultural opportunities

Completed by Stephen Petherick Commercial Manager, leisure@cheltenham

Date 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008