



Kimberley Leisure Centre Update – Friday 17 December 2021

As you may be aware The Kimberley School and Liberty Leisure Limited have been working together to develop a new service level hire agreement which would replace the existing joint use agreement, which officially ends on 22 April 2022. We are now able to update all stakeholders of our progress.

The Kimberley School Head teacher and Governing Body fully considered the points raised by some members of the local community, primarily regarding the use of the facilities during the school day.

Negotiations between Liberty Leisure Limited and Kimberley School have been very positive and are entering the final phases. We are pleased to report that negotiations are working towards continuing to **enable access to the public during the school day**, whilst at the same time **making better use of the building and facilities for the benefit of the students at the school**.

The aspiration of the planning group is that Liberty Leisure Limited will continue to be the service provider for all swimming activities, gym and fitness class memberships and will be able to allow some access during the school day. All other facilities, including the Sports Hall and football pitches, will be available for hire by the public through the Kimberley School. The initial agreement with Liberty Leisure Limited would be for a period of 3 years. Broxtowe Borough Council is committed to developing facilities for residents' north of the Borough and will continue to explore ways of making this a reality.

There does remain some work to do in relation to staffing, confirmation of the new hire agreement and other logistical challenges. Therefore, the implementation date for the new arrangements **will not be until 1st September 2022**. The East Midlands Education Trust (EMET) have pledged to support the school with further capital investment in the current leisure centre building to ensure it remains properly maintained and is fit for purpose.

Additionally, a condition survey of the swimming pool has been commissioned by EMET. It is anticipated that some essential works will need to be undertaken to extend the 'shelf life' of the current pool which continues to need regular investment, given its age. Kimberley School is also working closely with Broxtowe Borough Council on how the governments' "Levelling Up Funding" could be used to support the community's access to sport and leisure facilities on the school site.

We would hope that all stakeholders view this news as positive and we will provide further updates as the process moves towards completion.

Kimberley School and Liberty Leisure Limited

Statement Ends

Andrew George, Head Teacher says *"I am delighted that we are making good progress with negotiations and can look forward to our students being able to make better use of the buildings and facilities during the*

school day. We have worked well with Liberty Leisure Limited and I am hopeful that we are working towards a compromise that will be to the benefit of our community and our students”.

Milan Radulovic Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council said: “The Council is pleased that negotiations with the School and Liberty Leisure Limited remain positive and we remain committed to providing the best possible facilities for our residents.”