

## **SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE**

**27 FEBRUARY 2017**

### **WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE LIFESTYLES: LEGIONELLA BACTERIA (Briefing note prepared by Mike Carran)**

In advance of a more detailed briefing and discussion about the positive test of Legionella Bacteria at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles, this note provides an overview of the sequence of events and background information.

On Friday 18 November 2016, the Council was informed by Public Health England that a local resident, who had recently used the Fitness Room shower facilities at Walton-on-the-Naze Lifestyles, had been admitted to Colchester Hospital with Legionnaires Disease. As a result of this information, the Council's Environmental Health Team was requested to sample the showers with a view to assessing whether the facility was the possible source. At this point, a management decision was taken to close the gym showers to the public until results of the test were known.

On Wednesday 30 November 2016, it was confirmed that the subsequent test had returned a positive result for Legionella Bacteria. As such, the showers remained closed until an investigation into the source was complete and rectification work carried out.

On Friday 2 November 2016 a decision was taken to close the building until remedial works had been undertaken and the facility had a clean bill of health.

A meeting was held on Monday 5 December 2016 with the HSE and Public Health England, together with the range of contractors and organisations involved in the refurbishment of the facility, which was completed in April 2016.

Although a number of issues were identified at this meeting, the main action point agreed was for the Council to commission a Water Treatment Specialist to undertake an independent Risk Assessment and compile a rectification strategy.

The Risk Assessment was undertaken on Wednesday 7 December 2016, where a range of issues were identified. A list of works was then scheduled and confirmed with the HSE and Public Health England, which included a reconfiguration of the cold water feed and replacement of all showers installed during the refurbishment.

All works were complete by Friday 3 February 2017, followed by a full super-chlorination of the water system and an agreed process of comprehensive Legionella testing. Subject to satisfactory water results being returned after the incubation period, the pool will re-open on Friday 24 February 2017 or sooner if that is possible.

The Head of Sport and Leisure will attend a future meeting of the Service Development and Delivery Committee to discuss the position in more depth and update Members on the programme of works that is being undertaken at all other appropriate Council facilities.