

Record of Officer's Decision

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	12 June 2025
Decision Maker (Officer):	Kieran Charles – Head of Sport & Leisure
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	Part 3, Schedule 3 – Responsibility for Executive Functions delegated to Officers paragraph 4.3 (1) – the Corporate Director has delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective service areas (Part 3.38). All delegations are subject to consultation where considered appropriate in the circumstances (paragraph 4.3 (4)(ii) – Part 3.39). The Corporate Director, Lee Helley, has delegated operational matters relating Leisure Centre membership schemes to the Head of Sport and Leisure.
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	Councillor Mick Barry
Ward Member(s) consulted?	N/A
Is it a Key Decision?	No
Is it subject to call-in?	No
Decision Made:	The Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm concurs with the Head of Sport and Leisure to implement the Aspiring Athletes Membership Scheme, recognising its potential to support the development of young sporting talent across Tendring by providing complimentary access to leisure centre facilities, and acknowledging the associated risks and alternative options considered.
Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to or attach it):	As part of Tendring District Council's ongoing commitment to supporting local talent and promoting health and wellbeing, we are pleased to introduce the Aspiring Athletes Membership Scheme. This initiative is designed to support today's and tomorrow's athletes from across the district by providing them with complimentary access to our leisure centre facilities. Scheme Overview The scheme will be open to young athletes who are identified and referred by local sports clubs, schools, and community

	organisations through an application process. Successful applicants will receive a free membership to Tendring District Council's leisure centres, enabling access to training facilities, fitness classes, and swimming pools. A total number of up to 30 will be offered out annually and this number will be reviewed annually with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Open Space. The concurrence letter elaborates on the key objectives, outlines the application and selection process, and specifies the expected outcomes.	
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The implementation of the Aspiring Athletes Membership Scheme carries several associated risks. Financially, offering complimentary memberships could lead to budget overruns if uptake exceeds expectations, and without a long-term funding model, the scheme may become unsustainable—especially if it impacts revenue from paying members. There is a maximum number that would be allocated to this scheme annually to combat this risk. There are also concerns around eligibility and fairness, as the selection process could be perceived as subjective, potentially excluding deserving candidates from underrepresented communities. A panel would be put together to assess the applications transparently.	
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	Alternative options considered included offering discounted rather than complimentary memberships, but this was rejected as it could still pose a financial barrier for some young athletes and undermine the scheme's inclusivity goals. Partnering with private gyms was also explored but dismissed due to concerns over safeguarding, quality control, and reduced visibility of athlete development. One-off grants or equipment vouchers were considered but lacked the ongoing support and community engagement benefits of leisure centre access. Finally, limiting the scheme to national-level athletes was rejected to ensure broader access and to nurture emerging talent at all stages of development.	
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision) If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:	N/A	
Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published:	✓	Not applicable – Decision to be published with the report to be finalised and published following the proposal drawings. These drawings will determine the

<i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions,</i> <u>and</u> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>		specification and location of the Skate Park taking into account with its surrounding area.
	If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:	
		The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information
		The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:
		• Relates to an individual
		• Likely to reveal the identity of an individual
		• Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation
		• Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings
		• Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment
		• Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
<u>And</u> is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information Reasons: N/A		

Officers

Signed:

Title: Head of Sport and Leisure

Signed:

Title:

In consultation with:

Signed:

Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Public Realm

Signed:

Signed:

Section 151 Officer (if required)

Signed:

Monitoring Officer (if required)

Dated:

