



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

Leisure Transformation Programme

Staff Engagement

Weekly update from the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team

4th June 2021



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Staff Engagement

As you are aware that despite the disruption, the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' continue to move forward with the Transformation Programme to embed new ways of working and continuous improvement.

Completion of transformation across Indoor Leisure and a re-structure of staffing is necessary to achieve a consistency of resources and approach, for the following reasons:

- Indoor Leisure, as a whole, share;
 - The same objectives and targets – to be an industry leader, and deliver an improved leisure service.
 - The same ABC wide customer membership/charging system.
 - The same need to demonstrate that the “In House Model” can transform and perform.
- Good employee relations - fairness and consistency are necessary in this regard and currently staff have different job descriptions and pay grades for the same roles in many cases.
- Management and staff resources are currently inconsistent from site to site.
- Job roles (new and existing) need to align with SLLC and with best industry practice.
- The need to improve staff flexibility and sharing across all sites.

The team have committed to communicate with our indoor leisure staff as effectively and as regularly as we can.

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Update from the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team'

The 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' would like to give information regarding some of the projects that we have been working in relation to leisure across the Borough;

Transformation of indoor leisure

The Transformation Team (Management/TU Team) continue to meet on a regular basis to clarify all plans/decisions and processes.

- Duty Managers at each centre will start discussions next week with staff at each centre on detailed rotas in order to finalise these as soon as possible.
- We will also begin the recruitment process for a number of vacancies across many sites in order to bring staff compliments up to the right level as soon as possible.

Trade Union Reps. are aware of these next steps and are very welcome to accompany staff in rota discussions as desired.

If any staff member has any question(s) they can contact Stephen Tully, Caroline Brennan or Catherine McNeill (NIPSA), Kieran McParland (GMB) or Phelim Doran (UNITE).



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Face Coverings Must be Worn in Indoor Public Places

As a council our priority is to keep all our staff and customers safe as we transition out of lockdown, restrictions begin to ease and non-essential shops and entertainment venues begin to reopen.

During this period it is increasingly important that we take additional measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus in the workplace, particularly in relation to the wearing of face coverings in indoor publicly accessible spaces (exemptions apply).

From Monday 24 May the wearing of face coverings in all publicly accessible places became mandatory, therefore all staff are required to follow this guidance. It should be noted that staff can ask a customer to wear a face mask whilst in our facilities but cannot insist that they wear them.

In addition staff are asked to be mindful of the correct way to wear a face covering to ensure that it protects you and others when in the work place.

For further information and advice on the wearing of face coverings click <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-facecoverings>

Go East for India Fundraising Appeal Launched

Last Friday we launched a major fundraising campaign to support the people of India. Endorsed by Elected Members and Senior Management, the ‘Go East For India’ fundraising appeal calls on employees, local residents and businesses to walk, run, cycle and paddle the 4,812 miles from Craigavon to Chennai in India - to help raise money for Oxfam to supply Covid-19 aid and assistance for the people of India.

From spin-a-thons at South Lake Leisure Centre, a biathlon at Craigavon Lakes, and a step challenge, we’re encouraging everyone to get behind the fundraiser to help support the Oxfam IndiaCovid-19 Appeal. With India battling a devastating second wave ofCovid-19, donations will help Oxfam distribute PPE and medical equipment to hospitals and health centres; provide food

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and cash to the most vulnerable; and remove the barriers to increasing vaccine production and ensure access for everyone. If you would like to be part of this fundraiser and donate to Oxfam, come along and support any of the below events taking place at

South Lake Leisure Centre.

Tuesday 8 June 2021: Spin-a-thon

Starting on the hour from 11am to 5pm, 17 bikes will be available for instructor-led spin classes, lasting 45 minutes. £5 minimum donation per attendee.

Wednesday 9 June 2021: Biathlon

Starting at 10am and setting off at half-hour intervals until 7.30pm, teams of five (at a maximum) will compete in a one mile race around the Lake and a one mile kayak on the Lake. Times will be recorded, with the fastest person and team winning water sports activity vouchers. £5 minimum donation per attendee.

Friday 11 June 2021: ABC Council staff spin

Two spin bikes will be set up at South Lake Leisure Centre café area for staff to spin their way to helping raise funds. Spur your fellow colleagues on by making cash donations on the day! For more info contact e gary.spiers@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk.

You can also support the campaign by liking and sharing social media posts, and using the [#GoEastForIndia](#) hashtag

May Bank Holiday Weekend

Last weekend we had glorious weather which coincided with the opening of a number of activities e.g. the fun pool opened for the first time in SLLC to the public.

We had large numbers of customers across the Borough enjoying all the various activities that we had on offer which included family swims, watersports, climbing walls, cycling and indoor bowling to name a few



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Below are just a few of the positive comments made by our customers following this busy Bank Holiday Weekend;

June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

South Lake Getting back to swimming after the long lockdown is great. Really enjoy the new pool.

As a 71yr old I like the slow lane as I like to swim in my own t l've with no pressure from people behind.

June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

Banbridge Gym is great. Staff are very polite and friendly

June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

South Lake the facilities are excellent, very spacious and the staff are friendly and helpful.

It is great to have so much in one area, from paddle boarding to the gym, with a place for a coffee afterwards.

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June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

Orchard - Brilliant staff, so helpful and friendly.

June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

South Lake Great facility. Lots to do.

June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

South Lake Great facilities, great staff who take the time to answer ANY questions. Very clean. Love the cafe and concept of giving everyone a chance in life.

June 2, 2021 - Rating: 10/10

Gilford - The receptionist was very pleasant and informative and the climbing wall instructor was excellent too. No complaints at all. Will definitely be back.

Staff Questions/Queries

The 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' are interested in hearing from you, if you have any questions/queries or have a specific issue that you would like us to address during this unusual period of closure, please contact: joanne.grattan@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



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Catch Up

The Lord Mayor Welcomes the Reopening of the Borough's Hospitality and Tourism Sector

The Lord Mayor Councillor Kevin Savage welcomed back the hospitality sector this week as hospitality venues across the borough reopened their doors to safely welcome guests for summer 2021.

Hospitality venues can now reopen indoors in line with detailed reopening guidance and safety protocols, including bars and public houses selling food and alcohol on a table service basis indoors and outdoors.



Hotel accommodation is also now open along with associated restaurants and bars, a much needed boost to the hospitality sector across the borough after months of closure. More information here: <https://bit.ly/3fFTBa5>

The Final Push is on for May Steps Challenge!

In Week 3: We have achieved a very impressive **25,313,470 steps** even in the awful weather! So we're on course to smash our target of **97,283,544 steps**, with a total of **85,200,678 steps** so far.

The top 5 teams this week were:

- The Warriors
- PCSP - Plodders in Clogs, Slippers & Plimsolls
- Team BLC
- Legs Miserable
- Environmental Ramblers

Please remember to stay local, stay safe and follow the Public Health Agency guidelines.

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Jobs

Did you know you can keep up to date with all current internal vacancies?

The dedicated webpage – which links up to the Get Got recruitment portal – can be accessed anywhere, from work, your home or your mobile device.

Receive personalised job alerts about vacancies you're interested in by registering your account today.

For more information, contact Human Resources on email;
hr@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk



Blood Donation Sessions

Jethro Centre, Lurgan

Thursday 3 June - Friday 4 June

1.00pm - 4.00pm & 5.00pm - 7.30pm

Bannside Presbyterian Church, Banbridge

Thursday 17 June - Friday 18 June

1.00pm - 4.00pm & 5.00pm - 7.30pm

All donation sessions by appointment only, call P 08085 534 653 between 10.00am and 4.30pm to book.

Letter of Thanks for Lurgan Park Staff

Lurgan Park staff recently came to the rescue of a very precious cat called 'George' for an elderly resident in distress. Below is an extract from a letter of thanks received by the Chief Executive Roger Wilson in acknowledgement of their kind act.

"I want to express a huge thank you for the very personal and compassionate assistance received from ABC council staff in Lurgan Park recently. My 91 year old mother-in-law's cat, who has been her constant companion throughout lockdown, got stuck approximately 40 feet up a tree for 24 hours, which was very distressing for both the cat and for her. The head ranger, Adrian McStraw helped me to locate George and accessed a three-tier ladder from Portadown in an initial attempt to release George from his distress. "When the

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ladders proved both too short and too dangerous to use, Adrian, managed to access a cherry picker lorry and help from two of the council's tree maintenance staff (Calvin and George (yes George rescued George!)), who were also extremely pleasant and helpful

"They could not have done more to help and were great ambassadors for the council in the process.

Thank you".

Well done to all involved. Simple acts of kindness mean a lot.

Life Camp Trainee Programme Launched

Applications are open for an exciting new programme aimed at equipping local people with the skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience to support development of independent and sustainable lifestyles.



Starting on 10 June 2021, the Life Camp Trainee Programme includes:

- Outdoor activities such as cycling, hill walking and adventure climbing
- Water activities, such as canoeing and paddle boarding
- Conservation and natural environment exposure
- Sustainable lifestyle activities such as building shelters, lighting fires and foraging
- Mental health and wellbeing workshops

Running for 16 weeks, the programme is open to local residents aged 18 and over living in areas of social deprivation in the ABC Council area.

Closing date for expression of interests is **Monday 31 May 2021**.

With limited places available, please note an expression of interest does not guarantee a place. For further information on eligibility and how to complete an expression of interest visit; <https://bit.ly/349edSS>

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