

ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

Wednesday, 11th March, 2020

MEETING OF ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

(Held in the Lavery Room, City Hall)

Attendees

- Directors:** Councillor Carson
Councillor McLaughlin
Councillor Newton
Mr. K. Ellison
Mr. C. Kirkwood – in the Chair and
Mrs. K. McCullough
- Officers:** Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. N. Munnis, Partnership Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.
- GLL:** Mr. A. Walker; and
Ms. S. Owens

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mr. McGuigan (Chairperson), Councillor Corr, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Higgins Mr. O'Doherty and Mr. Walls.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th January were approved.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Director Attendance Statement

The Board noted that there had been no issues to report in terms of the non-attendance of Directors at meetings.

Future Agenda Items

No agenda items were identified by Directors for future meetings.

Reconsideration of proposed standard RPI Linked price increases

The Board considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To revisit the proposed RPI linked price increases for 2020/21 in light of the Council decision, taken on 3rd February, to refer the proposed increases back to the Board for a second time.**

- 1.2 To note the contractual obligations under which the board does not have the authority to reject a standard RPI linked annual price increase proposal.
- 2.0 **Recommendations**
- 2.1 That the Board notes the contractual obligations set out below.
- 3.0 **Main Report**
- 3.1 The Board originally approved the proposed price increases for 2020/21 on 7th October 2019. The decision was approved by the SP&R Committee on 25th October but rejected by full Council on 4th November and referred back to the Board for reconsideration.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 20th January 2020 the Board reconsidered the proposed price increases and reaffirmed its original approval of the proposed price increases. The decision was approved by the SP&R Committee on 24th January but rejected for a second time by full Council on 3rd February and referred back to the Board for reconsideration.
- 3.3 The justifications and business rationale supporting the increases are as presented to the Board on 20th January. Council officers have now consulted with the Councils Legal Services team who have advised on the contractual position in relation to annual price increases linked to RPI. The board should note that it cannot reverse the original decision to approve the proposed price increases as to do so would represent a breach of contract.
- 3.4 An annual RPI linked price increase is included in the contract documentation. As such, this is a contractual obligation and ABL does not have the authority to reject a price increase as long as it is within the parameters set out in the contract. The relevant contract clauses are set out in Table 1 below.
- 3.5 Since contract commencement in January 2015, the board has consistently applied this contractual understanding. The pricing review has been considered in October every year and while accepting the RPI linked principle, the board has consistently scrutinised the proposed schedule of charges to ensure that individual prices are in line with the contract specification. In October 2019, while accepting the 2.5-3.0% average increase, the board rejected proposals for two specific price increase that were in excess of the RPI principle.
- 3.6 The current RPI (at February 2020) is 2.7%. The average increase proposed by GLL for 2020/21 and noted by the board on 7th October is in line with current RPI data.

Table 1

- 1.3.4** The Service Provider shall submit for written consideration to the Trust an annual price review, containing a list of proposed prices before the 1st October in each contract year. As part of the annual renewal process, this will be equality screened to identify where any targeted interventions may be required.
- 1.3.5** The Service Provider shall be permitted to raise existing prices on an average in accordance with the RPI (General Items) each year on the 1st April following the commencement of the Agreement and annually thereafter.
- 1.3.6** In the event of any interim price changes, the Service Provider shall submit proposals and evidence for agreement to the Trust's Representative at least four weeks before the proposed change.
- 3.7** Pricing for 2020/21 should be applied from 1st April 2020. If price changes are to be applied from 1st April, some lead in time will be required to communicate changes to customers/members, which is a legal requirement, and to programme front of house tills, online booking and payment platforms and the GLL customer APP.

4.0 Decision(s) Required

- 4.1** That the Board notes the contractual obligations set out above.”

The Board noted that the proposed pricing schedule for 2020/21 was in line with the RPI and ABL's contractual obligations.

In considering the purpose of the report and related guidance provided by the Council's Legal Services section, the Board determined that, as the proposed price increases were in line with the RPI, ABL did not have the authority to reject the increases for 2020/21 as to do so would have placed the Board and the Council in breach of contract.

Tier 2 Performance Report – Unrepresented Target Groups

The Board considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To provide Board members with a progress update on the participation of underrepresented target groups in centres managed by GLL in Belfast.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** That the board considers and formally records receipt of the information presented below.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of the core priorities of GLL is to ensure full access for all members of the community and encourage regular participation amongst under represented target groups.**
- 3.2 GLL employ a Regional Business and Community Sport Manager, whose key focus is to drive participation and usage, ensuring more people from every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged and taking part in sport and physical activity. To continue on progress made, GLL have increased their resource team that focuses on participation including Community Sports Manager and 3 x Community Sports Officers.**
- 3.3 GLL has set targets based on like for like centres to increase usage by 2% per year. This will be measured via agreed patronage and usage reports that are reported to ABL & BCC.**
- 3.4 GLL is committed to support community access offering varied opportunities delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable and not inhibiting.**
- 3.5 GLL re-invests through the GLL Foundations (Sport and Communities) that provide and sustain support for community cohesion and talented individuals.**
- 3.6 GLL sustain a positive contribution to the local economy through investment in a workforce that is diverse, passionate, trained and skilled operating in well-managed, maintained and resourced centres.**
- 3.7 GLL have developed a citywide Sport & Health Development plan that provides a detailed breakdown of how GLL intends to achieve this increase in sport & physical activity participation, whilst also providing additional targets and outcomes. Some of these examples are outlined below:**
- 3.8 45% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.**

3.9 People with disabilities

- GLL Partner with 'Menshed' who operate out of Girdwood Community Hub and Whiterock where the focus is on improving mental health for men.**
- GLL Healthy Living Manager has recently met with Action Mental Health with a view to developing a strong working partnership and the delivery of a robust programme of activities.**

- GLL Partner with a social enterprise NOW group to introduce their service users to physical activity to encourage healthy lifestyle
- GLL have developed working relationships with focus groups and organisations that support disabled access and provision in NI, including Disability Sport NI and created a Disability Hub at Girdwood Community Hub.
- This dedicated disability sports hub caters for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Powerchair Football, Boccia and New Age Curling.
- The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports 11 disabled and Paralympic athletes. Athletes benefit from financial awards of up to £1,250 which will contribute to their individual coaching, travel, competition and equipment costs.
- In recent years the GSF programme has supported athletes that have competed at Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. Paralympic middle-distance athlete Dr. Michael McKillop is the Ambassador of the programme in Northern Ireland.
- Michael has successfully won four Paralympic Gold medals and is a role model to all our locally supported athletes.
- The new Brook Leisure Centre has a swimming pool specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. The centre runs weekly quiet swims currently attracting approximately 40 participants in each session GLL have Partnered with Swim Buddies to deliver swimming lessons to those with Autism launching on the 3rd of March 2020

3.10 Women & Girls

- 47.1% of current Belfast members are female (14,397)
- GLL have developed working relationships with Female Sport Forum and Women in Sport & Physical Activity and organisations that support female access and participation.
- In partnership with WISPA GLL have developed and implemented women and girls targeted sessions across the estate.
- GLL have developed the 'Active Women' initiative and support awareness through existing networks.
- Five targeted 'Active Women' programmes have attracted 186 new female members. Incentivised membership is in place for women graduating from the programme. GLL have appointed an internal participation lead for women & girls programme.
- GLL attended a Female Participation in Sport workshop in March 2019. Focused on overcoming barriers to female participation in sport, how to overcome these barriers and

social media influence #2020 – ‘if she can’t see it, she can’t be it’. The campaign calls on the people of Ireland and all those involved in Irish sport and physical activity to get behind female sport in a concerted effort to increase media coverage, boost attendances and ultimately, grow involvement in female sport and physical activity by 20% by the end of 2020.

- Staff at the Girdwood Hub working in conjunction with Netball NI launched the ‘open for all’ Netball Social League effective Monday 2nd March.
- Girdwood is also working in collaboration with TAMHI and Good Relations to facilitate a female only Futsal league, taking place every Sunday with over 200 participants from across the city traveling to Girdwood.

3.11 Older People

- 19.3% of all current Belfast members are aged 60+
- Free access for over 60’s before 11am Monday to Friday.
- GLL have developed the annual Club Games Festival for Belfast with 10 teams competing at this year’s third annual Club Games in October, which was included as part of Belfast City Council’s ‘Age Friendly’ month.
- GLL is going to host the National Club Games in Lisnasharragh LC June 2020 with local teams competing against teams from other GLL regions.
- GLL have engaged with Age Friendly Belfast, Age NI, Engage with Age, BCC and other relevant organisations to disseminate information to target demographic
- GLL have a daily programme of activity targeted at and suitable for older people
- GLL work in partnership with Northern Ireland Chest, heart and stroke association delivering exercise classes and monthly support groups for those with a pulmonary condition many of whom are older people.
- GLL deliver chronic disease (Cancer & Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes. Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.
- GLL is initiating a ‘Lets Stay Active’ physical activity programme designed to target referrals coming off the rehabilitation programmes and is also suitable for all members for a lower level/low impact workout.
- Strategic partnerships and working groups established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and charitable partners.
- 85 people aged 60+ were referred to and supported by Move More Belfast following a cancer diagnosis in 2019.

3.12 Families

- GLL have created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate.
- GLL offer a varied programme during school holidays to engage and support families including holiday play schemes, kids for a quid, sports camps, and soft play.
- GLL offer a wide range of provision for birthday parties including Bouncy castles, Laser quest, Climbing wall and sports.
- GLL has piloted 'Family membership' at Olympia in 2019, this is now available city wide across all Better Leisure Centres in Belfast from March 2020

4.0 Decision(s) Required

- 4.1 That the board considers and formally records receipt of the information presented below."**

After discussion, the Board adopted the recommendations.

GLL Six Monthly Positive Impact Report

The Board considered a report which had been prepared by GLL in relation to the positive impact of GLL in the delivery of leisure services in Belfast to March 2020. The report provided a written and visual summary of positive impacts across GLL's four pillars of Better Service, Better People, Better Communities and Better Business.

The Board was advised that Mr. A. Walker and Ms. S. Owens were in attendance to present the report and they were admitted to the meeting.

The GLL representatives drew attention to a number of achievements in the previous report on Tier 2 Performance in relation to underrepresented target groups, that is, people with disabilities, women and girls, older people and families. They then highlighted some of the success in the Positive Impact Report, such as the launch of the Lisnasharragh and Brook Centres and the communications day for GLL staff which had been held in December in the Girdwood Community Hub had been attended by over 250 staff.

In answer to question, Ms. Owens undertook to look at the possibility of undertaking a staff satisfaction survey.

The Chairperson then thanked the representatives from GLL for attending and they left the meeting.

After discussion, the Board formally recorded receipt of the information which had been provided and agreed that Council officers consult with GLL staff regarding the production of a staff satisfaction survey.

ABL Action Plan, KPI Review and Contract Compliance
Report Schedule 2020/21

The Board approved:

- the draft Action Plan to support the recently approved ABL Strategic Plan for 2020-2025: and
- an extension to the deadline for the final sign off of the Action Plan until the Board meeting scheduled for 20th April.

Director Resignation Notice

The Board was advised that Mr. Robert Stewart had informed the Chairperson of his intention to resign from the Board with effect from 20th February. A letter had been drafted to be sent to Mr. Stewart, from the Chairperson, accepting his resignation and acknowledging his contribution since his appointment to the Board in December, 2015. Companies House had also been informed and the ABL director register would be updated in due course.

The Partnership Manager informed the Board that the resignation had reduced the Board membership to 12 registered directors. As had been agreed on 11th March, 2019, 12 directors was the minimum number required to maintain a fully functional Board. As a consequence, it was agreed that a recruitment campaign would be required to be undertaken. At that stage it would be the intention to recruit three replacement directors to return the Board to full membership of 15 as set out in the company articles of association.

The Board agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting which would give consideration to commencing a recruitment exercise in September to bring the Board back to full membership.

Chairperson