

Leisure Tender - questions and answers

Updated 22 May 2024

Why are you procuring a new operator?

When the previous operator (Sencio) closed Edenbridge and Sevenoaks leisure centres and Lullingstone Golf Course in March 2023, the Council enlisted the help of Everyone Active to get the centres open again as quickly as possible.

Everyone Active were given a two-year 'interim' contract, which comes to an end in May 2025.

At a meeting of Cabinet in March 2024, it was decided that the Council would procure an operator for a five year contract (with the option to extend for a further two years). This would enable the Council to explore the long term options for the facilities.

Which leisure centres does this effect?

We are procuring an operator for Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, Edenbridge Leisure Centre and Lullingstone Park Golf Course. The same organisation will operate all three sites.

When will we know who the operator will be?

We hope to be able to announce the successful operator in March 2025.

What will happen to staff at the centres?

As is standard practice in these situations, TUPE will apply if we appoint a new supplier. Any staff employed at the centre will be transferred over to the successful applicant.

What will happen to clubs and bookings at the centres?

All operators that take part in the procurement process will be made aware of existing bookings at the centres. The successful operator will meet and work with clubs / existing bookings to establish their programme.

What will happen to my centre membership?

As soon as the outcome of the tender is known, all members will be contacted to explain what will happen. If there is a change in operators, memberships will transfer to the new operator.

How will the Sevenoaks town regeneration plans, around Buckhurst Lane, tie in with the operator procurement?

The regeneration plans are at a very early stage. The Council is considering building a new leisure centre in Sevenoaks as part of its wider regeneration plans for the Buckhurst Lane area of Sevenoaks. Councillors will consider the next steps for the project in July.

If a new leisure centre is built in Sevenoaks and /or Edenbridge, who will operate them?

The Council would most likely go out to tender for their operation.

Does any of this effect White Oak Leisure Centre?

White Oak Leisure Centre is not affected by the current operator procurement. Everyone Active will remain the operator of the centre until 2037.

How much is this costing the Council?

Potential suppliers will include the estimated running costs for the three facilities in their tender responses.

What happens if the Council does not appoint a new operator?

We think this scenario is unlikely as we have spoken with a number of potential providers who are keen to run our facilities.

If however we are unable to appoint a contractor, we will review our tender in light of the potential suppliers' responses.

Will it affect how much I pay to use the leisure centres and golf course?

Future prices won't be known for some time as they are subject to inflation, utility costs and the cost of living. The prices that operators propose charging will be reviewed as part of the tender process and will not be set until March 2025 when the contract is awarded. Customers will be contacted in due course.

How will this affect the long-term plans to improve Edenbridge Leisure Centre?

The Council is currently looking at how to improve leisure provision in Edenbridge as part of its commitment to leisure across the District.