

**THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**  
(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require an Integrated impact assessment, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

**Title of meeting:** Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Briefing Meeting

**Subject:** Andrew Simpson Sailing Centre

**Date of meeting:** 11 December 2020

**Report by:** Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

**Wards affected:** All

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**1. Requested by**

1.1 Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development

**2. Purpose**

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member on activities at the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre during 2020.

**3. Information Requested**

3.1 In January the Centre was experiencing significant financial difficulties with its gas provider as a result of an extremely large bill beyond their usual gas usage. In February the PCC energy team was instructed to assist the Centre in an attempt to resolve the situation. Because of this assistance the bill was significantly reduced to an affordable level. The energy team also intervened with the pricing structure for future gas use.

3.2 The Centre closed in March in line with the Covid-19 national lockdown. All staff were furloughed and as a result the Centre was unoccupied.

3.3 As soon as staff were furloughed PCC wrote to the Chief Executive of the Foundation, Richard Percy, to request a list of keyholders for the Centre. It later transpired that the Chief Executive was also furloughed.

3.4 During the time that the Centre was closed regular updates on local and government funding opportunities were sent to the Foundation.

3.5 PCC approved discretionary business rate relief for the Centre.

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3.6 PCC awarded the Centre a £25,000 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

**4. Maintenance**

|     |                     |      |             |
|-----|---------------------|------|-------------|
| 4.1 | Emergency H&S works | 2018 | £40,283.42  |
|     | Roller Shutter door | 2018 | £7,320.24   |
|     | Solar PV install    | 2018 | £35,886.34  |
|     | External Repairs    | 2019 | £300,100.82 |

4.2 Further structural capital works in the region of £150,000 are proposed to take place in winter and spring of 2020/21

**5. Reopening**

5.1 The Centre re-opened on 6 July 2020 under Covid-19 restrictions.

5.2 Upon opening the centre maintained social distancing at all times, with all activities having a maximum of five people with one instructor. Equipment was cleaned and sanitised between uses. All activities have been carried out outside, including briefings. Sailing courses are only using single-handed boats.

5.3 After re-opening the Centre provided windsurfing courses; multi-activity weeks including single SUPs, single kayaks, archery and climbing; single SUP and kayak adult taster sessions; single adult sailing courses; and private tuition for household groups.

5.4 These activities continued throughout the summer and were fully booked.

5.5 The major challenge for the Centre is during term time as their main target audience is schools. Due to classroom time lost during lockdown schools are likely to concentrate on academic subjects as a priority and external activities will be put on hold. There are still bookings from Portsmouth Grammar School and the Centre will open at weekends for booked activities.

5.6 Portsmouth Sports Council has awarded a grant of £750 toward new equipment.

**6. New Lockdown**

6.1 In accordance with Government instructions the Centre went into a new lockdown on 5 November 2020 and no activities can take place. Staff have again been furloughed.

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Signed by  
**Stephen Baily**  
**Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services**

**Appendices: A Profit and Loss statement to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| <b>Title of document</b> | <b>Location</b> |
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