

Subject: Regular Armed Forces – Leisure Access **Status:** For Publication

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 12th December 2007

Report of: Head of Financial Services

Portfolio

Holder: Improving Health & Well-Being

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is for Members to consider free access to leisure facilities (managed by the two leisure trusts) for members of the three regular armed services and their immediate families.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priority:

- *Delivering Quality Services to our Customers*
- *Improving Health and Well-Being*

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no are no material risks to consider. Robust administration procedures will ensure that the scheme is not open to misuse.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1.1 The following Leisure Facilities to which the scheme will apply and the sporting activity are as follows:

- Haslingden Pool (swimming)

- Marl Pits Pool (swimming)
- Whitworth Leisure Facility (Swimming & fitness suite)
- Haslingden Sports Centre (fitness suite, squash, badminton, aerobics)
- Rossendale Ski Slope (skiing)
- Bacup Leisure Hall (Squash)

4.1.2 Access is subject to availability. Pre-booking either for the individual or a larger group would not be permitted. Conditions of use would be similar to RLT's "Passport to Living".

4.1.3 Immediate family is defined as spouse and children (of the applicant) currently living and residing in Rossendale.

4.1.4 Three regular armed services – Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force personnel who are on the Rossendale Elections Register (*currently 21 individuals are registered on RBC electoral role*).

4.2 Provision of ID Passes

4.2.1 The One Stop Shop is thought best placed to administer the scheme. This will entail evidence of service (eg: Military service card, regiments letterhead, etc)

4.2.2 An application form signed by service personnel will request the number of passes for his or her family. The application form will comprise:

- Applicants name (ie Serviceman / woman)
- Applicants Home address
- Service area (regiment, squadron, etc.)
- Letter from service area or other evidence confirming service.
- Names of immediate family members and addresses (if different from above)
- Family passport size photos or digital image (for each pass required including the applicant)
 - *with name of the family member on the reverse of the photo*
 - *the applicant will also get a pass (for periods of leave)*

4.2.3 We currently assume that the new passes to be produced would include:

- RBC / Leisure Trust / CLAW Branding
- Regular Armed Service Sports Pass logo
- Pass holders name
- Pass holders Photo
- Date of Expiry (eg 12 months)

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 There are no material financial implications as in the main use will be made of surplus capacity.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR REGULATORY SERVICES

6.1 There are no specific legal implications.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

7.1 There are no implications for Human Resource matters.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Council seeks to recognise the unique value and sacrifice that members of the regular armed services and their families bring to both Rossendale and Britain.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members consider the contents of the report.

9.2 That Members approve the principles of free access to leisure (to members of the regular armed services registered on the Rossendale Electoral register and their immediate families) as set out in the report and that implementation and that the specific detail in administrating the scheme is delegated to the Portfolio holder for Improving Health & Well-Being.

9.3 That the scheme shall commence as soon as is feasible following finalisation of administrative details and publicity. Officers should aim to have the scheme in place for 1st April 2008.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Rossendale Leisure Trust

10.2 The Community Leisure Association of Whitworth

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