

Allerdale Leisure Partnership

Investing in facilities and services

As the Leisure Partnership between Allerdale Borough Council and Carlisle Leisure Limited enters its fifth year it is extremely pleasing to report that the three Allerdale leisure facilities (Cockermouth Leisure Centre, Keswick Leisure Pool and Workington Leisure Centre) have received a significant amount of investment through the **Joint Fund**.

The Joint Fund comprises business rate relief which Carlisle Leisure Limited, as a **not for profit** company with charitable trust status receives.

The use of these funds is jointly agreed by a 'Core Group' of officers from each partner with the specific aim of improving the sport & leisure services provided by the Allerdale leisure facilities.

Over the 15 year term of the Leisure Partnership these funds represent a considerable sum for investment.

During the first four years of the Leisure Partnership **£1,400,000** has been invested by the Joint Fund and enabled a large number of much needed and overdue improvements to take place at the leisure facilities.



Keswick



Keswick Leisure Pool is the youngest of the three Allerdale leisure facilities (built in 1987) and is the most modern in terms of appearance, access and heating/ventilation systems.



Pictured to the left is the entrance foyer at the leisure pool which was refurbished in 2004/05.

The original reception and shop kiosks were removed to provide a much more welcoming and accessible space for customers.

A new seating and vending area was created and high quality customer information notice boards installed.

The area was decorated in the 'Allerdale Leisure' corporate colours with new lighting, flooring and seating installed.

Other items provided by the Joint Fund include:

2004/05

- User survey
- Purchase of equipment from previous operator
- Installation of new telephone & electronic till system
- Building condition survey
- Gutter survey & repair
- Boiler replacement
- Pool alarm system
- Ceiling tile replacement

2006/07

- Roof repairs
- Installation of safety netting
- Flume cable replacement
- National Benchmarking Survey

A push button door was installed to ensure full access for wheelchair users.

Workington Leisure Centre is the oldest of the three Allerdale leisure facilities and comprises separate swimming pool and sports centre buildings. The facility is well used and the Joint Fund has been used to improve key areas.

At the start of the Leisure Partnership it was identified that the swimming pool entrance foyer and changing rooms were in need of refurbishment to bring them up to modern standards and improve customer satisfaction.

The photos to the right and below show how the entrance foyer was opened up to provide a much more accessible space for customers and staff.



The fixtures, fittings and colours used echo those used at Keswick and identify the facility as being operated by Carlisle Leisure Limited.

The new foyer leads into the swimming pool changing rooms (below) which were refurbished with new cubicles, lockers, toilets, showers and floors. The foyer and changing room improvements were completed in 2004/05.



In 2006/07 the existing fitness suite was enlarged and fitted with new equipment, air conditioning, lighting and ceilings. This has enabled a greater range of equipment to be provided for users as shown below.



Other improvements provided by the Joint Fund include:

2004/05

- Purchase of equipment from previous operator
- Installation of new electronic till system
- Installation of new telephone system
- Building condition survey

2006/07

- Installation of CCTV
- National Benchmarking Survey

2007/08

- Installation of air conditioning in exercise studio

Cockermouth Leisure Centre is composed of two very different buildings, an ex-army Drill Hall built in 1886 and a swimming pool built in 1978.

The facility has undergone the most dramatic change as a result of the investment that has been provided by the Joint Fund. While it was well used the facility suffered from a lack of storage space and flexible activity spaces.

The photo to the right shows the original fitness suite with the new facility below.

In 2005/06 the fitness suite was relocated to the ground floor and improved with new fitness equipment, lighting, ceilings and air conditioning.



The original swimming pool changing rooms are shown to the right and did not provide adequate customer accommodation in terms of clothing storage, disabled access and family changing rooms.



In 2006/07 the swimming pool changing rooms were refurbished to provide a changing 'village' which is more suitable for families than the traditional separate changing rooms.

The improvements provided new:

- Cubicles
- Lockers
- Disabled facilities
- Toilets
- Showers.

The pool viewing area was also enlarged.



The bare brick walls and dark wood fittings did not create a welcoming atmosphere for users.

The refurbished changing rooms shown to the left have been fitted out with high quality lockers and cubicles which have a long life and are easy to maintain.

The corporate colour scheme of blue and green has been used throughout the new changing rooms.

Other improvements supported by the Joint Fund at Cockermouth Leisure Centre include:

2004/05

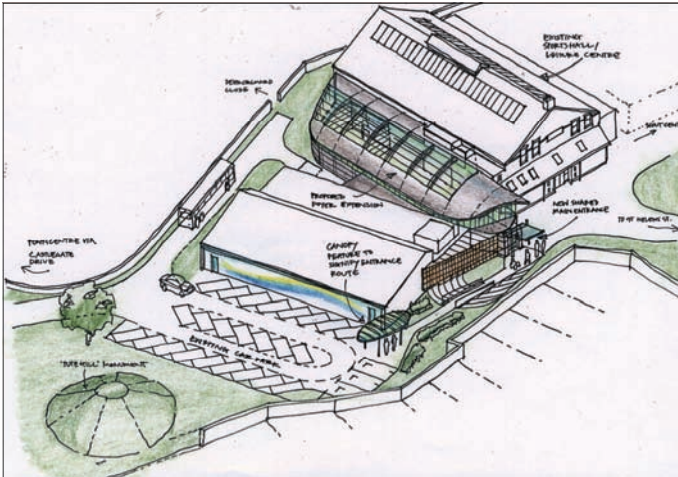
- Purchase of equipment from previous operator
- Installation of new electronic till system
- Installation of new telephone system
- Building condition survey

2006/07

- Planning fees

In 2006 the Leisure Partnership Core Group drew up plans and secured funding from the Joint Fund for a major scheme to construct a new entrance foyer at Cockermouth Leisure Centre and provide new activity spaces.

The initial sketch is shown to the above left.



Below and to the right are pictures of the original foyer which formed a link between the sports hall and the swimming pool.

With a low ceiling and limited waiting and circulation space the area was inadequate for



A key part of the improvement scheme was the extension of the car park which struggled to cope with the demand from users at peak times.

New spaces and footpaths were laid with improved lighting to direct customers around to the new entrance on the southern side of the leisure centre.

The new entrance foyer was built in the 'courtyard' area between the original buildings and forms a focal point for the leisure centre from where all activity spaces can be accessed.

With its high ceiling and glazed entrance the new foyer houses the following new spaces.

- Meeting room
- Activity studio
- Extended fitness suite
- Reception/waiting/social area

Under floor heating & air conditioning ensures a comfortable environment for Customers and staff.



The new facilities provided by the extension to Cockermouth Leisure Centre are shown here and were opened in April 2008 by the Mayor of Allerdale, Councillor Ron Munby, Chair of Carlisle Leisure Limited Management Board, Karen Bassett and Mathew Wilson of the Ford World Rally team, M-Sport.



New entrance



Reception

The new air conditioned activity studio is flexible and can be used for a variety of activities, such as exercise to music classes, Pilates, Yoga and meetings or training events.



Foyer



Activity studio

The fitness suite was extended with new CV and resistance equipment purchased to ensure the maximum possible benefit and variety for users.



Fitness suite



New meeting room

Keswick



In April 2008 a £150,000 refurbishment scheme was completed which replaced the changing rooms at Keswick Leisure Pool which were 20 years old.

The photo to the right shows the original changing rooms which have withstood heavy usage since the facility opened in 1987 and needed replacement to ensure the leisure centre continues to provide a satisfactory service to customers.

The refurbishment comprised the following:

- New lockers including those accessible by disabled users
- New changing cubicles including family changing, parent and child changing and single change
- A new disabled changing facility with shower
- New toilet cubicles and vanity units
- New non slip vinyl flooring
- New vinyl wall coverings.



New cubicles



New showers



New lockers

The overall cost of the refurbishment was funded by the Leisure Partnership Joint Fund and Carlisle Leisure Limited.

In addition the building management system at the leisure pool has been replaced to provide better control over the heating/ventilation and improve the efficiency of the building.

The Core Group will continue to invest in the Allerdale Borough Council owned leisure facilities which are managed, operated and developed by Carlisle Leisure Limited over the remaining term of the current 15 year management agreement.

P. Haley. Leisure Partnership Officer.