

REPORT FOR EDLC BOARD	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Reopening of EDLC Facilities Update
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Mark Grant
<b>Date:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021
<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	No 8
<b>Report No:</b>	EDLCT /89/21/MG

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board on both the potential and some confirmed dates for reopening EDLC Leisure and Culture facilities.
- 1.2 EDLC facilities closed on the Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November in line with Scottish Government guidance and the vast majority of these still remain closed. The first minister provided an update to parliament on Covid – 19 and related restrictions on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. The statement provided further detail around the planned easing of restrictions during April and May and detailed a number of significant changes.
- 1.3 In making the announcement it was made clear that the dates are dependent on the suppression of the virus and the continued rollout of the vaccination programme. The Scottish Government has also now published a new timetable for the easing of restrictions and a copy of this is attached as Appendix 1.

## 2. PROPOSED REOPENING TIMELINES

- 2.1 Based on Scottish Government guidance issued on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March the table below at 2.8 identifies the indicative reopening dates for EDLC facilities and services. As with the previous reopening of facilities during September 2020 the resumption of these services will have to take account of a number of factors including:
  - The provision of Library services in shared accommodation with East Dunbartonshire Council at William Patrick, Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Lennoxton Hubs.
  - The continued operation of the mass vaccination centres at Allander and Kirkintilloch and planning required to operate the centres and vaccination programme in tandem.
  - Due to the current restrictions on external staff / partners accessing the schools within East Dunbartonshire, the Active Schools Team are not yet permitted to work within the school setting. Active Schools will continue to liaise with East Dunbartonshire Council to determine when it is safe for Active Schools to once more be able to work within EDC schools directly.

- 2.2 As with the first resumption of services in September 2020 it is intended to adopt a “Connect and Collect” service as a first phase in the re-introduction of Library services. “Connect and Collect” will allow library members to pre-order books for safe collection from a local library at pre-arranged times initially operating for two days per week. The initial plan anticipates opening the 4 large Libraries for Connect and Collect two days per week and Lennoxton 1 day per week.

We anticipate operating this service for six weeks during which time there will be the potential to introduce this to the smaller libraries and prepare for greater access across the Libraries estate in early June.

- 2.3 The Galleries and Museums will reopen in May and June to coincide with planned exhibitions. The LAG will open on 18<sup>th</sup> of May for Joan Eardley centenary exhibition and AKM on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June for the Quilters exhibition. Staff will be brought off Furlough in advance of these dates to take down previous exhibitions and prepare for the new ones.
- 2.4 Indoor Leisure facilities including swimming pools have a confirmed date for reopening detailed in the Scottish Government timetable and EDLC Leisure Centres will reopen on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

The Allander and Kirkintilloch Leisure Centres will initially be operating on a dual purpose basis providing access to limited leisure activities and continuing with the Covid - 19 vaccination rollout.

Initially all activities within the Leisure Centres will still require to be pre-booked and pre-paid. To enable EDLC customers to do so they will be provided guidance on login details to our new online booking system 'LeisureHub'. This booking system allows for the customer to click on their chosen activity, make their payment and confirm their booking online. An automated confirmation e-mail will then be sent to the customer giving them details on when to arrive at the Centre and what to expect.

Members of the public who are not members are able to register via LeisureHub and make a casual booking. This will ensure that anyone using the Centre will have provided the required information to satisfy the contact tracing requirements. Customers that are unable to login or do not have access to the internet will be able to follow a similar process over the phone.

- 2.5 Outdoor facilities including Huntershill and Merkland were opened in advance of the Leisure Centres on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March allowing (subject to guidance) football, athletics and tennis activity to take place for both Adults and 12 - 17 year olds. Both Huntershill and Merkland have been well used with many teams returning for training and games will be allowed for 12 - 17 year olds from the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.

Outdoor contact sports for adults are scheduled to recommence on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and this will again increase the usage of our pitches.

- 2.6 The Sports Development team are currently working with Sportscotland, National Governing Bodies of sport and our facilities managers to secure a date for the safe return of our sports activities. Once we have a confirmed date and timetable for return, we will contact those who were booked on classes during the previous reopening in September directly to offer places up until the summer holiday break. A new block of classes will

begin in August when schools return. A limited programme of activities will be offered during the summer holiday period as well as the Snack and Play scheme.

2.7 In relation to regular sports clubs users of our facilities each of the centres will be contacting clubs directly to arrange a virtual meeting to ensure the safe return to their activity and finalise dates for their return.

## 2.8 Reopening Timelines

Action	Who	When	Notification	Completion Date
<b>Re-open date for KLC</b>	Iain Campbell	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Website/Social threads/TRP	
<b>Re-open date for ALC</b>	David Kelly	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Website/Social threads/TRP	
<b>Re-open date for LD</b>	Fraser Makeham	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Website/Social threads/TRP	
<b>Re-open date for Huntershill / Merkland</b>	Fraser Makeham / Iain Campbell	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Website/Social threads/TRP	15 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Library Services – Connect and Collect</b>	Craig Elliott	26 <sup>th</sup> April – 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Website/Social threads/TRP	
<b>Museums and Galleries</b>	Craig Elliott	AKM – 5 <sup>th</sup> June. LAG 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Website/Social threads	
<b>Swimming Lessons</b>	Karin Jackson	Middle of August	Follow SGB guidance/Link with Ops	
<b>Gymnastic Lessons</b>	Karin Jackson	Middle of August	Follow SGB guidance/Link with Ops	
<b>Other Sports Development Programmes</b>	Karin Jackson	Middle of August	Follow SGB guidance/Link with Ops	

### 3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 In order to facilitate the reopening EDLC management will again carry out a number of actions including:

- Communications with Stakeholders
- Employee contact and Training (Including return to work guidance)
- Trade Union Engagement (including facility walk through)
- Risk assessments updated as required.
- Revised operating procedures (including enhanced cleaning schedules)
- PPE and signage provision
- Unfurlough and flexi unfurlough employees (Phased approach)

3.2 As with the initial reopening in September 2020 detailed action plans are in place to achieve all of the above and regular updates will be provided for EDLC Board and the Council as we progress towards the reopening of our facilities during April.

3.3 Employees will be given a minimum of seven days' notice to advise them that their furlough period will be ending.

3.4 We will continue to review the service delivery on a regular basis to ensure a safe operating environment for our customers and staff.

### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Board:-

- a) Notes the details provided on the reopening of facilities.
- b) Agree that EDLCT will work towards the reopening timelines in conjunction with East Dunbartonshire Council and other Key stakeholders
- c) General Manager Provide an update on the status of our reopening programme at the next Board Meeting.