

REPORT FOR EDLC BOARD	
Report Title:	Reopening of EDLC Facilities Update
Contact officer:	Mark Grant
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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 have continued to work with a range of partners to monitor and evaluate the changing environment and guidance available. Consultation and discussions with CLUK have also allowed us to benefit from the experiences of Trusts in England and Wales who reintroduced services earlier than providers in Scotland.

Initial information from some of the Scottish Trusts who have opened on 31st of August is generally positive with 25% to 35% of members reactivating memberships. Fitness classes have proved the most popular with lower turn out for Gyms and pools than operators expected.

- 1.3 In line with Scottish Government guidance Museums and Libraries have been allowed to re-open from July 15th. The Library services remain closed to the public, however the connect and collect initiative was launched on the 27th of August and subject to the agreed risk assessment process will be rolled out to Lennoxton, Milngavie and Bishopbriggs week beginning the 7th of September.

In terms of wider access to include restricted browsing, pc access, printing and copying it is planned to commence these week beginning the 26th of October. This again will depend on the agreed risk assessment process being agreed and it should be noted that some Library facilities are in shared buildings which makes it a more complex process.

- 1.4 Due to the continuing requirements for social distancing and the high risk of transmission the set date from the Scottish Government the reopening of Gyms and indoor Leisure facilities including pools was set as the 14th of September. However the Scottish Government Phase 3 Update on the 20th of August brought this forward to the 31st of August. EDLC in line with most other Trusts stayed with the 14th as the reopening date as all of the reactivation planning was aligned with that timescale.

- 1.5 The announcement from the Scottish Government detailing the update on phase 3 of the route map is outlined in Appendix 1.
- 1.6 Heritage and Arts facilities will reopen on the 10th of October to facilitate pre booked and planned exhibitions at the Auld Kirk Museum and Lillie Art Gallery. The Embroiders exhibition at the LAG was already partly hung when the facility went into lockdown and the Milton of Campsie Art Club have been waiting for over 5 years for their exhibition at AKM.
- 1.7 Due to the current restrictions on external staff / partners accessing the schools within East Dunbartonshire, the Active Schools Team is not yet permitted to work within the school setting. However all of the team are working from home, and have been throughout each phase of lockdown. This will continue until national and local guidelines are changed or relaxed. Active Schools will continue to work with East Dunbartonshire Council to determine when it is safe for Active Schools to once more be able to work within EDC schools directly.

The Active Schools Team are supporting the schools while working remotely, and schools can contact their Active Schools Coordinator if they are looking for any support or help around physical activity and sport. The team all have access to email and can video chat.

The team have been working to redesign old and develop some new physical activity/ sport resources that schools may find useful during these times. These resources will, as far as possible, adhere to the national and local guidelines schools are all working with. The first of these resources has been issued to all schools.

- 1.8 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. Although the programmes are not able to begin on the same date as the leisure centres open (14 September), it is hoped to resume classes as soon as possible thereafter. Once we have a confirmed date and timetable for return, we will contact those who were booked on classes for the March - June term directly to offer places.
- 1.9 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. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following UK and Scottish Government Guidance, all EDLC venues closed to the public on the 18th March. Employees who were unable to work from home were stood down and an agreement was reached with staff and the joint trade unions meaning that 75% of contracted and the majority of casual employees were placed on furlough leave. This meant that these employees could not carry out any services for EDLC while on leave. However, EDLC have continued to support some key EDC services provision as summarised below:

- EDLC employees have supported the local school key worker hubs in delivering the snack and learn scheme from the start of lockdown with the support extended to cover the summer holiday period up until schools returned on the 11th of August.
- Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre has provided a base to supply PPE distribution and Food packages to the community and this will stop on Friday 4th of September
- Building checks have been carried out at all EDLC venues throughout lockdown.
- Delivering an Online Fitness offering including fitness classes, mind & body and physical exercise guidance and this will continue when facilities reopen until we assess the demand and levels of customer return to our class programme. If we do continue in the longer term an assessment will have to be made in terms of cost and charging for the online offer.
- Libraries offering ebooks, eaudiobooks and eNewspapers for members; virtual reading groups and Bookbug Sessions, online resources to help with family learning at home, and ongoing digital support. The programme with EDC to deliver books to shielding individuals stopped once the shielding guidance changed. Individuals can now use the connect and collect service as an alternative.

3. PROPOSED TIMELINES

3.1 Based on current Scottish Government guidance the table below at 3.5 identifies the indicative reopening dates for EDLC facilities and services. 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.

3.2 Due to the continuing requirements for social distancing and the risk of transmission, in particular through books, library services across Scotland, and the UK, are adopting a “Connect and Collect” service as a first phase in the re-introduction of 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 Connect two days per week and Lennoxton 1 day per week.

We anticipate operating this service for eight 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.

3.3 Indoor Leisure facilities including swimming pools have a confirmed date for reopening detailed in the Scottish Government route map and EDLC Leisure Centres will reopen on the 14th of September.

Initially all activities within the Leisure Centres 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 Trace and Protect 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. This is scheduled to go live on the 9th of September for members and the following day for non-members.

3.4 Outdoor facilities including Huntershill and Merkland were opened in advance of the Leisure Centres allowing (subject to guidance) football, athletics and tennis activity to take place.

3.5 Reopening Timelines

Action	Who	When	Notification	Completion Date
Re-open date for KLC	Iain Campbell	14 th September	Website/Social threads/TRP	
Re-open date for ALC	David Kelly	14 th September	Website/Social threads/TRP	
Re-open date for LD	Fraser Makeham	14 th September	Website/Social threads/TRP	
Re-open date for Huntershill / Merkland	Fraser Makeham / Iain Campbell	10 th August	Website/Social threads/TRP	10 th and 24 th August
Library Services – Connect and Collect	Craig Elliott	20 th August – 7 th September	Website/Social threads/TRP	20 th August
Swimming Lessons	Karin Jackson	End of September	Follow SGB guidance/Link with Ops	
Gymnastic Lessons	Karin Jackson	End of September	Follow SGB guidance/Link with Ops	
Other Sports Development Programmes	Karin Jackson	End of September	Follow SGB guidance/Link with Ops	

4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In order to facilitate the reopening EDLC management have carried 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 assessment process
 - Revised operating procedures (including enhanced cleaning schedules)
 - PPE and signage provision
 - Unfurlough and flexi unfurlough employees (Phased approach)
 - Dimension testing for bookings and transactions
- 4.2 A detailed action plan is 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.
- 4.3 Employees have been given at least seven days' notice to advise them that their furlough period will be ending.
- 4.4 We will continue to review the service delivery on a regular basis to ensure a safe operating environment for our customers and staff.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 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.