

**DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED**  
**Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER**

**KEY DECISION Subject:** Closure of the Play Service

**DECISION TAKER:**

**Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:**

This key decision/decision outside the Council's Budget and Policy Framework\* was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national Coronavirus Emergency. Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

*\* Delete if not outside Budget & Policy Framework*

**DECISION TAKEN:**

To close the Stevenage Play Service (three Play Centres)

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

Due to the Covid-19 virus and government advice in relation to gathering of people in public places and the high risk vulnerability of many of its users we had to close the Play Centres and holiday play schemes. Officers will review re-opening based on government advice.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:** None

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Fixed costs for the Play Centre buildings will remain although utility costs will be lower; staffing costs will be reduced as casual staff will not be used for normal or holiday schemes. SBC's facilities teams are working with the Play

Centre teams to mothball the facilities whilst maintaining compliance testing at this time. Loss of income is £186.00 per week.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Play Centres were closed following government advice in relation to the closure of schools and similar facilities.

**EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

Play Service users and families and guardian of the users are all affected by the closure of the Play Service.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

Consultees were advised that Play Centres should close following advice from government, there were no objections.

The Executive and Opposition Group Leaders

Strategic Leadership Team

**Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

**Signed:**

**Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:**

**DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION: 17 March 2020**