

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.04/19

Date: 29 March 2019

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: To advise Members of the investigation and subsequent action taken following an incident at Strood Sports Centre on 22 October 2018.

In October last year, a number of customers exhibited a reaction, including coughing and feeling nauseous, while swimming in the teaching pool at Strood Sports Centre.

Staff onsite immediately cleared the pool, removed those affected from the environment and offered first aid while the emergency services were called.

Upon arrival, the fire service recommended evacuation of the centre while the building was checked. Paramedics sent four customers to hospital as a precautionary measure.

The centre was reopened to the public at 6pm, two-and-a-half hours after the incident was reported. However, the swimming pool remained closed while Medway Norse and specialist contractors undertook a series of checks on the pool plant equipment.

Following the incident, an in-depth investigation was undertaken by the Council's Health and Safety team. The investigating officer identified that earlier that day Medway Norse and contractors had attended Strood Sports Centre to repair a faulty pump in the swimming pool plant room.

The investigating officer made a number of recommendations and, in consultation with the service manager and centre manager, an agreed action plan was implemented. This included reviewing operating and emergency procedures, refresher training for staff, and a review of procedures for liaising with Medway Norse.

The internal health and safety investigation was forwarded to the Health and Safety Executive, who confirmed they would not be undertaking their own investigation as they were “happy that Medway Council is taking the appropriate steps to prevent recurrence”.

Lead officer: Bob Dimond, Head of Sport Leisure, Tourism and Heritage

Tel. No: 01634 338238 Email: bob.dimond@medway.gov.uk