

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2020

### Fenland leisure centres ready to reopen

Fenland's four leisure centres will reopen their doors to the public this weekend, helping customers get back to their favourite sports and fitness activities.

Things will look a bit different at the centres to adhere to COVID-19 Government guidance, but after four months of closure staff are eager to make sure everybody has a positive and safe experience as they return to use their local community facilities.

Following their compulsory closure in March due to the coronavirus lockdown, the Fenland District Council owned facilities in Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech will reopen tomorrow (Saturday, July 25) as part of a phased reopening of services.

Freedom Leisure, which operates the centres on behalf of the Council, has introduced a number of safety measures in line with Government guidance to help customers return to activities in a safe and clean environment.

The centres will reopen on reduced hours to begin with and all activities, including use of the gym, swimming pool and fitness classes, will need to be pre-booked as the number of people permitted in each facility will be limited and for NHS Test and Trace purposes.

Other measures include social distancing guidance, a one way system through the centres and enhanced cleaning practices throughout.

Cllr Sam Clark, Fenland District Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure, said: "We know our leisure centres are valuable community assets and will play a central role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents during this unprecedented situation.

"There has been a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes to get ready to reopen and we can't wait to welcome customers back. Freedom Leisure staff are raring to go, and I know many customers are eager to get back to the fitness and leisure activities that they have missed too."

Ivan Horsfall-Turner, Managing Director of Freedom Leisure, added: "Freedom Leisure is delighted to be reopening Fenland's leisure centres on July 25. Our teams are working hard to make sure the centres are ready and waiting to welcome back the local community, and we look forward to seeing everyone very soon."

Activities can be pre-booked via the Freedom Leisure website or app up to five days in advance. For more information, including guidance on what to expect when visiting a centre and FAQs, visit: [www.freedom-leisure.co.uk](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk)

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226**