

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE & CULTURE COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTORS:
DOMINIC HARRISON (PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLBING)
MARTIN EDEN (ENVIRONMENT & OPERATIONS)
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LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Print Solution: Libraries across the Borough now offer a secure, state of the art facility which enables users to print 'remotely' from their mobile devices or home PC and collect their documents via a self-service kiosk at their nearest library. This intuitive technology, which also provides photocopying and scanning services, is part of the Council's ongoing wider initiative to provide excellent digital services for residents. The printing solution can also be accessed via each of the 97 new PCs which have been installed across the 5 libraries for use by all citizens.

Darwen Children's Library:

The children's section at Darwen Library has been given a mini refurbishment and now feels much brighter and welcoming. The makeover was unveiled at a special Christmas event for children with story time and crafts. Councillor Jane Oates, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Assistant Executive Member for Leisure and Culture joined the youngsters along with 'Wordsworth' – the mascot for the library.

VENUES

The Brewery tender was recently procured through an e-auction. Four companies took part in a competitive process, with the successful supplier confirmed as JW Lees. The contract will begin at the end of January and it is expected that King George's Hall (KGH) / Darwen Library Theatre (DLT) will make a saving of approximately 20% on bar supplies.

Both KGH and DLT pantomimes were a huge success over the Christmas period. Both were very well attended with positive audience feedback; DLT had occupancy of 74% whilst KGH had an occupancy level of 82%. The new year started strongly with the first 2 Comedy Club shows of 2019 both sell out performances and there are another 2 sell out gigs at the end of January (Vaccines and Kaiser Chiefs).

LEISURE

Darwen Leisure Centre's gym reopened on Friday 11 January following an extensive refurbishment over the Christmas and New Year period. The Leisure Centre, which opened in 2010, has created a completely new gym experience. This includes an updated layout and state-of-the-art equipment, as well as new flooring and lighting. All this has been achieved within allocated budgets. Following a consultation exercise with members, an overwhelming number of people said they

wanted to see a bigger and better range of gym equipment and this has now been achieved.

A major feature of the new-look gym is a purpose built, freestanding gym rig that can accommodate functional and suspended body weight training; expanding the range of exercises possible in the gym. Adding brand new spinning bikes to one of the multi-use studios has also created extra space within the gym. The new equipment, provided by renowned industry supplier [Precor](#), includes:

- State-of-the-art-touch screen cardiovascular equipment
- Top-of-the-range spinning bikes
- Purpose-built HIIT cardio equipment
- A dedicated weight training area.