

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT, TOURISM, RECREATION AND HERITAGE  
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL  
ON WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016**

**Floating Bridge – construction of replacement bridge**

Officers have just returned from a site visit to Mainstay Marine Solutions Limited, in Pembrokeshire, which is the shipyard building the replacement floating bridge. While progress continues at pace, there have been a few technical and design challenges to overcome and the vessel will now be completed by mid-February 2017. It will then be towed from Pembroke Dock to the Isle of Wight; this is estimated to take six days but will of course be subject to weather conditions.

Works to resurface the slipways at Cowes and East Cowes and improve pedestrian access will commence early in 2017; this will take between eight and ten weeks and will necessitate the existing bridge being taken out of service and effectively decommissioned. While these works are taking place a replacement launch service will be provided for foot passengers.

When the new bridge comes into service vehicle drivers will be able to purchase and use a 'saver card' to pay for their journey; as part of extending the existing saver card scheme the option to top up your card by direct debit will be introduced to make managing your account even easier. At this point the bridge will effectively become 'cashless' with all payments either being made at the land based ticket machines or by using a saver card.

Details on the slipways works and saver cards for vehicles will be published in the coming weeks.

**Medina Leisure Centre – extension of Tone Zone**

The new 510 square metre Tone Zone, which is now the largest gym on the Island, opened on Thursday, 22 September and has been impressing customers both old and new. In conjunction with the extension of the Tone Zone gym at Medina, new equipment has also been installed at both the Heights Leisure Centre and Westridge to improve the range.

Officers instigated a short survey at Medina to gain customers' views on the new facility and equipment; more than 100 responses were received and the headline indicators were a satisfaction rating of 9.33 (out of ten) with 95 per cent more likely to recommend a friend to join the One Card scheme.

The work was accompanied by a media campaign to promote the facilities and increase memberships and during the two weeks immediately after the opening of the extended Medina Tone Zone the number of members increased by more than 100 per cent when compared to the same period in 2015.

**Councillor Shirley Smart**  
**Executive Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage**