

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING,  
TOURISM, RECREATION AND CULTURE  
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL  
ON WEDNESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2017**

**Floating bridge**

Construction of the replacement bridge is now in its final stages; as Mainstay Marine enters the final few weeks; work on the structure are complete and their attention has turned to completing the fitting out of the engine room, passenger accommodation and pilot house. It is now evident that the naval architects – Burness Corlett Three Quays – have designed a truly stunning and iconic vessel which will provide both the local community and visitors with a safe efficient crossing for at least the next 25 years.

Works to reconstruct the slipways at Cowes and East Cowes and improve pedestrian access commenced at the start of January and are scheduled to run until mid/late March 2017; while the duration may seem overly long, the contractor – Geomarine – has to plan its works around the tides which restrict its hours of operation.

While the bridge is out of service a replacement foot passenger launch will be in operation as normal; however, the hours of operation vary from those operated by the bridge so all foot passengers are advised to check the signage on site and the council's website for details.

**Leisure**

With the introduction of the new facilities at the three council leisure centres, we have seen some significant improvement in the numbers attending the facilities and the number of Leisure memberships purchased. Memberships grew from 5,112 in December 2015 to 5,731 in December 2016. We also saw growth of 12.11 per cent in under 18's memberships. The number attending our fitness classes grew from 118,614 in 2015 to 168,614 in 2016, a significant improvement.

**Councillor Shirley Smart**  
**Executive Member for Planning, Tourism, Recreation and Culture**