

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022  
title: GENERAL REPORT  
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MANAGER

### 1 PURPOSE

To update committee on a variety of developments in sports, arts and community development and performance of the Platform Gallery.

### 2 PLATFORM GALLERY UPDATE

- 2.1 The Exhibition Programme features the popular 'Northern Star' which runs up until Christmas and sales have picked up gradually following a sluggish return by visitors post covid shut down. The impact of the pre-Christmas changes to covid regulations will be assessed in the analysis of the December sales.

The up-coming exhibitions next year are;

Connecting Crafts: 24 January– 19 March

The Platform Gallery's first exhibition of the year brings together two established Crafts of Printmaking and Ceramics through revered Northern Craft organisations; the Northern Potters Association and 10 Strong Artists. It is the aim of this exhibition to highlight and showcase the wealth of talented artists that belong to these organisations and the wider goal of the gallery to connect visitors with local contemporary makers and their crafts

Craft Open: 4 April – 18 June

The Platform Gallery's annual exhibition, known for highlighting the wealth of talented craft makers surrounding the Platform Gallery. Connecting visitors with local contemporary makers and their crafts.

Lancashire Makers: 11 July – 3 September - An opportunity to showcase local makers.

- 2.2 A new till system was introduced during October to improve efficiency and remove some of the paper based administrative tasks. Staff received the necessary training to operate the computerised system provided by North West Business Machines, and the 'bedding in' phase has required some changes to ways of working. However, support from I.T. has been very helpful to ensure that the system works effectively and adapts to the specific requirements of the Gallery.

### 3 RIBBLESDALE POOL

- 3.1 Whilst school swimming lessons continue to be available in helping to deliver this important life skill for children in the Borough, it has not been possible to re-commence the full internal learn to swim scheme, due to continuing difficulties with recruiting teachers.

An arrangement has been agreed with Swim England; who are supporting the training and development of new teachers through level 1 and 2 qualifications. The courses are to be organised and provided at Ribblesdale Pool, and if interest emerges then it is hoped to have instructors in place by February/ March of next year.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Platform Gallery continues to progress towards pre-pandemic business – but slowly.
- 4.2 Staffing difficulties at Ribblesdale Pool remain a concern, although it is hoped that the recent pay review will help in attracting applicants for vacant posts.

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