

Launch of Live Argyll

THE new trust that will deliver leisure and library services in Argyll and Bute has launched.

Live Argyll will from today be responsible for services including libraries, leisure facilities, Active Schools, archives, museum, sport development, halls, community centres and community lets.

The transfer to the charitable trust helps make sure the services continue to be available to residents and visitors.

To celebrate the launch of Live Argyll, people are invited to events in facilities across Argyll and Bute this Saturday, with free programmes, teas and coffees, and cupcakes.

Leader of the Council, Councillor Aileen Morton, said: “We are handing over services to Live Argyll as, being a charitable trust, it offers many financial and commercial benefits that can help sustain the future of services at a time when there is growing pressure on public spending.

“The aim of the Trust is clear in its name – Live Argyll. It is the perfect name as it is here to deliver services that help young and old live healthy, happy lives.

“Live Argyll will no doubt become a household name and a valued source of support, benefit and enjoyment for people across Argyll and Bute.”

“As today is such an important day, marking a new era for the fantastic services the trust will now provide, I’m delighted we have been joined by two Olympic athletes, Vicki Adams and Lauren Gray, who have represented their country with great success, to help get Live Argyll off to a flying start.

“I look forward to seeing Live Argyll flourish. I also hope people will be able to celebrate with us this Saturday.”

Vicki and Lauren are part of the Team GB Women’s Curling Team and are set to compete at the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February next year. They won bronze at Sochi in 2014 and also at the 2016/17 World and European Championships.

Chair of Live Argyll, Andrew Nisbet, said “Argyll and Bute Council, in agreeing to set up a trust to deliver its leisure and library services, has given us a great opportunity to deliver services that meet our communities’ needs and aspirations. Live Argyll has a shared commitment with our Council colleagues, to play an active role in enhancing the health, fitness, culture and personal wellbeing of the citizens of Argyll and Bute and our visitors.

“We want you to ‘Be Inspired, Be You’. Our commitment is to deliver services that allow that to happen.”

Information on where events to mark the launch of Live Argyll will be held is on the website at: www.liveargyll.co.uk

Argyll and Bute Council took the decision to transfer culture and leisure services to a trust in November 2016. The council considers the transfer of these services as an opportunity to provide a new, fresh, efficient and commercially focused approach to delivering services across Argyll and Bute. Charitable trusts are able to access support that council services are not, such as grants, and services are sustained due to the financial benefits charitable trusts have.