**Background Information**

**Stop privatisation of Leisure Centres**

Warwick District Council, with cross-party support, is planning to invest £12m in upgrading and expanding our two main Leisure Centres in Warwick and Leamington. This should help local residents to keep active, improve their overall health, tackle problems such as obesity and to have fun. By sensible borrowing, better marketing and no real increase in charges, it looks affordable and should generate surpluses.

However the current administration wants to privatise the management of all Leisure facilities in the District at the same time.

The directly-employed staff who have successfully run the services and have played a key part in developing the new plans will be transferred to a private organisation. Their terms and conditions will be at risk.

Prices charged by a private operator are likely to rise, especially for annual memberships and clubs. Those with most to gain from our Leisure Centres may find them hard to afford.

The culture of serving the community and working closely with other local organisations will be put at risk by the arrival of a profit-maximising external company.

Perhaps even worse, the private operator will enjoy all or most of the surpluses which will be generated over 15 years by a major public investment. These should be available for future spending on Leisure or other services within the District.