

CABINET

21st January 2020

CATMOSE SPORTS CONTRACT

Report of the Strategic Director for Places

Strategic Aim:	Explore new and improved cultural and leisure opportunities for Rutland	
Key Decision: Yes	Forward Plan Reference: FP/131219	
Exempt Information	Yes	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mrs L Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Culture & Leisure, Highways & Transportation and Communications	
Contact Officer(s):	Robert Clayton, Head of Culture & Registration	01572 758435 rclayton@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approves a variation to the current contract for the operation of the Catmose Sports facility with Stevenage Leisure Ltd, to extend the contract on current terms by twelve months, terminating on 31st March 2022.
2. Approves the use of £29,000 from "Invest to Save" funds, and authorises the Director for Places to agree the appointment of a consultancy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture & Leisure, and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to scope appropriate future leisure provision for the County.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To approve a variation to the current contract for the operation of the Catmose Sports facility with Stevenage Leisure Ltd, to extend the contract on current terms by twelve months, terminating on 31st March 2022. The extension will allow time for the consideration of appropriate future leisure provision for the County, and implementation of Member decisions.
- 1.2 The current contract with Stevenage Leisure Ltd expires at the end of March 2021. The contract is nil direct cost to the authority, although includes liabilities around repairs and maintenance on the site.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The sports facilities at Catmose College are owned by the College. Prior to the rebuild of the College, the Council paid an annual amount to the College to provide public access to the facilities. In order to continue to provide publicly accessible sports facilities, Rutland County Council entered in to two leases with the College:

Old sports hall and swimming pool for a term of 21 years from 28th February 2011 expiring **2032**

New sports hall for a term of 40 years from 28th February 2011 expiring **2051**

- 2.2 Ahead of the facility opening, Rutland County Council procured a provider to operate the facilities on a broadly nil cost basis (although with some liabilities for repairs). As a result RCC has a 10 year contract with Stevenage Leisure Ltd (SLL) to operate the Catmose Sports facilities, and which also includes a lease of the facility, running from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2021. There is an annual Sports Board which reviews the performance of the contractor.
- 2.3 Sports facilities are used by a significant proportion of the population. SLL have records of over 11,000 users, with currently over 1,400 members paying by direct debit, and many walk-in users. Centre participation figures show 16,000 swimming sessions, 15,000 swimming lessons, 85,000 fitness sessions and 67,000 club and casual sports sessions participations per annum.
- 2.4 Since the Catmose Sports contract was let, the leisure management market has developed, and neighbouring authorities have been successful in moving their provision from loss-making or cost-neutral positions in to net revenue generators.
- 2.5 Cabinet support is requested to vary the present contract to allow time to undertake a thorough assessment of the leisure and sport requirements in the County, and for the results to be reported to Council to underpin any procurement of successor contracts or alternative provision. This will involve development of management options, and creation of a formal procurement strategy.
- 2.6 Following consultation with Welland Procurement, a number of potential consultancies have been identified who could undertake the work. The scale of costs for the Consultancy is likely to be in the region of £29,000, based on exercises undertaken in other authorities. Appointment can be made through ESPO framework 664-17, Consultancy Services.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The proposal has been discussed with the Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Portfolio Holder for Culture, the Strategic Directors for Resources and Places, and the Deputy Director Corporate Governance.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Officers advise that there is insufficient capacity and expertise to undertake the leisure market review and contract procurement in-house.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial details of the current contract are included in the Exempt Appendix to protect commercially sensitive information.
- 5.2 The scale of costs for undertaking the necessary expert analysis is likely to be in the region of £29,000, based on exercises undertaken in other authorities. It is requested that these costs are met from the "Invest to Save" fund, as the process should be designed to generate a net annual revenue for the Council.
- 5.3 The net impact of securing a revenue generating contract cannot be assessed at this stage, but it is hoped it would have a positive impact on the MTFP from 2022 onwards.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Weightmans LLP have reviewed the current position and have advised from a governance perspective, Cabinet approval is required prior to any contract extension being entered into.
- 6.2 From a procurement law perspective, the extension is permissible under the Concession Regulations and the form of extension can be a simple contract variation document.

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A Stage 1 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed which indicates that as no new personal information or methods of collection will be caused by the contract extension, there is no requirement for a full Impact Assessment to be completed.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Questionnaire has been completed, which has indicated that a variation to the contract will have no new impact on equality and diversity issues. As such, a full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Provision of accessible, good quality sports and recreation facilities helps to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, by providing diversionary activities. Formal membership of sports and recreation organisations helps to build community bonds and a sense of local pride.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Provision of a comprehensive and accessible network of facilities to enable individuals and groups to participate in sports and recreation can be a huge benefit to the health and wellbeing of the community. A vibrant sports community already exists in Rutland, and is a significant contribution to the generally high levels of health and wellbeing recorded in the County. A positive attitude to physical fitness and personal health has also been shown to improve the mental wellbeing of individuals. The range of facilities and pursuits available in Rutland is also a strong draw for persons considering relocating to the area.
- 10.2 The Catmose Sports facility is a key element of Rutland's sports provision, being the County's only pay and play facility where members of the public can access facilities without paying regular membership fees. The centre is hub of the GP Exercise Referral provision, organising and assessing individuals who have been recommended to undertake physical activity to address their health issues.

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Extending the current contract will provide sufficient time for a thorough appraisal of the leisure market options, and for Members to make an informed decision on the future of sports and leisure in the County.
- 11.2 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the use of £29,000 from the Invest to Save fund to undertake the works as outlined above.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 None

13 APPENDICES

- 13.1 Exempt Appendix A

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.