

COUNCIL

25 March 2024

CATMOSE SPORTS CONTRACT

Report of the Leader of the Council

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| Strategic Aim | Provide good public services | |
| Exempt Information | Yes, Exempt Appendix B contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). | |
| Exemption authorised by Chief Executive: | Yes | |
| Cabinet Member(s) Responsible: | Cllr Gale Waller, Leader of the Council | |
| | Cllr Christine Wise, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Transport and Communities | |
| Contact Officer(s): | Penny Sharp Strategic Director for Places | 01572 758160 psharp@rutland.gov.uk |
| Ward Councillors | All | |

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 This report informs Council of the outcome of the second procurement exercise for the operation of the Catmose Sports Centre in Oakham and outlines the options available to Council.

1.2 Recommendations

1.2.1 That Council considers the information contained within this report and approves the recommendations outlined in the exempt appendix.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendations

1.3.1 At the end of the contract period for the current provider, Stevenage Leisure Limited, the Council was unable to procure an operator to run the Catmose Sports facility on a net-nil revenue basis.

1.3.2 On Tuesday 14 February Cabinet decided to extend the Stevenage Leisure Limited contract for the operation of the Catmose Sports Centre for up to 24 months, to 31 March 2025, to enable a second procurement exercise. It is now proposed that Council approve the recommendation regarding the contract to operate the Catmose Sports facility as outlined in the exempt appendix.

2 REPORT

2.1 Introductory Paragraph

2.1.1 Provision of leisure facilities at Catmose College was designed to be run at a net nil revenue cost to the Council since the original inception of the provision in 2009.

2.1.2 An earlier procurement exercise in 2022 was unsuccessful in securing an operator for the Catmose Sports Centre at nil cost to the Council. Following the decision of Cabinet on 14 February 2023 a new procurement exercise was conducted with support from Welland Procurement.

2.1.3 The new tender exercise again sought to find an operator who can run Catmose Sports Centre at a net-nil revenue cost to Rutland County Council. However, the process did not discount bids that carry some degree of financial risk, so they could be evaluated.

2.2 Options Considered

2.2.1 There are two main options in relation to the provision of Catmose Sports Centre following this procurement exercise:

2.2.2 Award a new contract for the operation of Catmose Sports Centre based on the outcome of the new procurement process outlined above.

2.2.3 Not award a new contract for the operation of Catmose Sports Centre and seek to surrender the lease for the sports facilities with Catmose College.

2.3 Background

2.3.1 Appendix A provides a chronology of the Catmose Sports Centre.

2.3.2 As outlined above the leisure facilities at Catmose College were designed to be run at a net-nil revenue cost to the Council. The Council commissioned an operator (Stevenage Leisure Ltd, SLL) to provide leisure facilities at Catmose College under a 10-year contract from 2011 to 2021 on a net-nil revenue basis.

2.3.3 Alongside the academisation of Catmose College in 2011, Rutland County Council entered into a 40-year lease with the College to ensure continued public access to the new sports facilities, which is scheduled to end in February 2051.

2.3.4 The original contract has been extended twice in order to undertake procurement of a successor provision but has required financial support as a result of the impact of the pandemic.

2.3.5 Following the Covid-19 pandemic membership numbers (monthly and annual Direct Debit payers) have significantly declined.

2.3.6 18 community clubs currently also use the Catmose Sports Centre, including

badminton (4 groups) trampolining, football, cricket, skating and others. Other schools and colleges within the County provide access to facilities for community groups for which the Council does not provide financial support, although there is limited capacity available. Further detail is provided in appendix C.

- 2.3.7 The current site operators run a holiday club “Wild Camp”. This provision is not part of the existing or proposed contracts and would not necessarily be provided if a contract were to be awarded. The Council has no obligation to provide this type of provision. Alternative holiday provision is provided in other settings in the County, including at Brooke Hill Academy, Oakham School, Uppingham School, Whissendine Holiday Club, Casterton Nursery and other venues.
- 2.3.8 Rutland’s Public Health team have reviewed the health and wellbeing implications of the provision and have provided comments in section 2.7 below.
- 2.3.9 There is no statutory requirement for councils to provide sports and leisure services and facilities. Councils receive no dedicated funding from government to provide sports and leisure services and facilities. The Council’s approved budget has been set based on the Catmose Sports Centre being at a net-nil revenue cost to the Council. If the Council approves any proposal that requires ongoing financial support for the provision, it will need to agree additional savings or service reductions beyond the £4.5m already approved in the budget.

2.4 Consultation

- 2.4.1 There is no statutory requirement for councils to provide leisure centres or to consult on their operation. As the procurement involves commercially sensitive information it has not been possible to publish or consult on financial aspects of the contract.
- 2.4.2 Officers have kept Sport England and Catmose College informed during the procurement process.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1.1 This section has been approved by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources
- 3.1.2 The exempt appendix details the financial implications arising from the outcome of the procurement.
- 3.1.3 The Council has already provided substantial financial support for the Catmose Sports provision in recent years totalling £801,807. Details are provided in the exempt appendix.

3.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.2.1 This section has been approved by Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director for Law and Governance.
- 3.2.2 All procurement processes have been conducted in partnership with the Welland Procurement Unit, in line with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.

- 3.2.3 The procurement process will not be concluded until bidders have been formally notified of the award decision and in the meantime the contents of the tender submissions, Council's deliberations and its decision must remain confidential. Following notification of the award decision, Council will give consideration to what further information may be made public.

3.3 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.3.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are outlined in the Exempt Appendix.

3.4 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 3.4.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no identified risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

3.4.2 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.4.3 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed. A copy of the EqIA can be obtained from the report author (see report front page).

3.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.5.1 The Council has a duty in accordance with S17 Crime and Disorder Act 1988, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the likely effect of that exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour).
- 3.5.2 This duty has been considered and there are no community safety implications relating to the recommendations.

3.6 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 3.6.1 In Rutland, 20.8% of adults are physically inactive (2021/22). This is similar to the East Midlands (22.9%) and England (22.3%) averages. For children and young people aged 5 to 18 years, 45.6% meet the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity a day in Rutland, compared to 49% for the East Midlands average and 47% for the England average.
- 3.6.2 Evidence suggests ([Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#)) that physical inactivity is associated with 1 in 6 deaths in the UK. The health benefits of being physically active are significant, helping to prevent over 20 chronic conditions including some cancers, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and depression. The reduced risk can be up to 30% for some conditions.
- 3.6.3 Provision of accessible facilities to enable individuals and groups to participate in sports and recreation can be of significant benefit to the health and wellbeing of the community. A vibrant sports community that already exists in Rutland is likely to be 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.

- 3.6.4 If the Catmose Sports facility closes there could be an impact on the wellbeing of residents both young and old. The loss of public access to the Catmose fitness facilities could result in a reduction in levels of physical activity within the County. However, there is a network of alternative provision within the County, which may be able to absorb some of the displaced users from the Catmose Sports facility.
- 3.6.5 Individualised physical activity support via the council for people with long term conditions through the 'Active Referral' programme is not within scope of the Catmose Sports decision. This follows a redesign of the service in 2023 to incorporate internal delivery in partnership with community providers.

3.7 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.7.1 On 11 January 2021 Rutland County Council acknowledged that it was in a climate crisis. The Council understands that it needs to take urgent action to address it.
- 3.7.2 There are no environmental and climate change implications arising from the Recommendations.

3.8 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.8.1 The procurement implications are set out in the body of this report.

3.8.2 HR IMPLICATIONS

- 3.8.3 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 There are no background papers to the report.

5 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A: Catmose Sports Chronology
- 5.2 Exempt Appendix B: Commercially Sensitive Information
- 5.3 Appendix C: County Sports Hall Provision

An Accessible Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.