

6E REFERRAL FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 9 MARCH 2023 – LEISURE CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

- (1) To approve a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation (CPN) procedure for the procurement of the Leisure Management contract.
- (2) To approve the delegation of powers to the Director of Place in consultation with project board, in relation to decisions associated with the development of the procurement strategy.
- (3) To approve letting a 10-year contract with an option to extend by up to 5 years.
- (4) To approve combining the existing three contracts into a single contract, using the nationally recognised Sport England contract format, in order to secure economies of scale and to attract the most interest from the operator market.
- (5) To continue with the principle of the existing contractual shared risk approach to utilities and maintenance.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS: The leisure management contracts, expire on 31 March 2024. These recommendations ensure the procurement will be managed effectively to ensure the successful ongoing provision of leisure services in North Herts. The procurement offers an opportunity to review the existing specification and provide a clear policy position on its approach to the future delivery of sport, leisure, physical activity and wellbeing services across the district.

Audio recording – 27 minute 33 second

Sarah Kingsley, Service Director – Place, presented the report entitled ‘Leisure Management Contract Procurement’, including that:

- The current Leisure Management contracts expire on the 31 March 2024.
- It is proposed that the contracts for the Royston, Letchworth and Hitchin sites be combined based on the Sports England template.
- It is standard for Leisure procurements to have a 10 year contract with an option to extend for a further 5 years.
- The Council would continue to share risk, with regards to maintenance and utilities.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor David Levett
- Councillor Claire Strong

In response to the Member’s question, the Service Director – Place advised that there was another workshop scheduled which would have officers in attendance. It was expected that the matter would return to this committee in June with strategic strategies and guidelines for procurement going forward, before being presented to Cabinet.

In response to the Member’s questions, Louise Randall, Leisure Manager, advised that she believed the current contracts were for 10 years.

Councillor David Levett as Chair, proposed and Councillor Nigel Mason seconded and following a vote, it was:

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NB: The report considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 9 March 2023 can be viewed here: [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 9th March, 2023, 7.30 pm | North Herts Council \(north-herts.gov.uk\)](#)