

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND  
CULTURE****NATIONAL WATER SPORTS CENTRE PROGRESS REPORT – THIRD  
YEAR CONTRACT REVIEW****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an annual review update on the National Water Sports Centre management and development contract.

**Information and Advice****Background**

2. In September 2011 the County Council agreed for the management and operation of the National Water Sports Centre (NWSC) to be outsourced to a third party provider. Following a detailed procurement process a preferred operator was selected to operate the Centre for 21 years. This was reported to and agreed by Policy Committee on 16 January 2013.
3. The successful bidder, Serco Leisure, acting as the managing agent for a newly formed leisure trust, Holme Pierrepont Leisure Trust (HPLT), started onsite on 1 April 2013. The site has been operating under the new arrangements for just over three years.
4. The vision for the NWSC going forward and what the bidders were asked to support the Council in achieving was ***'To be an accessible, high quality family activity and sporting centre with an adventurous flavour set in stunning green space'***. Bidders were also tasked with supporting the Council's ambition to reduce annual operating costs and to partner the Council in funding much needed capital investments on site.
5. The successful bid included a £6.7million capital investment (over the life of the project), £1.6 million being funded from the Council and the balance from Serco Leisure.
6. Over the life of the contract the anticipated revenue savings are approximately £14million, when the annual contract costs are compared to the costs that would have been faced by the Council had it continued to operate the Centre on its previous basis. The anticipated savings identified will be used to help alleviate the budgetary pressures facing the Council over the medium term.

7. Monthly contract meetings are held to ensure compliance with the contract and its performance specifications; a separate works procurement agreement is in place to monitor progress on a schedule of agreed capital works at the Centre. This report and accompanying presentation will inform the Committee of progress.

## **Capital Investments**

8. Since the last progress report the HPLT has been successful in obtaining further Sport England funding of £240,000 that has been used to enhance the facility for disabled visitors. This has seen a new disabled changing area being formed and a new ramp providing easier access to the regatta lake for disabled visitors.
9. HPLT has also invested in the site this year by delivering the following improvements and new developments:
  - campsite
    - refurbished changing block
    - tipis
    - creation of camping pitches
    - refurbishment of campsite shop.
  - children's free play area
  - refurbished café areas
  - new boating/rafting equipment
  - creation of a foot golf course
  - improved facilities for the general public at the water park
  - creation of a new dance studio
  - provided Wi-Fi facilities in all public areas
  - upgraded CCTV system.
10. The Committee will receive a short presentation on the impact made following the capital development phase and programming highlights for the previous year at the meeting.

## **Contract Management**

11. The contract is managed and reviewed on a monthly schedule where progress is monitored against the original specification. Emphasis is placed on compliance measures and service outputs alongside a target of an increase of participation of 10% year on year.
12. The Centre has seen increased participation numbers in all areas, for example, gym membership has increased from 650 in 2013 to 1,600 in 2016.
13. In early 2015 the white water course was closed due to urgent repair work required on health and safety grounds. This was a challenge faced by HPLT which was completed in a professional manner to cause least disruption to the users. Under the contract these works were attributable to the County Council.
14. During the previous 12 months the Council has only levied one minor financial penalty on HPLT through the contract. This related to the delayed renewal of activities licences.

## **Revenue Support**

15. The on-going revenue contribution made by the Council is continuing to reduce in line with the contract. All savings are being used towards the budgetary pressures being faced.

## **Other Options Considered**

16. The report is for noting only.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

17. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the third year update on the National Water Sports Centre management and development contract be noted.

**Derek Higton**  
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**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

19. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

## **Financial Comments (SS 06/06/16)**

20. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Future management arrangements for the National Water Sports Centre – report to Cabinet on 14 September 2011

National Water Sports Centre future management arrangements – report to Policy Committee on 16 January 2013

National Water Sports Centre progress report – Second year on contract review – report to Culture Committee on 9 June 2015

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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