

Stalham Sports Centre	
Executive Summary	<p>Stalham Sports Centre is one of three dual use community sports centres operated on behalf of the Council by Everyone Active as part of the current Leisure Contract. It has consistently been the least well attended of the three sites and last calendar year only received a little over 5000 visits. The Council budgets £17k per annum for its share of maintenance and utility costs as per the dual use agreement in place.</p> <p>A proposal has been made for the incumbent trust – Synergy Multi Academy Trust – to take the operations of the site back in-house. Everyone Active have indicated that they are open to this transfer taking place and the Leisure Contract contains a clause allowing it to happen.</p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To hand back the operation of the Stalham dual use sports centre to the Synergy Multi Academy Trust. 2. To not hand back the operation of Stalham dual use sport centre and for it to continue to be operated as part of the NNDC leisure contract with Everyone Active.
Consultation(s)	Meetings with local ward members for Stalham have been undertaken, alongside meetings with Everyone Active, The Synergy Trust and the NNDC Communications Manager.
Recommendations	Cabinet agrees to hand back operations of the Stalham dual use sports centre to Synergy Multi Academy Trust and instruct the Leisure and Locality Services Manager to undertake this process.
Reasons for recommendations	<p>The Council have been approached by the Synergy Multi Academy Trust to operate Dual Use Centre.</p> <p>The council have put a lot of resource into this site over a number of years, both in-house and through a Leisure Operator. Neither have been overly successful and therefore it is believed to be a good option to allow the Academy themselves to operate the site for community use.</p>
Background papers	

Wards affected	Stalham
Cabinet member(s)	Cllr. L, Withington
Contact Officer	Colin Brown Leisure and Localities Manager 01263 516001 Emily Capps- Assistant Director for Environmental and Leisure Services

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	Developing Communities
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	The proposal could generate a saving to the Council of £17k per annum

Council Policies & Strategies	N/A
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Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	Yes
Has the public interest test been applied	Is the item exempt, if so, state why.
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	N/A

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to provide information regarding a proposal to remove one of the Council's 6 sports and leisure facilities from the leisure contract, and to hand back operations to Synergy Trust for the Dual Use Sports Centre at Stalham High School.

2. Introduction & Background

- 2.1 Stalham Sports Centre is one of three Dual Use Community Sports Centres operated by Everyone Active as part of the current Leisure Contract. It is based on the site of Stalham High School, which is operated by Synergy Multi-Academy Trust.
- 2.2 Stalham Sports Centre's facilities include a social area/reception, four court sports hall, four tennis courts and a small artificial MUGA. As per the dual use agreement in place for the site these facilities are available to hire by the public from 6pm-10pm weekdays, 8am-5pm weekends and all day during the school holidays.
- 2.3 Of the three dual use sports centres Stalham Sports Centre has always been the least well-attended centre, this was true when operated in-house by the Council and subsequently when operated by our leisure operator Everyone Active – who have been in place since April 2019.
- 2.4 In the calendar year 2022 Stalham Sports Centre received 5040 visits compared to 15805 at Cromer and 15862 at North Walsham.
- 2.5 Currently the centre is regularly booked for 9 out of the possible 20 hours midweek and 2 at the weekend out of a possible 18. This is slightly less post-covid but not too dissimilar to the trend for this site over the past 10-12 years where attracting individuals and groups to attend has been significantly more difficult than the other two dual use sites.
- 2.6 Synergy Trust have now approached NNDC to request to take the operations of this site in-house
- 2.7 The current Leisure Contract allows NNDC to remove a facility from the agreement, known as a partial termination. This partial termination would be

carried out in a way whereby the contractor (Everyone Active) would be left in a 'no better, no worse' position

- 2.8 Everyone Active have verbally stated that they would not be concerned or disappointed about handing over the operations of this site.
- 2.9 Synergy Trust's plan would be to keep the facilities available for hire to the community but to operate them themselves.

3. Proposals and Options

- 3.1 The Council have been approached by the Synergy Multi Academy Trust to operate Dual Use Centre.
- 3.2 The council have put a lot of resource into this site over a number of years, both in-house and through a Leisure Operator. Neither have been overly successful and therefore it is believed to be a good option to allow the Academy themselves to operate the site for community use.
- 3.3 A clause would be included in the transfer to ensure that Synergy Multi Academy Trust do continue to operate the facilities for Community Use.

Options

- 1: To hand back the operation of the Stalham dual use sports centre to the Synergy Multi Acadmey Trust, including a clause which ensures its continued community use.
- 2. To not hand back the operation of Stalham dual use sport centre and for it to continue to be operated as part of the NNDC leisure contract with Everyone Active.

4. Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This proposal could have an impact on the Developing our Communities objective by removing a sports facility from the leisure portfolio. However, the intention is for the facility to continue to operate and therefore no provision should be lost. It would be a condition that the Synergy Trust will continue to operate the facilities with the needs of local communities being met.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

- 5.1 The current Leisure Contract dictates that NNDC cover all costs relating to repairs & maintenance and utilities at the community sports centres. The current annual budget for this is £17000 and this amount could be saved by handing back operations.
- 5.2 There is a management fee associated with the Leisure Contract which will need to be considered, however with the partial termination dictating that EA should not be left in a 'no better, no worse' position it has been agreed with EA that the current schedule of payments for the management fee will not change.

Comments from the S151 Officer:

The S151 Officer (or member of the Finance team on their behalf) will complete this section.

No comments

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The current dual-use agreement between Synergy Trust and NNDC would need to be terminated or altered. Legal have drafted the necessary paperwork for this in anticipation. Synergy have signed and returned their document, and EA have verbally agreed theirs relating to the change in the Leisure Contract but are awaiting a senior officer's signature before returning.

Comments from the Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer (or member of the Legal team on behalf of the MO) will complete this section. They will outline any legal advice provided.

On information provided there are no specific legal or governance concerns but appropriate clause re adequate community use should be checked as detailed in para 3.3

7. Risks

- 7.1 There is a potential reputational risk associated with removing the Council's involvement in this site, however this is mitigated by the fact that the provision will continue. At over £3 per visit the Council's subsidy per head for this site could also easily be utilised as a motivating factor for this change.

8. Net ZeroTarget

- 8.1 This proposal will have a positive impact on the Council's carbon emissions, as it will be one less leisure facility contributing to the organisations Carbon Footprint.

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

No concerns

10. Community Safety issues

None

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

- 11.1 Stalham Sports Centre is one of three dual use community sports centres operated on behalf of the Council by Everyone Active as part of the current Leisure Contract. It has consistently been the least well attended of the three

sites and last calendar year only received a little over 5000 visits. The Council budgets £17k per annum for its share of maintenance and utility costs as per the dual use agreement in place.

- 11.2 A proposal has been made for the incumbent trust – Synergy Multi Academy Trust – to take the operations of the site back in-house. Everyone Active have indicated that they are open to this transfer taking place and the Leisure Contract contains a clause allowing it to happen.
- 11.3 Recommendation that Cabinet agree to hand back operations to Synergy Multi Academy Trust and instruct the Leisure and Locality Services Manager to begin this process.