



# Northumberland

## County Council

Cabinet

Tuesday, 12 December 2023

### Northumberland Leisure and Wellbeing Procurement and Provision

**Report of Councillor(s)** Cllr Jeff Watson, Cabinet Member for Promoting Healthy Lives

**Responsible Officer(s):** Gill O'Neill, Executive Director for Public Health (DPH), Inequalities & Stronger Communities

#### 1. **Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan**

The delivery of a cost-effective and evidence-based community leisure and wellbeing service and consideration of community-based assets which sees the delivery of the Inequalities Plan whilst supporting the aims and priorities of our Corporate Plan 2021 – 2024, to tackle inequalities within our communities and enable our residents to be healthier and happier.

#### 2. **Purpose of report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Cabinet following the conclusion of the Leisure and Wellbeing Service procurement process. The Report also seeks permission to implement arrangements to ensure continuity of provision for the six community facilities excluded from the core contract from 1 April 2024.

#### 3. **Recommendations**

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Acknowledge that the delegated authority decision notice, was approved on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, enabling the award of this contract to be made by the Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities to the successful operator, to deliver the Northumberland Leisure and Well-being Service
- b) Note and accept this report as a conclusion of the leisure procurement conducted in accordance with the Contract Concessions Regulations 2016
- c) Agree, in principle, that the Dave Stephens Centre and Blyth Beach Huts are packaged within a combined Community Asset Transfer to Blyth Valley Enterprise from 1 April 2024, and that the transfer is supported with a one-year revenue

allocation of £50,000 and a £72,000 capital allocation to cover outstanding maintenance.

- d) Agree that responsibility for the management of Northburn Sports and Community Centre is transferred to Northumberland County Council from 1 April 2024 with a two-year revenue contribution of £58,000 per annum.
- e) Agree that responsibility for the management of Druridge Bay Fitness Centre is transferred to Northumberland County Council from 1 April 2024 with a two-year revenue contribution of £61,000 per annum.
- f) Agree that responsibility for the management of Rothbury Sports Centre is transferred to Northumberland County Council from 1 April 2024 with a two-year revenue contribution of £48,000 per annum.
- g) Agree to support Hirst Welfare Centre Trustees to commence management of the Hirst Welfare Centre from 1 April 2024 with a year one contribution of £250,000, a year two contribution of £180,000 and a year three contribution of £100,000 (funded from the Public Health Grant).
- h) Note the preferred bidder and the outcome of the procurement exercise is Places for People Leisure Management Limited (PfPLM).

#### **4. Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable**

Added to the Forward Plan on 9th November 2023. Should the recommendations above be approved, there will be a rapid mobilisation to achieve the 1 April 2024 timeline.

#### **5. Background**

- 5.1 A review of the current leisure service was undertaken from October 2021 and concluded in September 2022. The review presented a unique opportunity to focus future investment and service delivery based on tackling inequalities and impacting positively on the demonstrable population health needs of Northumberland residents. The plan being that Northumberland has a fit for purpose, modernised leisure and well-being service based on evidenced based research, best practice and data collated via quantitative and qualitative measures. This has also facilitated and renewed the commitment to support and empower communities, with the health and well-being of residents at the forefront, to address inequalities within Northumberland.
- 5.2 Within this timeframe also saw the refresh of the Corporate Plan and the publication of the Inequalities Plan offering a commitment to:
  - Looking at everything through an inequalities lens
  - Listen to the voice of residents and better data sharing
  - Community strengths are considered first
  - Enhancing our services to ensure equity in access to opportunity
  - Maximising our civic/statutory level responsibilities

#### **5.3 Physical Activity and Health**

- 5.4 Physical inactivity is one of the leading risk factors for noncommunicable diseases mortality including heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease. People who are insufficiently active have a 20% to 30% increased risk of death

compared to people who are sufficiently active. Regular physical activity, such as walking, cycling, wheeling, doing sports or active recreation, provides significant benefits for health. Some physical activity is better than doing none. Increased levels of physical inactivity have negative impacts on health systems, the environment, economic development, community well-being and quality of life<sup>1</sup>.

- 5.5 The understanding that health is influenced beyond individual lifestyle, biology, or genetics and to wider determinants such as socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions, is fully established. Inequalities in health exist because these wider determinants vary significantly across population groups. These determinants can influence adverse health behaviours in socially specific groups which can then lead to adverse marked differences in life expectancy. Physical inactivity negatively impacts both physical and mental health and it is in the top 10 greatest causes of ill health nationally. An increase in physical activity can also positively impact health, social and economic status, meaning it can have a positive correlation between outcomes and structural inequalities<sup>2</sup>.
- 5.6 In the poorest parts of Northumberland, residents are dying earlier than they should and spending longer living in poor health.
- 5.7 Residents in our most deprived communities have an average life expectancy of 75 years compared to 87 years in the least deprived; 12 years more of life if you have the benefits that are not associated with the lowest levels of deprivation. There is a 17-year age gap in good health (healthy life expectancy) between those living in the least deprived areas and those living in the most deprived communities; 70 years of living in good health compared to 53 years.
- 5.8 A Health Equity Audit was undertaken from April 2022 to September 2022 which produced findings highlighting that the current leisure provision is not equitable in access and uptake of leisure opportunities. It is therefore a risk that there could be widening of inequalities. This justifies a more targeted approach to tackling inequalities in our vulnerable communities to increase physical activity and is well embedded within the new service specification.

### **5.9 The Leisure Transformation Programme**

- 5.10 Northumberland County Council (NCC) has invested heavily in leisure and sports facilities in the county over recent years. The asset portfolio is valued at £120m and is deemed to be one of the most significant in the country. The leisure transformation programme has focused upon utilising these assets to be used to their full potential to tackle inequalities to improve health and well-being of the local population, whilst offering a more financially sustainable operating model.
- 5.11 In January 2022, approval was obtained to extend the then current contract for twelve months, from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 to continue with the review and prepare for the procurement process.
- 5.12 The leisure transformation programme has been lengthy and complex. It has adopted methodologies for service improvements including options appraisals and financial review of the current services. It incorporated an evidenced based, best practice approach to improve physical activity levels as well as consideration of strategies to

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation, Physical activity, 5/10/22, accessed 01/11/2023

<sup>2</sup> Public Health England, Understanding and addressing inequalities in physical activity Evidence-based guidance for commissioners, August 2021

improve accessibility and affordability for service users, again whilst ensuring a financially sustainable operating model.

- 5.13 The findings and recommendations of the leisure review were presented to Cabinet on 8th November 2022 where the key decision to proceed with a formal tender exercise was made. Due to the size of the programme with multiple complexities and cross-directorate impact as well as the timeframe required, members approved a decision to extend the current contract to March 2024 to enable a competitive procurement to be conducted.
- 5.14 On 8th November 2022 Cabinet also gave formal approval for the development of a new Service Specification which would maximise the health and wellbeing impacts of the Council's investment into leisure, both through facility-based activity and through wider community engagement and provision.
- 5.15 This increased impact will be achieved through the strategic shift towards proactively engaging with communities as part of the operational delivery model whilst ensuring value for money with demonstrable measured outcomes. It will also facilitate the delivery of community-based services which will align with the NCC Corporate Plan and contribute to the Northumberland Inequalities Plan, the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 – 2028, and its key themes, outcomes and supporting priority areas. The Key Themes are as follows:
- Giving children and young people the best start in life
  - Bringing different people, professionals, services, and buildings to work together in a whole system approach to health and care
  - Empowering people and communities
  - Tackling the wider determinants of health
- 5.16 A further key recommendation of the Leisure Review was that the smaller facilities included in the current contract should be excluded from the scope of the new arrangements, and that asset-based community development principles should be considered for the following sites:
- The Dave Stephens Centre, Blyth
  - The Blyth Beach Huts
  - Northburn Sports and Community Centre, Cramlington
  - Druridge Bay Fitness Centre, Hadston
  - The Hirst Welfare Centre
  - Rothbury Sports Centre
- 5.17 The newly developed operating contract and service specification for the Northumberland Community Leisure and Well-being Service Contract is for a 10-year period and includes the following facilities:
- Ashington Leisure Centre, Ashington
  - Berwick Sports & Leisure Centre, Berwick
  - Blyth Sports Centre
  - Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington
  - New Morpeth Leisure Centre, Morpeth
  - Newbiggin Sports & Community Hub
  - Ponteland Leisure Centre, Ponteland

- Prudhoe Water World, Prudhoe
- Wentworth Leisure Centre, Hexham
- Willowburn Sport & Leisure Centre, Alnwick

5.18 Work on both programmes, as detailed above, was undertaken in parallel, and the progress reported into the Leisure Transformation Programme Board to ensure the appropriate governance and oversight is in place. The Programme Board is attended by Executive Director for Transformation and Resources and Executive Director for Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities, Director of Stronger Communities, Internal Change Consultant, Head of Corporate Commissioning and Procurement in addition to the leisure procurement experts, The Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy Limited.

### **5.19 The Leisure Procurement Process**

5.20 The Northumberland Leisure and Well-being Service procurement has been conducted by an externally commissioned expert leisure consultancy, The Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy Limited (SLC). The award of the contract is for a period of ten years with the opportunity to extend for a further five years. The value of the contract is circa £250m (based on turnover).

5.21 An Invitation to Submit an Initial Tender was published on 19 April 2023 and six organisations, comprising of both local and national leisure providers, submitted bids prior to the deadline of 11th August 2023. Clarification meetings were subsequently held with all bidders in September 2023 in order to further refine the Council's requirements.

5.22 A bidder's day was held on 10th May 2023 and operators that had registered interest in bidding for the contract, were invited to attend. The event was also attended by the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives and the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Wellbeing. A presentation was delivered to the attendees raising the importance of our corporate priorities and the aspirations of the service outcomes positively impacting upon inequalities experienced by members of our communities. Multiple leisure facility visits were also facilitated across the portfolio hosted by the incumbent provider, Active Northumberland together with NCC to enable potential bidders to view the high-quality Council owned leisure centres across the County.

5.23 An Invitation to Submit a Final Tender was subsequently published on 18th September 2023 and six final tenders were received prior to the deadline of 27 October 2023.

5.24 On 7th November 2023, Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to enable the contract award to be made to the preferred bidder, following the conclusion of the standstill period. This authority was given to the Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities to in consultation with the Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Environment and Local Services and the Deputy Leader, also Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives, the Director of Law and Corporate Governance and the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources.

5.25 On 13th and 14th November 2023, an evaluation panel led by SLC, comprising subject matter experts in leisure, quality assurance, information technology, property and facility management, finance, energy, public health, legal and human resources,

carried out an appraisal of the final submissions in accordance with the following award criteria (further details are provided in annex 1):

- Quality and Social Value 70%
- Price (management fee) 30%

## 5.26 Annex 1

5.27 The final scores agreed by the evaluation panel are shown in the summary table below:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Quality/Social Value Score (70%)</b>	<b>Price Score (30%)</b>	<b>Total Score (100%)</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Bidder D	58.20	30.00	88.20	1
Bidder C	55.40	0.00	55.40	2
Bidder B	42.00	12.36	54.36	3
Bidder F	48.60	0.00	48.60	4
Bidder E	37.60	4.56	42.16	5
Bidder A	29.60	0.00	29.60	6

5.28 Bidder D submitted the most economically advantageous tender in terms of the cost but also scored highest overall on the qualitative criteria including partnership working, approach to tackling inequalities and the delivery of corporate priorities.

5.29 Validation of the financial evaluation was provided both by SLC and a senior Finance representative. The evaluation methodology has been robust, with bids being scrutinised by multiple evaluators and supported by evaluation training thus reducing the risk of subjectivity. The economic and financial standing, technical and professional ability and overall suitability of bidders was assessed through the evaluation of the Selection Questionnaire in September 2023.

5.30 In line with the procurement strategy agreed by the Leisure Transformation Programme Board, the risk of utility increases has been mitigated by an annual benchmarking mechanism and shared risk approach.

5.31 Under the terms of the new contract there will be clear delineation of repairs and maintenance obligations.

5.32 The successful bidder's obligations have been clearly costed within their submission in terms of cost and delivery.

5.33 The new contract, based on the Sport England Leisure Operating Contract and published as part of the procurement process, sets out clear performance standards for asset management and service delivery underpinned by a performance management framework.

5.34 Further details regarding the evaluation criteria and financial scoring can be found in Appendix 2.

- 5.35 A Communication plan, as part of the overarching mobilisation strategy has been implemented to ensure prompt responses to any queries arising from members of the public or from the media relating to the contract or provider.
- 5.36 The procurement process has been reviewed by the Council's internal audit team who have confirmed that no issues have been identified that would prevent the contract from being awarded to the identified successful bidder
- 5.37 The procurement does not replicate previous service delivery, therefore a mobilisation team has been assembled which is being overseen by the Director of Stronger Communities. The mobilisation team will ensure implementation of the new service specification, contract arrangements and ongoing contract performance management to ensure full benefits realisation as set out within the terms of the Contract. Strategic support will also be provided by the newly appointed Corporate Contracts and Supplier Relationship Manager in line with the Council's Contract Management Framework and Policy.
- 5.38 There will also be the formation of a Strategic Partnership Board chaired by Northumberland County Council and attended by the elected member, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives. The first meeting being planned four weeks post contract commencement.

### **5.39 Contract Award**

- 5.40 The final evaluation of the six submitted bids was undertaken on 14th November 2023. At the time of writing, the detail of the final evaluation and contract award cannot be shared but further details will be made available as soon as possible, adhering to legal requirements of the procurement process and standstill period. The contract award will be made following standstill period by Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities as agreed in Cabinet on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2023. Further information will be added into the report, post standstill period.

#### **5.40.1 Contract Award Update** (added to report 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 from 5.40.1-5.40.14)

- 5.40.2 The information contained within the Northumberland Leisure and Well-being Procurement and Provision report remains unchanged.
- 5.40.3 On 7th November 2023 Cabinet delegated authority to the Executive Director of Public Health, Inequalities and Stronger Communities in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Director of Law and Corporate Governance and the Executive Director of Transformation and Resources to award the contract to the preferred bidder.
- 5.40.4 Following on from the evaluation process held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, all bidders were notified of the outcome of the procurement exercise on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and a ten-day standstill period has been observed which concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.
- 5.40.5 On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Cabinet was informed of the outcome of the scores attained by all bidders, identifying the highest score for quality and cost were attained by Bidder D.

- 5.40.6 At the time of writing the initial Cabinet Report for presentation on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, details of the successful bidder were not shared due to the mandated standstill period.
- 5.40.7 The standstill period for the Leisure and Well-being Service Procurement ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This now enables the Council to announce publicly, the details of the preferred bidder that will deliver the Northumberland and Well-being Service.
- 5.40.8 Bidder D can now be identified as Places for People Leisure Management Limited (PfPLM) and is the preferred bidder. They submitted the most economically advantageous tender in terms of quality and cost and scored highest overall on the qualitative criteria including partnership working, approach to tackling inequalities and the delivery of corporate priorities as well as, being the highest scorer overall on cost.
- 5.40.9 PfPLM is one of the UK's leading social enterprises and leading leisure management contractors, currently employing over 6000 staff and operating over 100 sites on behalf of 33 local authorities.
- 5.40.10 They are a highly trusted operator with an exemplary reputation evidenced by being triple award winners at the 2023 UK Active Award Ceremony for Outstanding Organisation of the Year Award, Outstanding Leadership and the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Award for its Big Sister project.
- 5.40.11 They have pledged to increase physical activity in Northumberland, working closely with the Council and stakeholders and demonstrably contributing to the Corporate Plan and priorities, the Inequalities Plan 2022-2032 and Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 – 2028 and their key themes.
- 5.40.12 The successful tender reflects the needs and expectations of Northumberland's communities and will be sustainable for the duration of the contract while meeting the local need for high accessibility and social value from the services.
- 5.40.13 The delivery of programmes and activities will not only provide an economic and social return on investment but will also maximise the potential to deliver tangible health, wellbeing and physical activity outcomes that cater to all sections of the community.
- 5.40.14 The Places for People Leisure Management's Healthy Communities Team will work with the Council through a collaborative and integrated approach. Whilst seeking strategic partnerships to drive national initiatives, the team also work locally to identify and implement opportunities tailored to each community.

#### **5.41 Community Assets**

- 5.42 The six 'Community' sites currently managed by Active Northumberland vary significantly in terms of origin, purpose, condition and usage. The Leisure Review included a comprehensive analysis of each of the facilities to provide a clear



understanding of stakeholders, usage agreements and leases, dependencies, building condition, financial operating model and staffing considerations.

- 5.43 The table below shows the six community sites currently managed by Active Northumberland under the existing management arrangement, and their ownership.

Asset	Ownership
Druridge Bay Fitness Centre	NCC
Dave Stephens Centre	NCC
Blyth Beach Huts	NCC
Hirst Welfare Centre	The Ashington Joint Welfare Scheme Trustees
Northburn Sports and Community Centre	NCC
Rothbury Pool and Gym	NCC and Dr Thomlinson Trust

- 5.44 NCC Officers have been working with stakeholders to assess the potential of the six smaller sites to be managed by community partners and potentially, if the business case is sustainable, that applications for Community Asset Transfers are considered. The aim being to ensure that residents and local organisations gain maximum benefit from the sites and that they are programmed according to local need and opportunities.
- 5.45 This process has been undertaken in the context of the NCC Community Asset Transfer Policy. The criteria applied for each of the assets is shown below:

Phase	Stakeholders	Description
1	Incumbent	The incumbent has the initial opportunity to take over the asset with consideration for other users to remain in situ for the benefit of the Community – pending maturation and viability assessment
2	Local stakeholders with capacity	If 1 not possible / appropriate, then informal discussions with interested parties including <u>local</u> Town Council, Parish Council and Development Trust.
3	VSCE / Development Trusts	If 1 and 2 not possible, then informal discussions with interested parties within the voluntary sector and development trusts <u>countywide</u> are held
4	Public interest	If there is no agreement under phases 1, 2 or 3, expressions of interest will be advertised and explored with the public / commercial market
5	<u>Refer back</u> to SPAM for decision of requirement/ future management - TBC	There is no interest in developing Community Asset Based Delivery

#### **5.46 The Dave Stephens Centre and Blyth Beach Huts**

- 5.47 An application for a combined Community Asset Transfer of the Dave Stephens Centre and the Blyth Beach Huts was received from Blyth Valley Enterprise Limited (BVEL). This application has been considered by an Officer Panel and, subject to Cabinet approval, the terms of transfer of both assets to BVEL will be developed by Strategic Estates, for implementation from 1 April 2024.
- 5.48 The proposal from BVEL is to provide a new community offer which continues to provide a secure tenancy for the Blyth Lifeguards and Swimming Club, Blyth Surf School and a potential new Veterans Hub for the Royal British Legion Branch, Blyth. It is proposed that the site continue to offer and manage the public convenience on site whilst providing a more diverse and inclusive programme of activity to support health and wellbeing and social inclusion across the town and further enhance the

visitor experience. The management of the Dave Stephens Centre will also be combined with the management of the Blyth Beach Huts, and new enterprise and retail pods directly to the rear of the site.

- 5.49 It is recommended the proposed transfer to BVEL is supported with a one year allocation of £50,000 to cover transition, and a £72,000 capital allocation to cover outstanding repairs.

**5.50 Druridge Bay Fitness Centre, Northburn Sports and Community Centre, and Rothbury Sports Centre**

- 5.51 Based on consideration of the Asset Transfer Policy, financial considerations and the need to ensure continuity of vital highly valued community provision, it is recommended that Northburn Sports and Community Centre, Rothbury Sports Centre and Druridge Bay Fitness Centre are managed by NCC on an interim basis from April 2024.

- 5.52 This interim management by NCC will allow a period of working closely with local communities to determine the most appropriate and sustainable future management arrangements. Due to the similar nature of the facilities, it will allow NCC to manage the sites collectively bringing economies of scale and a central oversight of programming and operation. The interim arrangements for the three sites, whilst ensuring continuity of provision, will also allow consideration of the community outreach potential of the new leisure delivery arrangements.

- 5.53 Discussions with local stakeholders have taken place regarding options for the future management of the Druridge Bay Fitness Centre, however due to the considerations noted above regarding the advantages of grouping similar provision under NCC management the facility will transfer to NCC management from 1 April 2024. The transfer of the management of Druridge Bay Fitness Centre to NCC will allow increased coordination of the local community health and wellbeing offer. The facility is located adjacent to the NCC Community Centre which presents opportunities for joint programming and maximising use of resources.

- 5.54 It is recommended that NCC commence management of the Northburn Sports and Community Centre site from 1 April 2024. NCC intend to take back the management of the site to provide a new specialist SEND and Ability to Play offer at the Sports and Community Centre. NCC will continue to support and provide access to community grassroots football in partnership with Cramlington United Football Club. Building on a strong reputation for SEND therapeutic facilities, PAN Disability sports and play offer, NCC Sports Development and NCT will work to bring a diverse and inclusive programme of activity that further enhances and compliments the current service delivery.

- 5.55 NCC will explore opportunities to maximise facilities improvement and investment to help generate further income and enterprise opportunities, whilst increasing youth participation and involvement.

- 5.56 Given the unique nature of the Rothbury Sports Centre and Swimming Pool site and the level of financial subsidy required to operate the facility, it is recommended that NCC takes on management of the current provision from 1 April 2024 with a two year revenue contribution of £48,000 per annum.

- 5.57 The swimming pool is located alongside a small gym and changing rooms on the Dr Tomlinson C of E Middle School site. The Dr Tomlinson Trust own the land under

the pool and NCC own the land under the gym and changing rooms. There is a joint lease from the Dr Tomlinson Trust and the Council to Active Northumberland.

5.58 In late 2020, during lockdown, the swimming pool developed a significant fault which required draining of the pool to allow further inspection. The pool has not re-opened following lockdown because of the high cost of repairing the facility.

**5.59 Hirst Welfare Centre**

5.60 The Hirst Welfare Centre remains a prominent asset of community value and is very much in the long-term plans and aspirations of both NCC and the Ashington Town Board. The Hirst Welfare Centre features within the current consultation and engagement regarding a future Hirst Masterplan and has the potential to play a pivotal role in helping address inequalities within communities.

5.61 To ensure the continuation of both the leisure and early years offer operating from the site and to help prepare the foundations for the development and delivery of a wider Community Welfare offer, it is proposed to support the Board of Trustees to manage the transition away from Active Northumberland back to a Local Community Management provision from 1 April 2024. It is recommended that the Trustees are supported with a year one contribution of £250,000, a year two contribution of £180,000 and a year three contribution of £100,000 (funded from the Public Health Grant).

5.62 The intention is to further enhance and compliment the current programme of delivery through co-production and delivery in partnership with local schools, family hub, sports development function, and VCSE partners. The new offer will support the Council in addressing inequalities and economic inclusion within the local community.

**6. Options open to the Council and reasons for the recommendations**

6.1 Agree with recommendations within this report regarding the Community Assets to ensure a timely mobilisation period for commencement of the new delivery arrangements.

6.2 Disagree with the recommendations within this Report regarding the proposals for each of the community assets, this would have implications for continuity of delivery from 1 April 2024.

**7. Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	Tackling Inequalities is a key priority for the Council. The Community Asset model and the Community Leisure and Wellbeing service is fundamental to addressing inequalities associated with building stronger communities in addition to access and affordability of the Council’s health and well-being offer.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	NCC has invested heavily in its facilities over recent years including the development of a number of new centres. Achieving value for money from its community leisure and wellbeing assets and services is an important objective for NCC. The expectation is that not only will the contract be delivered

	<p>within the existing revenue budget provision, but it will deliver an improved financial position for NCC which provides a return on the significant investment which has gone into the facilities. To facilitate the transfer of the Community Assets, non recurrent funding of approximately £1.100 million will be required over a 3-year period. This funding is subject to approval by Council at it's Budget meeting on 21 February 2024</p>
<b>Legal</b>	<p>The procurement process has been carried out in accordance with the Council's Finance and Procurement Rules</p> <p>Any Community Asset transfer will be subject to agreement of appropriate terms, subsidy control compliance and any other relevant legal considerations.</p> <p>The return of Rothbury Sports Centre and Swimming Pool will be subject to the termination of the lease in favour of Active Northumberland. Any management by NCC of the swimming pool, which is located on land owned by the Dr Tomlinson Trust, will be subject to a lease being entered into on agreed terms.</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	<p>The procurement has been conducted in accordance with the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation under the Concessions Contracts Regulations 2016</p>
<b>Human resources</b>	<p>The Northumberland Leisure and Well-being Service procurement documents include information re the potential of staff employed by the existing provider to TUPE to the new provider. There is no impact on Council staff.</p>
<b>Property</b>	<p>Ten Council facilities are included within this leisure and well-being contract award. Building responsibilities remain with the Council after much investment. Responsibilities of the operator is detailed within the leases linked to the leisure operating contract and service specification and published with the tender documents.</p>
<b>The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?</b>	<p>No - not required at this point</p> <p>An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the new specification and service delivery model requires a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment. Support for this will be sourced from the NCC Equalities Diversity and Inclusion Team</p>
<b>Risk assessment</b>	<p>The Local Authority is required to ensure commissioning of services is competitively tendered. As this tender was agreed by Cabinet, the risk of challenge is mitigated</p>
<b>Crime and disorder</b>	<p>There are evidenced examples of increased societal value where leisure services are developed with and for communities, improving self-esteem, improving mental health and reducing</p>

	<p>anti-social behaviours through engaging in sport and leisure facilities.</p> <p>Widening access to vulnerable groups and providing a place-based model, alongside working with community groups, could help reduce crime and disorder statistics supporting other community stakeholders. To facilitate the transfer of the Community Assets, non-recurrent funding of approximately £1.100 million will be required over a 3-year period. This funding is subject to approval by Council at its Budget meeting on 21 February 2024</p>
<b>Customer considerations</b>	Customers and service user feedback will be central to service delivery ensuring a high-quality service is maintained and monitored to ensure continuous improvement
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	The selected operator will work with the Council's Climate Change Team. Consideration is being given to the level of renewable resources needed to reduce the carbon impact of the centres.
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	<p>'Inequality threatens long term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth. This, in turn, can breed crime, disease and environmental degradation. Most importantly, we cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from opportunities, services, and the chance for a better life.' (UN Sustainable Development Goal No 10).</p> <p>The new Northumberland Leisure and Well-being service and the Asset Based Community Based Development model will deliver a resident focused model to facilitate in depth understanding of the needs of the communities. They can both proactively improve the health and well-being of residents through collaborative working within the Council and with external stakeholders by targeting resources to those with poorer health outcomes creating better outcomes for our most disadvantaged communities</p> <p>Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of a range of health conditions and help prevent or delay onset of these conditions thus contributing to an increase in life expectancy in target groups outlined in the new specification where data will be made available to identify target groups and enable to local delivery of programmes as part of the inequalities strategy.</p> <p>Physical activity is also important in preventing falls in older people and enhancing development in children. Ensuring services are targeted to those groups where increasing activity levels can make the most difference will contribute and have a positive impact on inequalities in health outcomes across Northumberland.</p>
<b>Wards</b>	(All Wards);

**8. Background papers**

Service Specification

**9. Links to other key reports already published**

[Delegate to Award Leisure Contract Award](#)

**10. Author and Contact Details**

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