

Appendix 1

E2724 Single Member Decision Report **Supporting information**

Writhlington Sports Trust aims and objectives

- To provide or assist in the provision of sports and leisure facilities for the inhabitants of the communities lying within the area of North East Somerset and the East Mendips in order to enhance the availability of opportunities to engage in sport and leisure activities and to promote community participation in healthy recreation To advance education
- To advance the education of the students of the School by providing or assisting in the provision of sports facilities
- To promote any other charitable purpose

Writhlington Sports Trust has a proven and successful track record in leisure management. It is only one of a handful of dual use sites in the UK that has proved such an arrangement can work, be profitable and bring many benefits to both the school and the wider community.

The Trust employed a manager in January 2005 to set up, operate and develop a community sports facility. The Trust employs over 90 staff in full and part time capacities with a turnover in excess of £1.3m per annum. The Trust now has a very strong and experienced management structure which could easily absorb an increased leisure portfolio.

Writhlington Sports Trust **Structure, Governance and Management**

Writhlington Sports Trust is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The Trust operates a large sports complex on the site of Writhlington School and is therefore also known as "Writhlington Sports Centre".

The principal activity of the company is currently to operate Writhlington Sports Centre and to develop it as a community facility.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust ensure that the objectives of the organisation are charitable and prevent the distribution of profits to individuals. The prime aim of the organisation is to promote education, health and sport in the local community.

The Memorandum and Articles define the the Board structure as: Head Teacher of Writhlington School and nominated Governor, 4 members from "partner" organisations and 3 independent members - by invitation of the Board.

The Trust has, alongside the proposal, offered a B&NES elected member a seat on the Trust Board.

Writhlington Sports Trust Financial History

Since 2005 Writhlington Sports Centre has grown exponentially from a £30k turnover to a £1.3m turnover operation with a profit margin of between 8 – 10%. This is a considerable achievement for a dual use site which demonstrates the expertise and effectiveness of the Writhlington Sports Trusts management structure and business model.

All surpluses are reinvested in maintaining and improving facilities and services for the benefit of the people of Radstock and Midsomer Norton, and the wider community.

Competition

Writhlington Sports Centre is a very well used and popular facility located on the border of Radstock in Writhlington, 2 minutes' drive from Radstock town centre. The facility is modern, clean and has an excellent range of facilities and programmes to suit all ages and abilities in the community.

Writhlington Sports Centre would complement South Wansdyke Sports Centre if they were brought together under the same management. With Paulton Pool also being managed by Writhlington, having a different leisure operator at SWSC would create unnecessary competition and overlap of programmes and services.

Localism Act 2011

Writhlington Sports Trust is a local trust based in the Norton Radstock Community, working with the local residents and groups to provide the best options for leisure, sport and health. They are looking to expand on their extensive programmes already being delivered at Writhlington Sports Centre.

Paulton Swimming Pool

Paulton Swimming Pool is leased to Paulton Parish Council on a 99 year asset transfer arrangement. The Parish Council are struggling to finance the running costs of the pool and manage the operations. They have approached Writhlington Sports Trust to take over the operational management as soon as possible on a zero management fee 10 year agreement. Any profits generated will be re-invested into the pool. This approach should 1) stabilise the operations of the pool, 2) stabilise the financial pressures and 3) follows the localism act ambition of working with a local community trust for the local people to access its services at a reasonable cost.

Paulton Swimming Pool is 2 miles from SWSC and therefore would be well within the catchment area for SWSC users. The ideal scenario is for both these facilities to be operated by one leisure operator thereby working in synergy to create the best offer for the community and not working in direct competition.

Turnover p/a

Writhlington £1.3m

SWSC £570,000

Usage p/a

Writhlington 331,000

SWSC 150,000

Schemes / Programmes

Writhlington –

P2H – Passport to Health

Cardiac Rehabilitation,
Adult Education,
School Education,
Beauty Therapy,
Sports Coaching (Gymnastics, Tennis, Football, Rugby, Dance, Trampoline),
Climbing Wall,
3G pitches and indoor Tennis centre,
Indoor Gymnastics Centre,
Soft Play
CAFÉ,
Junior Fitness sessions,
Fitness gym and classes,
Sauna and Steam

SWSC –
P2H, - Passport to Health
Soft Play,
Holiday Club,
Fitness gym and classes,
Swimming Pool,
Sauna

Writhlington Usage

Radstock BA3 and MSN – 57%
Peasedown BA2 – 21%
Frome BA11 – 9%
Bristol BS39 – 9%
Other – 4%

SWSC Usage (approx)

Radstock and MSN – 80%
Peasedown BA2 – 10 %
Bristol BS39 and Paulton – 5%
Other – 5%