

Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Community access to secondary school sports facilities – Queensferry High School and Bangholm Recreation Ground

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards 1 - Almond, 4 -
Forth
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 To approve the transfer of Queensferry High School and Bangholm Recreation Ground from Edinburgh Leisure's core venue operation to their community access to secondary school sport venue operation from the start of the 22/23 financial year.

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2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following the completion of the new Queensferry High School and with approval now in place to construct a new school sport centre for Trinity Academy at Bangholm Recreation Ground, Edinburgh Leisure have asked for approval to transfer both venues from their core operation to their community access to secondary school sport venue operation.

3. Background

- 3.1 Edinburgh Leisure have managed community access to Queensferry High School's sports facilities on behalf of the Council since 1998.
- 3.2 Bangholm Recreation Ground is one of the Council's central playing field venues. The management of central playing venues was transferred to Edinburgh Leisure in 2010.
- 3.3 As part of the redevelopment of Trinity Academy, a new school sport centre will be constructed at Bangholm Recreation Ground. Planning permission has been granted and work has started on-site. The new centre will have a 4 court games hall, 2 court gym hall, fitness suite and dance studio. It is scheduled to be completed by spring 2022.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Since 2016, the management of community access to secondary school sport facilities has transferred to Edinburgh Leisure.
- 4.2 All schools have transferred apart from Leith Academy and Wester Hailes Education Centre. Both schools were scheduled to transfer on 1 April 2020 but due to Covid-19, this was put on-hold. The transfer is now likely to take place later this year.

- 4.3 The operation of Queensferry High School and Bangholm Recreation Ground is currently covered by grant payments made by the Council to Edinburgh Leisure for their management of the Council's core sport and leisure estate and central playing fields estate.
- 4.4 With the construction of the new Queensferry High School and the confirmation of a new school sport centre to be built at Bangholm Recreation Ground, Edinburgh Leisure would like to adjust their organisational structure by re-aligning these venues from their core operation to their community access operation.
- 4.5 Transferring both venues to Edinburgh Leisure's community access to secondary school sport facilities operation would mean that any profit or loss from both sites (income from lets minus costs and operational expenditure incurred by Edinburgh Leisure) would be returned to the Council.
- 4.6 Council officers work closely with Edinburgh Leisure colleagues to monitor budgets from their community access operation and would ensure that both venues work to at least a break-even position.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If approved by committee, Council and Edinburgh Leisure officers will carry out the necessary work for the re-alignment of Queensferry High School's community access budget to be completed by and start from 1st April 2022.
- 5.2 Bangholm Recreation Ground will be re-aligned once the new school sport centre opens in spring 2022.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Queensferry High School community access service has operated at an average annual net surplus of approximately £5K over recent years, with the exception of 2020/21 where all services were negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Following the transfer of the service from the core Edinburgh Leisure operation this surplus would be received by the Council.
- 6.2 The new Bangholm Recreation Ground will provide a significantly enhanced service and therefore comparison to previous activity levels and associated costs and income would not be relevant. The Council will take account of the costs and associated income from providing the new community access service within the 2022/23 budget process. This will include the costs of facilities management, utilities, maintenance, leisure attendants and associated income to be achieved from lets.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 None

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Report 4 October 2016
- 8.2 Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Report 14 June 2016
- 8.3 Education, Children, and Families Committee Report 24 May 2016
- 8.4 Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Report 17 May 2016
- 8.5 Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Report 29 September 2015
- 8.6 Culture and Sport Committee Report 11 March 2014
- 8.7 Education, Children, and Families Committee Report 15 August 2017
- 8.8 Education, Children & Families Committee Report 11 December 2018
- 8.9 Education, Children & Families Committee Report 16 August 2019

9. Appendices

None