

**SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY
Report by Head of Environmental and Community Health Services**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the proposal to seek Cabinet consent to the adoption and implementation of a Sports Facility Strategy for Huntingdonshire. The development and implementation of a Sports Facility Strategy is needed to assist in guiding the future provision of a range of sports facilities in the district.
- 1.2 There are two main factors which are particularly relevant to the future provision of sports facilities; these are the future implementation of the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) in the District, and the significant likely population growth particularly around the area of St Neots. This strategy will be used to guide and inform the nature and extent of resources, financial and operational, which are needed to ensure that Huntingdonshire has up to date, fit for purpose, accessible and welcoming sports facilities for the existing community, people working in, or visiting the District, and any new residents in the District.

2. SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

- 2.1 This strategy examines all known sports facility provision within the district. Whilst Huntingdonshire District Council provides, manages and maintains a diverse range of sports facilities, this strategy recognises that the council is not solely responsible. Therefore the remit of the strategy is to examine all sporting provision, including private, voluntary and education provision, all of which makes an important contribution to the sporting offer of Huntingdonshire.
- 2.2 It is important to stress that this strategy focuses on community sports facility provision and the needs for provision both now and into the future.
- 2.3 This strategy is seeking to identify the following:
- ◆ Sports facilities that need to be preserved and maintained because of identified strategic need.
 - ◆ Existing facilities that require to be repaired, upgraded/improved to meet identified strategic need.
 - ◆ Any new sports facilities that may be required to meet identified strategic need.
 - ◆ Sites where new facilities may be required to meet identified strategic need.
 - ◆ A priority for future investment.
 - ◆ Those facilities that need to be expanded or redeveloped to meet identified strategic need and a timetable for any proposed sports-developments
 - ◆ Future opportunities for disinvestment in or redevelopment of existing sports facilities in Huntingdonshire, as a result of under-use and perceived lack of future demand or inappropriateness.

- 2.4 Over 180 individual sites and 330 facilities have been identified and mapped spatially onto GIS. Strategically significant sites have been proposed from this list.

3 PROGRESS

- 3.1 In September 2008 Cabinet approved local standards for the major sports facilities in the district: sports halls, swimming pools; indoor bowls; synthetic turf pitches and health and fitness based on the available national methodology. It is acknowledged however that sports facilities cover a much wider range than those covered by the national methodology.
- 3.2 This strategy takes the work a step further in identifying all key sports facilities in the district and makes recommendations on standards for other types of sports facilities.
- 3.3 The strategy has been written to take into account all relevant national, regional and local documents and strategies including Cambs Horizons Major Sports Facilities Strategy 2006, the Local Investment Framework and Local Development Framework.
- 3.4 The first draft of the Sports Facility Strategy was distributed in March 2009 for consultation to members of Task and Finish Group and key stakeholders. The consultation period closed on the 19th March and feedback received, where appropriate, has been used to further develop the strategy.
- 3.5 A copy of the draft strategy was submitted to the Chief Officers Management Team on 24th March, and is proposed to be submitted to Cabinet on 23rd April.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The development and implementation of a Sports Facility Strategy is key to ensuring high quality accessible sports facilities for the public and in guiding the future provision of sports facilities in the district. The strategy explores the policy context, examines existing provision as well as identifying known projects that are currently in development. The draft strategy has been subject to consultation with key stakeholders and will be amended where appropriate, to take account of relevant comments received.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny (Service Delivery) is asked to review and endorse the draft Sports Facilities Strategy for Huntingdonshire for submission to Cabinet for adoption.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Adoption of Local Standards for the Provision of Sports Facilities in Huntingdonshire,
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