

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Huntingdonshire Sports Facility Strategy Scoping Report

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Customers)
– 2nd February 2016.

Executive Portfolio: Councillor Robin Howe – Executive Member for Commercial Activities

Report by: Head of Leisure and Heath

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to update Members of the outline scope and work to date to produce a revised district wide Sports Facility Strategy 2016-21.

Recommendation:

Members' views are sought on progress to date and to make comment on the scope and content of the strategy.

1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT

1.1 The Huntingdonshire Sports Facility Strategy has expired and there is a requirement to update the previous strategy to demonstrate the strategic facility requirements within the district. As well as the updated document providing a strategic framework for facility development, it will specifically:-

- Update the audit of current sports facilities provision within the district (not only those that are under HDC control, but facilities that are owned / operated by Town / Parish Councils, Education Establishments, Private Organisations and Community Groups)
- Provide a shared vision for the future of the district's facilities
- Promote the role of sports facilities in health improvement, active lifestyles and contribution to the local economy
- Make the case for funding opportunities
- Ensure sport is recognised within the planning context in particular with relation to new housing developments and developer contributions
- Seek to protect and improve locally important sports facilities
- Increase public awareness of the district's sports facilities

1.2 This report will outline the scope of the strategic document, as well as the progress that has been made to date.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Sports Facility Strategy 2016-21 will follow the same format as the previous strategy and also use the same facility standards that have been adopted by Huntingdonshire District Council in 2008 and subsequently as part of the Local Development Framework Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document in 2011. The standards were developed using Sport England's national methodology. This will provide a robust evidence base.

2.2 The Scope of the Strategy includes all known sport facility provision within the district; however this does not include any informal outdoor sports provision such as parks and open spaces:

- **Indoor Sports Facilities:** to include sports halls, swimming pools, fitness studios, aerobics/dance studios, squash courts, indoor tennis courts, activity halls etc
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities:** to include golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches
- **Watersports Facilities:** to include but not exhaustive rowing, sailing and paddle sports
- **Specialist Facilities:** to include but not exhaustive gymnastics, table tennis, trampolining

Whilst Huntingdonshire District Council provides, manages and maintains a diverse range of facilities, this strategy recognises the invaluable role of other providers including private, voluntary and education provision therefore all known provision will be considered.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 The content of the strategy will include the following sections.

Introduction – Background, Vision, Aims, Scope

Context - District Profile, Policy Background (National Policy Context, Local Policy Context), Housing Growth Impact, Overview of current participation in sport, Active People Key Results, Improving the quality of life for our communities, Economic Value of Sport

Consultation – Informing the Strategy, Partners & Stakeholders,

Audit of Provision - Overview of Provision, Local Standards for Sport, Existing Provision and Future Needs, Other Sports Facilities in Huntingdonshire.

Sports Facilities Priorities in Huntingdonshire -, Sports Priority Matrix, Rationale behind the Sports Priority Matrices, Existing Strategic Facilities, Existing sports facilities in need of refurbishment/upgrade, Gaps in Provision, Sites where new facilities are required to meet identified strategic need, priority for future investment

Strategic Overview - Policy Recommendations

A draft version of the facility strategy to date can be seen in Appendix 1.

4 KEY IMPACTS/RISKS

4.1 No Impacts or risks identified for the purpose of this report.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 The Active Lifestyles team are currently consulting with all known facility operators to update the facility database. When this has been completed a localised copy of the database will be sent to the Parish Council to confirm it is correct for their Parish, additionally identify any omissions and future developmental plans they have that may impact upon future needs.

5.2 National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will / have been consulted to determine the impact of their future plans within the district.

5.3 It is anticipated the strategy will be finalised in the spring and will be adopted through the committee structure.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN

6.1 The strategy when completed will link to all of the corporate objectives, but specifically the following three:

A strong local economy – the economic impact of facility development / provision and employment

Sustainable growth – future needs assessment of facility requirements

Working with our communities – providing a strategic facility framework that will deliver the right facilities to the right people

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 In developing the strategy, colleagues from Operations and Planning policy have been consulted and their comments incorporated within the document.

7.2 Parish and NGBs will be consulted regarding their future sports facility plans and these will be incorporated within the strategy.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None arising as part of this report.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising as part of this report, however the final strategy will identify the resource implications.

10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None arising as part of this report.

11 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

11.1 Overview and Scrutiny Members requested that they are able to consider and influence the strategy prior to its completion.

12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - Current Draft version of the Sports Facility Strategy to date.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

CONTACT OFFICER

Jayne Wisely – Head of Leisure and Health
Tel No. 01480 388049