

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Huntingdonshire Sports and Leisure Facility Strategy

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Customers)  
– 1st March 2016  
Cabinet – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016

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

**Report by:** Head of Leisure and Health

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

---

### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to bring the revised Sports and Leisure Facility Strategy 2016-21 for adoption by Huntingdonshire District Council.

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. That Members of Cabinet endorse and agree the proposed Sports Facility Strategy.

The Strategy contains nine proposed recommendations:

- a/ Encourage investment in projects where the most significant impact can be made on participation levels to address both health and social wellbeing.
- b/ Commit to the retention of all strategically important sports facilities as highlighted in section 5.2 in particular given the current shortfall indoor sports hall provision.
- c/ Seek to support projects identified as priority projects to refurbish/upgrade existing sites as identified in section 5.3
- d/ Seek to support projects identified as sites planning new facilities to increase the sport and leisure stock as identified in section 5.4.
- e/ Ensure significant identified gaps in provision are addressed as opportunities permit as identified in section 5.5.
- f/ Work with partners and stakeholders including other operators to develop and deliver new facilities in areas of identified strategic need as identified in section 5.6 and in correlation with the new major housing sites.
- g/ Seek to maximise all funding opportunities including Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy, external grants or sponsorship contributions.

- h/ Seek to ensure all sports facilities are fit for purpose, of good quality and with excellent access with Huntingdonshire District Council's own stock being the exemplar for others to follow (including sports pitches and built facilities).
- i/ Work with other sports and leisure providers to seek improvements in sports provision and encourage participation in sport and active leisure.

## 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?

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 all known sports and leisure 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 and leisure 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 and leisure facilities
- Increase public awareness of the district's sports and leisure facilities

1.2 This report summarises the proposed Sports Facility Strategy and sets out the priorities for the district over the next 5 years.

## 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/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 were previously adopted by Huntingdonshire District Council in 2008 and subsequently as part of the Local Development Framework Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document in 2011 and successor documents. The standards were developed using Sport England's nationally validated methodology. This ensures a robust evidence base.

2.2 The Scope of the Strategy includes all known sport and leisure facility provision within the district:

- **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 etc

Huntingdonshire District Council recognises the importance of informal provision in helping to address physical inactivity and wellbeing within the community including the very significant contribution made by parks, open spaces and public rights of way however they are not considered as part of this strategy which is looking at formal sports and leisure facilities.

## 3. ANALYSIS

3.1 The content of the strategy includes 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** – Results of consultation with site operators, Parish & Town Councils, National Governing Bodies of Sport and other partners have been included where able into the document. In particular it has helped to identify, refresh and prioritise gaps, future known ‘planned’ and ‘wish list’ projects.

**Audit of Provision** – The audit of provision has identified some shortfalls both now and into the future. However when all known provision is taken into account along with the rural nature of the district the district can be rightly proud of many of its sports and leisure facilities.

**Sports Facilities Priorities in Huntingdonshire** – In order to seek to maximise increases in participation levels investors should consider the sports matrix that has clearly identified sports that have the potential to impact on participation.

As a general overview the district has a shortfall of indoor activity space particularly sports hall space which is important as the population continues to grow.

**Strategic Overview** – the Strategy identifies nine Policy Recommendations identified on Page 1. Further detail is available in Section 6 of the Strategy document.

The proposed Sports Facilities strategy 2016-2021 can be seen in Appendix 1.

## **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

4.1 To be added following meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016

## **5. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS**

5.1 No Impacts or risks identified for the purpose of this report

## **6. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

6.1 The Active Lifestyle’s team will circulate the agreed Strategy to partners and stakeholders once approved by Members.

6.2 The Strategy will be used to inform and request S106 contributions to related housing developments in conjunction with Planning and Operations colleagues.

## **7. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

7.1 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

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 In developing the strategy, colleagues from Operations and Planning Policy have been consulted and their comments incorporated within the document

8.2 Site operators, Parish Council's, Partners and National Governing Bodies of Sport have been consulted regarding their future sports facility plans and these have been incorporated where received within the strategy.

8.3 The Strategy is seen as a live working document and future and known projects will continue to be added over time as they are realised.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None arising as part of this report

## **10. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 This Strategy is identifying where priorities for future investment should be considered however it is not appropriate to stipulate exactly when, where and how any investment should be made.

10.2 The Strategy considers all funding avenues should be maximised including Community Infrastructure Levy, S106, external grant funding and other investment.

10.3 The One Leisure Strategic Plan will guide the investment programme for HDC operated facilities.

## **11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None arising as part of this report

## **12 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

12.1 A current Strategy with a robust evidence base ensures the evidence is available to ensure Sports and Leisure facilities are provided according to need in the district.

## **13. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 - Proposed Version of the Sports Facilities Strategy

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS - NONE**

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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