

**COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITIES AND CUSTOMERS) – 2nd February 2016**

**COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITIES AND CUSTOMERS) – 1st March 2016**

**SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY FOR HUNTINGDONSHIRE 2016 – 2021**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Customers) was presented the Sports Facilities Strategy for Huntingdonshire 2016-2021 Scoping Report at the Panel meeting in February 2016 and the Sports Facilities Strategy for Huntingdonshire 2016-2021 at the Panel meeting in March 2016. Members were advised that the strategy has an inventory of all the sports and leisure facilities within the District and not just Council owned facilities.

A comment was made by a Member at the Panel meeting in February with regards to the word sport. The strategy focuses upon sports facilities however local schools have stated that they have pupils who would like to participate in physical activity but would be put off by the word sport as that suggests there is a competitive element. At the Panel meeting in March it was noted that the word leisure had been included to mitigate the problem.

Concerns were raised at the Panel meeting in February that the strategy does not mention disabled people's participation in physical activity other than that they participate at lower rates than those people without a disability.

It was suggested at the Panel meeting in February that there would be higher rates of participation with the swimming pools if they were warmer. The Panel was told that the problem with the suggestion was that One Leisure swimming pools cater for both competitive and recreational swimmers. Usually the competitive swimmers complain that the pools are too warm and the recreational swimmers complain that they are too cool therefore the decision was taken to warm the pools in the middle ground at around 29°C.

Following a question at the Panel meeting in February with regards to Public Rights of Way and why they have not been included within the strategy Members were informed that the strategy covers built sports facilities however Public Rights of Way would be considered for future inclusion. At the Panel meeting in March the Panel was advised that the strategy covers built sports facilities however the Open Spaces Strategy would cover Public Rights of Way.