

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Lifelong Learning Committee – 31 October 2012

LEISURE NEEDS ANALYSIS REPORTS

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)

ABSTRACT

To inform the Committee about the main findings identified from an external evaluation of leisure needs. This will assist in ensuring the delivery of a lasting legacy for sport and recreation in Perth and Kinross and, as a strategic approach to long-term planning and delivery of services, has been highlighted by sportsotland as good practice. The evaluation confirms that in general terms, core provision of sport and recreational facilities across Perth and Kinross is satisfying the overall demand well. Committee is asked to approve the use of the Leisure Needs Analysis Reports to inform decisions on current and future provision, and operation, of sport and leisure facilities in Perth and Kinross.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the findings contained in the Leisure Needs Analysis evaluation; and
- 1.2 Remits the Executive Director to use the Leisure Needs Analysis to inform policy development and decisions relating to the future investment in, and operation of sport and leisure facilities.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Strategic Framework for Sport and Active Recreation approved by Lifelong Learning Committee on 23 March 2011 (Report 11/130 refers) provides an important opportunity for the Council to facilitate the development of a more joined up network of provision to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of current Council spending.
- 2.2 Objective 7 of this framework is, "To work with our partners to provide good quality, well managed facilities and outdoor spaces". It also states that: *"The location, nature, design, type and role of facilities and outdoor spaces will have a significant bearing on achieving the vision for sport, physical activity and active recreation. There is a need to ensure the adequate provision of general facilities that can accommodate a variety of activities alongside very specialist facilities for specific sports or activities. They may need to be local, or may perform a regional function."*
- 2.3 The national strategy for sport, "Reaching Higher", identifies the key role of the Council in leading and facilitating strategic planning at a local level. It recommends that Local Authorities should, as part of their strategic sports planning, adopt a comprehensive approach to the planning of sports facilities.

- 2.4 In response to this strategic context Perth and Kinross Council, in partnership with **sportscotland** and Live Active Leisure, commissioned Torkildsen Barclay, Leisure Consultants, to undertake a local Leisure Needs Analysis.
- 2.5 The external evaluation is based on a comprehensive audit of sports and recreation facilities in Perth and Kinross. The audit takes account of both existing provision, and facilities planned at the time of writing. Both reports aim to maximise participation levels for the benefit of the community.
- 2.6 The findings in the reports are based on the parameters set through **sportscotland**'s "Facilities Planning Model". These parameters are determined by both population size and sporting need which is based on national research information.
- 2.7 The main typologies used in the planning model are set out below:
- **Indoor Sport Multi Purpose** – specialist facilities that can accommodate a range of sports activities, specifically sports halls, swimming pools, and leisure centres with a range of sports facilities. It should be noted that, for sports halls, anything less than three badminton courts is not considered within this category;
 - **Indoor Sports Specialist** – facilities that are designed for one specialist activity eg indoor bowls, gymnastics, indoor tennis;
 - **Indoor Facilities Multi Functional** – facilities that are not specifically sports oriented, but may be able to accommodate some sport or active recreation activities, particularly in more remote areas where access to more formal sports facilities is difficult eg community centres, village halls, primary schools;
 - **Outdoor Sports Formal** – formal or specialist sports facilities, specifically for the sports of Football, Rugby, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, Bowls, Hockey, and Golf; and
 - **Outdoor Recreation** – multi use games areas (MUGAs) and sports facilities focussing on specific outdoor pursuits e.g. climbing, canoeing, sailing etc.
- 2.8 The evaluation sets out a range of findings but does not recommend a future Council policy or strategy for future service provision. It is intended to provide a broader reference point to inform policy development and decisions relating to the future investment in, and operation of sport and leisure facilities. The key findings are summarised below and the detailed evaluations have been made available to the Committee.

3 KEY FINDINGS

- 3.1 The evaluation takes into account the proposed Local Development Plan and, in particular, the updated population projections for Perth and Kinross on which the Facilities Planning Model calculations are based. The findings also take into account recent projects which have now been completed, for example, the Community Campus facilities and have been informed through engagement with key partners including Live Active Leisure, **sportscotland** and the Council's

Environment Service. There are a range of specific findings that will require further consideration and analysis on a case by case basis.

- 3.2 The **sportscotland** Facility Planning Model shows that the majority of residents within Perth and Kinross fall within the catchments of one or more sports halls, and that there is a high level of satisfied demand in terms of community use.
- 3.3 In general, Perth and Kinross is well provisioned in terms of swimming pool facilities, with a high level of satisfied demand and the majority of areas (defined in the report as “Clusters”) having access to at least one public pool. In some more rural areas limited unmet demand has been identified by the Facilities Planning Model.
- 3.4 In general, each Cluster has at least one public fitness and one or more private fitness facilities serving their area.
- 3.5 The reports support the retention of an Ice Rink in Perth on the Dewars/Perth Leisure Pool site and the aspiration to replace Perth Leisure Pool with a modern 25m x 8 lane pool, learner pool and leisure water. This project is being taken forward by Live Active Leisure as part of their facilities “Vision” project.
- 3.6 The findings in the reports acknowledge that the proposed National Curling Academy is no longer progressing in Kinross. Due to the level of demand for curling in the Perth and Kinross catchment area, the report suggests that provision of a rink is retained in the Kinross area.
- 3.7 The reports recognise that school sports facilities provide excellent opportunities for the development of sport and active recreation. In some cases this will require investment in improving and upgrading school sports facilities. The Council has already responded to this issue by setting out a motion which included additional funding proposals, at the special meeting of the Council in February 2012 (Report ref 12/53). The LNA report also suggests there should be a more strategic approach to the booking of school sports facilities.
- 3.8 The reports support the future provision of an indoor tennis centre within the Perth area, although it is recommended that a more detailed feasibility for such a facility is undertaken. Options are likely to be dependent on working with partners to secure funding and may involve the private sector or fitness operators providing indoor courts with community/club access arrangements.
- 3.9 The reports recognise the importance of ensuring that where there is existing demand in the more remote communities within Perth and Kinross, these communities have access to at least one indoor facility (village hall, community centre, access to local school) in which a range of physical activities can be programmed.
- 3.10 Where communities have actively expressed a demand for additional sporting facilities, it is important that the expressed demand can be translated into a plan which demonstrates the long term financial sustainability of any proposed investment.

- 3.11 In general, across Perth and Kinross the provision of football pitches exceeds the demand for them, albeit there are areas where some under supply has been identified, or where a perception of under supply exists. Further work with the Council's Environment Service is already underway to review the use of existing pitches by local clubs.
- 3.12 The reports also highlight the importance of considering the requirements for disabled sports in new and existing facilities. This should not only include access arrangements but specialist requirements and equipment which could assist in promoting and developing disability sports.

4 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the findings are used as a reference point to inform policy development and decisions relating to the future investment in, and operation of sport and leisure facilities. Specifically, the report findings will be used to inform consideration of future investment priorities and may also be used to assist in the development of supplementary planning guidance.
- 4.2 The reports will also be used to inform decisions relating to external funding submissions and in advising partner organisations and other key stakeholders. The strategic approach the Council is taking is considered as good practice by **sportscotland**.
- 4.3 In addition it is proposed that the Facilities Planning Group established under the Strategic Framework for Sports and Active Recreation is remitted to take forward the findings of the reports. The membership of this group includes representatives from the Environment Services, Greenspace and Strategic Planning teams, Education and Children's Services, **sportscotland**, and Live Active Leisure.
- 4.4 Working in partnership with the group will lead the development of specific policies and proposals as required under the framework of the proposed Local Development Plan. The progress resulting from this work will inform the Corporate Asset Management Plan and be reported to the Sport and Active Recreation Forum.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Legal Services, the Environment Service, members of the Sport and Active Recreation Forum, Live Active Leisure, **sportscotland**, Sport Tayside and Fife, Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport, local sports clubs, primary and secondary schools have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation was undertaken by an independent agency commissioned through a partnership approach involving **sportscotland**, Live Active Leisure and Perth & Kinross Council. The total cost of the project was £20,770 (inclusive of VAT) and this was shared across the three partner agencies. The cost to PKC

was £8,770 with remaining contributions of £8,000 from **sportscotland** and £4,000 from Live Active Leisure.

- 6.2 An additional fee of £4,200 was charged to PKC to cover the cost of undertaking a high level review early in 2012 to update both reports following publication of the proposed local development plan.
- 6.3 The findings of the leisure needs analysis have not been quantified and no specific costs have been identified. Any financial implications will be explored and quantified at the stage of the development of any outline business cases which may result and be submitted for consideration as part of the capital programme process.

7 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

- 7.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:-
- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
 - (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
 - (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
 - (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
 - (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

This report relates to objective number (ii)

- 7.2 The report also links to the Education and Children's Services Policy Framework in respect of the following key policy area:
- Integrated Working

8 EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The Council's Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework requires an assessment of functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant equality categories. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new policies to ensure there is no adverse impact on any community group or employees.
- 8.2 The procedure presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework process (EqIA) with the following outcome:
- i) Assessed as not relevant for the purposes of EqIA.

9 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).

9.2 The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and pre-screening has identified that the PPS will have no or minimal environmental effects, it is therefore exempt and the SEA Gateway has been notified. The reason(s) for concluding that the PPS will have no or minimal environmental effects is that the report exists under the hierarchy of the Strategic framework for Sport & Active Recreation, Local Plan, Corporate Plan, Education and Children's Services Improvement Plan. The report is not setting out a policy or specific strategy but the recommendations will be used to inform strategic planning decisions under the Local Plan framework which will be subject to a full SEA.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The provision of sport and active recreation services makes a significant contribution to the health, wellbeing and quality of life for those who live and work in Perth and Kinross. The importance of providing good quality and accessible sport and leisure facilities is essential in delivering the Council's strategic vision for the area.

10.2 The Leisure Needs Analysis reports are based on a comprehensive audit of facilities across the area which was carried out in partnership with **sportscotland** and Live Active Leisure. The findings confirm that overall Perth and Kinross has high levels of satisfied demand and is well provided for in terms of key sports facilities This reflects the considerable investment that has already been made by the Council in the new Community Campus facilities.

10.3 The findings also identify where improvements can continue to be made subject to available resources across the Council and other key partners. Although they do not set out a specific Council policy or strategy, they will assist in informing decisions on the future provision and operation of sports facilities by the Council, its partners and other key stakeholders under the framework provided by the Proposed Local Development Plan.

JOHN FYFFE

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Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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