

10 September 2008

REVIEW OF TEES ACTIVE

Summary

Members are asked to consider the evidence provided by representative of Sport England in order to inform the scrutiny review of Tees Active.

Detail

1. Judith Rasmussen, North East Regional Director of Sport England, will be attending the Committee's meeting on 10 September in order to contribute to the review of Tees Active. Sport England is a non-departmental public body and aims to create a 'world-leading community sports development system and increasing participation in sport'. It is a distributor of National Lottery funding and the annual budget is c.£250m (including lottery and exchequer).
2. Sport England has recently published a new national strategy (the Summary is attached for Members' information). The strategy commits Sport England to deliver on the following targets by 2012/13:
 - one million more people doing more sport;
 - a 25% reduction in the number of 16 year olds who drop out of five key sports;
 - improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports;
 - a measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience of sport;
 - a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.
3. The overall aim is to create a 'vibrant sporting culture' in England, at every level, and there is a concentration on 'sport for sport's sake' in order to provide for the needs for sports participants. Therefore there is a distinction between this and general 'physical activity' as promoted by the Department for Health, for example. Appendix 1 demonstrates sporting participation across the North East. (Appendix 2 details the results of the Active People survey, from which participation data is produced.)
4. In order to achieve these goals, Sport England works with a number of key partners. These include the national governing bodies of individual sports, and local authorities which remain the biggest single type of

investor in sport¹. It also works with County Sports Partnerships (CSP) in order to achieve its aims. Tees Valley Sport is the CSP for the sub-region and the Executive Director will be attending a future meeting of the Committee.

5. Sport England itself is to act as the 'national, strategic commissioner upholding the public interest by ensuring that partners deliver', it also develops centres of excellence and disseminates knowledge. Sport England has a holistic approach when looking at the level of sports provision within a certain area. Tees Active manage public facilities on behalf of Stockton Council. Within the Borough there is also a range of private facilities which contribute to the local sporting 'offer'. Sport England play a role in the planning system by advising on statutory (eg. those affecting playing fields) and non-statutory planning application consultations, and advises on local planning policies as they affect sport and recreation.
6. Members may recall from the review of River Based Leisure Facilities that Sport England (together with One North East) is the lead regional agency in relation to maximising opportunities arising from the London 2012 Olympics. In particular, Sport England is the key organisation in terms of increasing participation and lead on the following 'themes':
 - Facilities: to ensure that the North East maximises on the world-class regional facilities that exist and creates propositions capable of attracting visiting teams and events both in the lead up to and following on from the 2012 Games.
 - Performance Sport: to ensure that the region's talented performers have every opportunity and are given appropriate support to participate in the 2012 Games.
 - Children and Young People: to ensure that the educational and inspirational spirit of the 2012 Games inspires and informs the region's children and young people.
 - Health: to ensure that the 2012 Games acts to inspire regional communities and individuals to make positive improvements to their general health and well being through sport and physical activity.
7. The Committee found that it was important for local authorities to engage with these regional themes. Other opportunities include the chance to 'increase sporting participation using the local facilities available'. The Olympics are regarded as a 'once-in-a-lifetime opportunity' and there is the need to 'use [their] power to inspire more people to take part in and succeed in sport.'

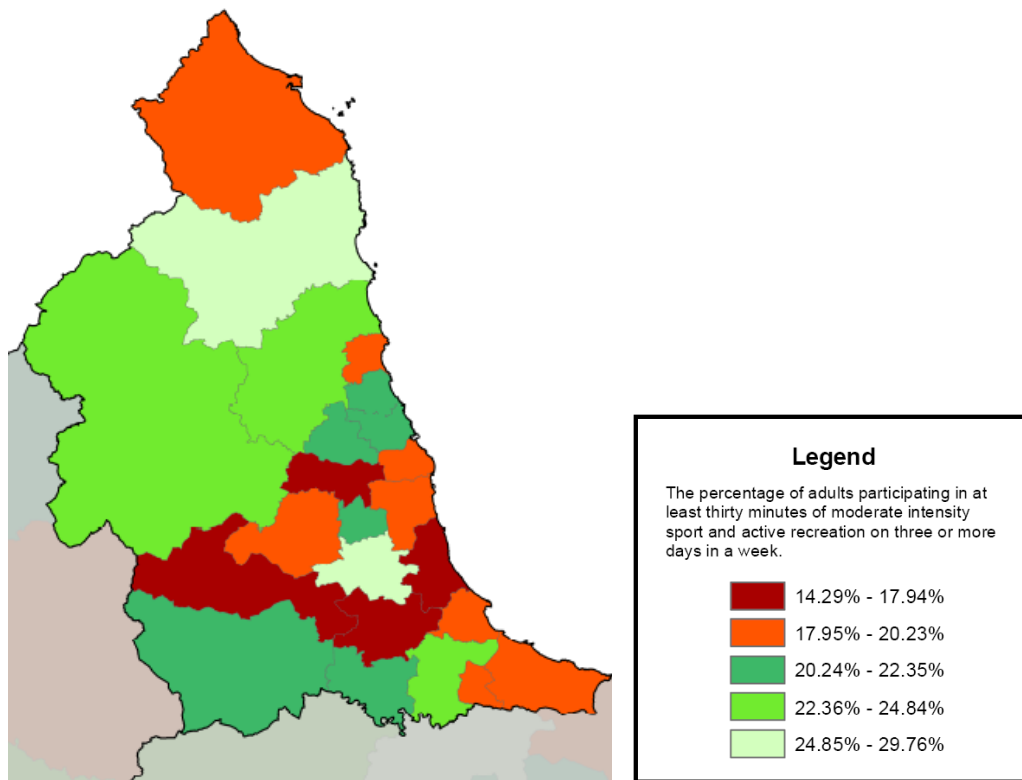
¹ 'Overall councils spend £1.2bn a year on providing opportunities for people to play sport and get involved in physical activity and invest £450m annually in improving facilities.' LGA Sport Spokesman

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Appendix 1

Table 2.1 Participation levels in the North East compared to the National average

Key performance indicator	North East (%)	England (%)
KPI 1 - At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)	20.5	21
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)	4.2	4.7
KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)	23	25.1
KPI 4 - Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults)	15.7	18
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)	13	15
KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	70.4	69.5



Source: North East Facilities Strategy (Consultation Draft)