

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

25 OCTOBER 2007

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Arts, Leisure & Culture – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Mrs Womphrey

SPORTS & LEISURE STRATEGY

Summary

This report sets out a draft Sports and Leisure strategy for Stockton. The strategy pulls together all of the elements of sports and leisure, thereby providing a framework for many of the directly related documents the Council has already produced and a basis for future investment. The report suggests that this strategy overview is agreed as a basis for consultation with the public through the area partnership boards and the wider sports industry where applicable e.g. Sport England.

Recommendations

1. Cabinet agree the Sports and Leisure Strategy for consultation.
2. That a further report is presented to Cabinet following consultation in Spring 2008

Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To consult with a wider audience on the strategic framework for Sport & Leisure provision in the Borough and to incorporate findings in the final strategy.

Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet agree the Sports and Leisure Strategy for consultation.
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DETAIL

1. The Council has access to a wide range of sports and leisure facilities across the Borough. Detailed strategies and action plans for development already exist for many of the individual elements, for example, open space, and play. In addition the Leisure Trust, Tees Active Ltd, is responsible for the day-to-day management of many of the Council's facilities and has its own business plan that details their day-to-day delivery and longer term development plans.
2. In order to bring all of the different aspects of sport and leisure together, and to demonstrate the linkage with related agendas around health, education, young people, the environment and the economy, this Sports and Leisure Strategy has been prepared. The document is important strategically, as it provides the framework for future development and investment and the context for external funding partners. It also raises the profile of sports and leisure across the Borough, and, in light of the recent MORI poll, demonstrates the Council's approach and commitment to meeting the issues raised by local residents.
3. The strategy covers leisure and sport in its widest context, including all forms of physical activity whether organised or recreational. It aims to contribute to building stronger communities through the delivery of opportunities for sport and leisure activities that are readily available to all and by ensuring a framework exists to support advanced, talented and gifted individuals.

4. The four key policy aims that support the strategy clearly demonstrate the Council's commitment in nurturing a culture of sport and leisure within Stockton, now and for future generations. They are:
 - Community Needs
 - Accessibility
 - Participation and Excellence
 - Economy

There is already considerable activity in each of these areas. The purpose of the Sports and Leisure Strategy is to pull them together, demonstrate the linkages and to allow proper planning for new facilities and activities over the medium term.

6. The key areas picked up in the strategy can be summarised as:
 - To ensure our leisure facilities are accessible and affordable to all sections of the community
 - Ensuring quality wet and dry facilities are available in the Borough
 - To review and implement the Playing Pitch Strategy
 - To implement the new Play Strategy and Play Area Strategy
 - Restoration of the town's parks and Woodlands
 - The use of community and school facilities is extended
 - The River Tees is maximised as both a local resource but also a potential contributor to national and international sporting events
 - Consider the opportunities to raise the quality of physical education, sport and performance through work with local schools and sports clubs
 - Ensure that opportunities for leisure and recreation are included as part of the major regeneration schemes in the Borough
7. Underpinning each of these strategic areas is the overall benefit to economic, social and environmental well-being that comes from having a full range of accessible leisure and sports facilities. In particular, the links to improving health are critical.
8. The strategy reflects much of the work that is currently ongoing in the Borough and outlines the strategic priorities for the future. The more substantial proposals within the strategy will be subject to the availability of resources and other sources of external funding. As such these are considered to be medium or high risk projects that will require further reports to Cabinet.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no direct financial implications in this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications in this report

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. The Sports & Leisure Strategy is categorised as low to medium risk. The more substantial proposals within the strategy will be subject to the availability of resources and other sources of external funding. As such these are considered to be medium or high risk projects that will require further reports to Cabinet.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

12. The Sports & Leisure Strategy supports the delivery of key objectives in the Community Strategy:

Economic Regeneration and Transport

Theme 1 (Key development and projects)

Theme 2 (Support to business)

Theme 3 (Employment and skills)

Liveability

Theme 3 (Improve access to quality, safe and secure green spaces in the Borough)

Theme 4 (Care for Your Area)

Theme 5 (Regenerating local communities)

Safer Communities

Theme 3 (Reduce anti-social behaviour)

Children and Young People

Theme 1 (Being healthy)

Theme 4 (Children and Young People making a positive contribution)

Healthier Communities and Adults

Theme 1 (Reduce health inequalities)

Theme 3 (Prevent ill health through promotion of healthy living)

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. There are no actions identified from the Equality Impact Assessment

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

14. The Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture has been consulted on this report. The draft strategy has had a wide officer circulation throughout the Council and partners, including Tees Active and the PCT and their contributions have been incorporated. It is proposed that the strategy is used for wider consultation with local communities through the Renaissance Area Partnership Boards, in order to explain the Council's strategic approach to sports and leisure and to seek their views on the overall strategy and local priorities.

Name of Contact

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Background Papers:

Game Plan 2002
Every Child Matters
Choosing Activity Strategy 2005
Youth Matters: Next Steps

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific

Property:

Specifics not known at this stage