

West Dunbartonshire Council

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
2 September 2009**

Subject: Development of a Sports Strategy and a Sports Pitch Strategy for West Dunbartonshire Council

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the West Dunbartonshire Council Sports Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy (2009 - 2013), of which a summary is attached as Appendix 1. Copies of the full reports have been made available in the Members' lounges.

2. Background

- 2.1** The departments of Educational Services and Housing, Environmental and Economic Development have worked together in leading the production of a Sports Strategy and a Sports Pitch Strategy for West Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with various other in-house services and external organisations including:
- **sportscotland**
 - West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership
 - West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership
- 2.2** A working group of Council officers and external partners was created to scope the requirements of the strategies. The group developed the vision and key aims and objectives of the strategies based upon the Council's Key Priorities and a sports consultancy firm, PMP (UK) Ltd, was appointed to assist in the research and consultation work related to development of the strategies.
- 2.3** Key officers, partner representatives and consultant staff from PMP undertook a programme of work to audit and record current provision, collate information on current systems and procedures and compile details of all teams, clubs and organisations who use facilities and pitches within West Dunbartonshire. Thereafter the consultants engaged in a programme of consultation with service users, staff and key partners to seek feedback on their views of the service and facilities provided. Consultation took the form of surveys, questionnaires and focus group meetings with public meetings being held in the three main geographical areas.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** A draft Sports Strategy and draft Sports Pitch Strategy have been prepared, both of which provide a vision and framework for the future of sport in West Dunbartonshire. A key focus within the strategies is the corporate promotion and future integrated delivery of lifelong participation in sport and by the entire community.
- 3.2** The purpose of both strategies, which cover the period 2009 -2013, is to outline the Council's key strategic aims and objectives in relation to sport and to detail how these will be achieved through delivery of focused action plans. It is recognised that sports facilities and pitches are a vital resource for sports and the strategies therefore aim to assist in determining the quantity, quality and accessibility of pitch and facility requirements.
- 3.3** The strategies include the results of a facilities planning modelling exercise undertaken by **Sportscotland**.
- 3.4** The draft Strategies were made available to Members in Feb 2009 for comment and further revised copies were circulated to Members and Stakeholders in May and June 2009 for final comment and feedback.
- 3.5** The Strategy documents contain action plans which identify strategic goals with timescales for completion and identify lead departments. Lead departments will further develop the action plans to identify clearly defined targets, outputs and outcomes and implement robust performance and monitoring mechanisms.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** The departments of Educational Services and Housing, Environmental and Economic Development will be responsible for the implementation of the strategies and will work closely with partners and community organisations to ensure delivery of the action plans.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The full costs involved in delivering the action plans associated with the two strategies are presently unknown. The Council has allocated £1m of prudential borrowing to improve sports provision will be utilised as part funding for the delivery of the strategy action plans which will require to be supported by additional financial resources from key partners and community organisations and future Capital investment by the Council over the period of the strategies.
- 5.2** There is also an opportunity to seek funding support from **sportscotland** to assist in delivery of the action plans associated with the strategies. Sportscotland has indicated that funding applications from authorities will generally only be considered where it can be demonstrated that there are clear strategies in place for the delivery of sport.

- 5.3 Dependant upon the development of the sports pitch action plan, there may be an opportunity to develop multi-pitch sites and associated changing accommodation and sell off some of the present single pitch sites. This could result in Capital receipts for the authority in the future.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 There is a risk to the authority that, without a clearly defined focus upon the corporate promotion and integrated delivery of sport and sporting facilities, opportunities to maximise provision and participation in sport will be lost.

7. Conclusions & Officers' Recommendations

- 7.1 The Council will benefit from the adoption of a Sports Strategy and a Sports Pitch Strategy. The strategies will provide a vision and framework for the future and assist in identifying available resources and how they can be most effectively utilised. A key focus within the strategies is the corporate promotion and future integrated delivery of lifelong participation in sport by the entire community.
- 7.2 Members are asked to approve the West Dunbartonshire Council Sports Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy 2009-2013.

Elaine Melrose

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Date: 10 August 2009

Persons to Contact: Ronald M. Dinnie - Head of Land and Environment, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU, telephone: 01389 737601, email: ronald.dinnie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Lynda McLaughlin -Manager of Commercial Operations, Elm Road, Dumbarton, telephone: 01389 772097, e-mail: lynda.mclaughlin@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: Appendix 1 - Summary of strategies and associated Action Plans

Background Papers: Sports Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy available in Members lounges

Wards Affected: All