

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Council: 27 February 2008

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 provide an update to Council on the development of a Sports Strategy and Sports Pitch Strategy for West Dunbartonshire Council.

2. Background

2.1 The departments of Educational Services and Housing, Environmental and Economic Development have been leading in 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 in June 2006 to scope the requirements of the strategies. During Autumn 2006 the group developed the vision and key aims and objectives of the strategies based upon the Council's Key Priorities.

2.3 In October 2006 a brief was developed to define the requirements of the strategies and tenders were sought from experienced consultants. In December 2006 a sports consultancy firm, PMP (UK) Ltd, was appointed to assist in the research and consultation work related to development of the strategies.

2.4 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 has been prepared 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 by the entire community.
- 3.2** The purpose of both strategies, which cover the period 2008 -2012, 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 draft Strategies which are currently only in text format, will be circulated for consultation to all Elected Members and stakeholders and made available on the Council's website by the 20 March 2008. It is planned to submit finalised strategy documents to Council on 28 May 2008.
- 3.4** Draft Action Plans for the implementation of the strategies would also be submitted at this stage. These action plans will include specific actions with timescales for completion, identify who has lead responsibility for particular areas and account for both financial and human resource implications. The plans will also identify how best the Council can monitor all processes through robust mechanisms linked to clearly defined targets and outcomes.
- 3.5** The timescales detailed above are dependent on feedback being received from Sportscotland on the facilities planning model by 7 March.
- 3.6** This model has been reworked on several occasions due to a review and subsequent change to the modelling programme used by Sportscotland.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no known personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The cost involved in producing the strategies has been £28,500 which was paid to PMP (UK) Ltd for their consultancy services. PMP was appointed following a tendering process in December 2006.
- 5.2** The cost involved in delivering the action plans associated with the two strategies is presently unknown. The Council's £1m Capital allocation to improve sports provision will be utilised as part funding for the delivery of the strategy action plans which will hopefully be supported by additional financial resources from key partners and community organisations and future Capital investment over the five year period of the strategies.

5.3 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 it will generally favour funding applications from authorities who can demonstrate clear strategies for the delivery of sport in the future.

5.4 Dependant upon the results of the mapping audits and Facility Planning Modelling, 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 which could be reinvested in other leisure facilities.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 A risk assessment in relation to this report is not required.

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Council will benefit from the production of a Sports Strategy and a Sports Pitch Strategy. The strategies will provide a vision and framework for the future and identify available resources and how they can be most effectively utilised. A key focus within the strategies will be the corporate promotion and future integrated delivery of lifelong participation in sport by the entire community.

8. Recommendations

8.1 **The Council is asked to note this report and consider the draft strategies when available.**

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Date: 20 February 2008

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Appendices None
Background Paper None

Wards Affected All