

PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL

8th October 2015

SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES STRATEGY

Report of the Director for Places (Development & Economy)

Strategic Aim:	<i>Creating an active and enriched community</i> <i>Building our infrastructure</i> <i>Meeting the health & wellbeing needs of the community</i> <i>Creating a brighter future for all</i>	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor Terry King, Portfolio Holder for Places (Development & Economy) and Resources	
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Notes the Draft Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy (Appendix A)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To present to the Panel the Draft Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy, which outlines the present quantity and quality of sport and recreation facilities in the County; to seek feedback from Scrutiny of any aspects which have been omitted or need updating; and note the highest priority areas for future investment, using a variety of funding sources.

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1. In order to understand the needs of the County's active and growing community, work has been undertaken to identify the sports and recreation

facilities that exist in Rutland, and to assess their quality. The report attached as Appendix A is a detailed presentation of the research. Ahead of consideration by Cabinet and Council, feedback would be welcomed from the Places Scrutiny Panel on the content of the Strategy, in order that any changes required can be identified, particularly identification of facilities that should be protected or enhanced in individual parishes.

- 2.2. The Strategy does not cover informal play facilities, open space, allotments and similar provision. A separate piece of work is being undertaken to address these requirements, and will be presented in due course. This Strategy is chiefly concerned with formal / organised sports and recreation opportunities.

3. PRIORITISATION

- 3.1. Providing sufficient and appropriate sports facilities for the growing population is a key part of sustaining an active and enriched community. The Strategy provides detailed information about the current levels of facility provision. Rutland residents are generally well provided with sports facilities using the models available, although there are some gaps in the east of the county that could be improved by improved community use of school facilities. The analysis shows that even with the current estimated levels of new house building, additional facilities may not be required to meet the recommended minimum levels of facilities. However, there is a clear need to ensure that facilities are protected, retained and enhanced to meet future needs if participation levels are to be maintained amongst residents. The availability of physical activity opportunities and infrastructure is also an attractive feature for those looking to relocate to Rutland.
- 3.2. The Strategy identifies in figure 85 (pp294-305) priorities for investment. Developer funding and other sources can provide significant investment in community infrastructure, and by agreeing the Strategy, the Council can facilitate timely provision through prioritising projects and funding. Figure 85 specifies a number of facilities by Parish, some of which are already being improved through Section 106 funding, distributed through the recent grant process. Identification of other specific facilities in parishes requiring support would be welcome, and may be incorporated in to the Strategy.

4. STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. The Strategy outlines a number of short, medium and long term recommendations:
- 4.2. Short term (5 years)
 - (1) Prepare an action plan which is led and coordinated by the County Council, and will involve the key stakeholders. This will be based around the project specific proposals set out in Figure 85 of the strategy.
 - (2) Ensure that planning obligations are met and that contributions for sport and physical activity continue to be made in accordance with the Local Plan.

- (3) Maintain support to voluntary sector clubs through Active Rutland Local Sports Alliance.
- (4) Integrate work with Health and Well Being Board to ensure opportunities to promote active lifestyles are promoted.
- (5) Monitor and enhance Community Use Agreements with educational facilities.
- (6) Plan for the replacement / refurbishment of the Catmose Swimming Pool
- (7) Monitor participation trends

4.3. Medium Term (10 years)

- (1) Completion of work on the replacement / refurbishment of Catmose Swimming Pool
- (2) Ensure open spaces and other planning related to sport and physical activity continues to align to the Strategy.
- (3) Review management options for current facilities as contracts expire (Active Rutland Hub and Catmose sports facilities)
- (4) Ensure community facilities and village halls plans for refurbishment and enhancement can be achieved.

4.4. Long term (15 – 20 years)

- (1) Review the strategy and facility requirements in the light of changing demand and demographic development

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1. The content of the report has been created by field work and contacts with local providers of facilities. It also brings together a number of previous studies and provides a clear indication of the facilities currently available in Rutland. The Strategy follows Sport England guidance to assess and to identify needs for the county. Sport England has endorsed the process of creating the document, and will give a formal view on the document once comments have been received from National Governing Bodies of Sports.

5.2. The Strategy has been circulated to the National Governing Bodies to ensure that the report is an accurate reflection of the present state of provision in Rutland. As a small county, Rutland does not feature strongly in the current facility development plans of the National Governing Bodies of Sport. Whilst the report indicates that supply of facilities currently meets and in some cases exceeds the recommended minimum levels of provision, future opportunities for Rutland to play a role in the support of specific sports may well arise.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

6.1. Scrutiny Panel may wish to propose alternative views / priorities to those set out in the draft Strategy, and identify specific facilities requiring support.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. There are no direct financial implications from the consideration of this report. There are some external sources of funding available to assist with sports and recreation provision, and the Council has received Section 106 funds which

may be used to address the pressure on existing facility provision caused by new housing developments.

8. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1. No legal or governance considerations have been identified.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1. An *Equality* Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed as the Strategy is currently in draft, and comments are being sought to ensure it is both accurate and reflects the Council's position. An EqIA will be undertaken when a final draft of the Strategy is completed.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Provision of accessible, good quality sports and recreation facilities throughout the County is likely to help to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, by providing diversionary activities. Formal membership of sports and recreation organisations helps to build community bonds and a sense of local pride.

11. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

11.1. Provision of a comprehensive and accessible network of facilities to enable individuals and groups to participate in sports and recreation can be a huge benefit to the health and wellbeing of the community. A vibrant sports community already exists in Rutland, and is a significant contribution to the generally high levels of health and wellbeing recorded in the County. A positive attitude to physical fitness and personal health has also been shown to improve the mental wellbeing of individuals. The range of facilities and pursuits available in Rutland is also a strong draw for persons considering relocating to the area.

12. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1. No implications identified.

13. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1. Scrutiny is requested to consider the information presented in Appendix A, and to comment on the accuracy and suitability of the recommendations it presents.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1. There are no additional background papers to the report

15. APPENDICES

15.1. Appendix A – Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.