

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	18th November 2010
DIRECTOR	Annette Bruton
TITLE OF REPORT	Aberdeen City Council and sportscotland
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/10/086

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Elected Members details of current and proposed initiatives funded by Sportscotland through its agreement with Aberdeen City Council, namely the Community Sports Hubs initiative, the Swimming Top-Up programme and the Active Schools programme delivered through Sport Aberdeen.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- i. Notes the progress made on Community Sports Hubs and the Swimming Top-Up programme
- ii. Approves the investment of £385,200.00 to support the staffing needed to deliver the Active Schools programme, in accordance with the agreement between Aberdeen City Council and sportscotland.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for Community Sports Hubs, Swimming Top-Up and the Active Schools programme is provided by sportscotland and no additional investment is required from Aberdeen City Council. Total investment is £25,785.00 for swimming until 31st March 2011, £385,200.00 for Active schools, and £53,643.00 for Community Sports hubs.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Should Committee choose not to approve the Sportscotland/Aberdeen City Council investment agreement both the future funding and therefore, staff within the Active Schools team at Sport Aberdeen, will be at risk of redundancy.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background and Context

The Scottish Government's 2014 Legacy Plan was published on the 1st of September 2009. This plan sets out the key legacy aims and ambitions while also outlining a series of linked initiatives which will be taken forward with key partners over the next ten years.

Improving the nation's health is the overarching theme of the 2014 Legacy Plan and the Active Scotland component of the Plan contains two key initiatives. Both are aimed at increasing the availability and accessibility of physical activity and sport to individuals and communities that will in turn contribute to improving the health and fitness of people in Scotland.

These initiatives are the Active Nation and the development of Community Sports Hubs.

5.2 Community Sports Hubs

The Community Sports Hub concept aims to create a new way of working whereby sports clubs and organisations are brought together and physically based within a specific location. Each location named a Community Sports Hub, will consist of a collection of sports clubs and organisations who are linked through their particular sport, area of interest or geographic location.

Community Sports Hubs will be based in local facilities such as sports centres, community centres, the natural environment and schools and will bring local people together as well as providing a home for local clubs and sports organisations.

Each hub will also provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for local people to get involved and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle.

The specifics of each hub and what it offers will vary according to local need and local resource. However all hubs will work to the following five principles:

- Creating a more joined up approach to increasing participation
- Allowing individuals and communities to access the full benefits of sport and encourage sustainability by developing genuine community leadership and engagement
- Accessibility for all people within a local community and encouraging long life participation in sport and physical activity
- Offering a range of sporting activities and providing 'sign posting' for wider sports provision available, inclusive of those from under represented groups.
- Developing a local sporting infrastructure, integrating the local authority, community planning partnerships, regional sporting partnerships, governing bodies and local clubs.

Sportscotland has made available funding of up to £56,000 per annum from 2010 until 2015 in support of developing community sports hubs in Aberdeen. Officers are currently working with colleagues from a range of sports organisations in the City to develop an application to Sportscotland. If this application is successful, Aberdeen City Council will have a responsibility to monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of the hubs in order to ensure they continue to develop and deliver upon their stated objectives.

5.3 Swimming top up

Sportscotland is investing £25,785.00 in swimming in Aberdeen in the year up till 31st March 2011. This will be through a delivery plan jointly delivered by Sport Aberdeen and Scottish Swimming. The purpose of this investment is to increase the percentage of primary school aged children who can swim after going through a top up programme. The current base line percentage is based on an average school swimming programme (70-75%) as defined by the Scottish Swimming National School swimming award. Aberdeen City Council must produce an integrated plan with priority outcomes relating to the investment identified for Swimming Top up by 3 December 2010.

Sport Aberdeen is committed to providing swimming tuition to both Adults and children in Aberdeen's 'Learn to swim' scheme. The major aim is to teach children to swim or to improve their existing skills in a safe and friendly environment. Qualified staff are employed providing pupils with the opportunity to participate in an enjoyable activity which can be pursued at all levels.

Two of the principles of the swimming top up programme are:

'A bringing together of lessons providers so that education and leisure develop stronger, more joined up partnerships' and:

'sustainability, with the programmes leading to transformational change in swimming lesson provision rather than short term one off gains'

To demonstrate the above principles and the best value funding of clubs, Sport Aberdeen will offer coach education courses and CPD for teachers in conjunction with swimming clubs and, schools and Scottish Swimming.

The sessions for children will be targeted at those who are most in need of additional pool time to improve their swimming, with an additional block of 10 lessons during school time or alternatively, an amount of intense holiday lessons. A sum will be made available from the budget where participation is prevented due to the lack of appropriate swimming costumes.

5.4 Active Schools

The Active Schools partnership agreement sets out the national objectives of the Active schools network for 2008-11 and how these objectives will be implemented by Aberdeen City Council. The partnership agreement forms the basis for sportscotland's Active Schools investment in Aberdeen City Council and incorporates an agreed staffing allocation and investment profile specific to the local authority. The agreement informs Aberdeen's Active Schools annual action plan, and forms the core of the investment agreement between the two bodies. Aberdeen City Council is responsible for the implementation of the action plan.

The aim of the Active Schools network is to offer all children and young people the opportunities and motivation to adopt active, healthy lifestyles, now and into adulthood. Active Schools managers and co-coordinators are responsible for developing and supporting an infrastructure for Active Schools within the school and wider community. They do this by recruiting, supporting and sustaining a network of volunteers, coaches and leaders and teachers, who in turn deliver physical activity and sport before, during, and after school and in the wider community. The teams stated outcomes are:

‘To continue to increase opportunities for all children and young people to be engaged in physical activity and sport.’ and ‘to strengthen pathways to performance through sustainable school to community links’

The investment breaks down as follows:

Active Schools management	Number of volunteers recruited	£30,000.00
Active Schools primary co-coordinators		£240,000.00
Active Schools Secondary co-coordinators		£31,200.00
Active Schools ASN co-coordinator		£30,000.00
Active Schools	Operational budget	£54,000.00
Community Sports hubs	Implementation	£53,643.00
Swimming top up	Implementation	£25,785.00

6. IMPACT

The report relates to the Arts, Heritage and Sport strand of the Community Plan, specifically in relation to the Sports, Leisure and Recreation vision of developing Aberdeen as an “Active City”.

The report also links to Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking through Culture, Arts and Sport:

- Increase participation in sport, provide support for athletes and reward excellence
- Recognise the contribution of Sport, Culture and Arts to promoting the area as a tourist destination
- Recognise the role of Sport and Arts in tackling anti-social behaviour

Without the approval to continue investment programme agreement between sportscotland and Aberdeen City Council the opportunities to deliver targeted sporting opportunities would be seriously undermined.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Active Schools annual action plan 2010-11

Investment agreement – Aberdeen City Council and sportscotland year end 31
March 2011

National Swimming Top Up programme Action plan

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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