

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy and Resources
DATE	1 December 2016
DIRECTOR	Gayle Gorman
TITLE OF REPORT	Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy
REPORT NUMBER	
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to committee the Active Aberdeen Partnership's (AAP) Sports Facility Strategy 2016 - 2026 for the city, incorporating feedback received following the consultation process.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee;

(a) Note the feedback received by the Active Aberdeen Partnership during the consultation process with relevant agencies and stakeholders;

(b) Note the final version and that this committee adopts this Sports Facilities Strategy for incorporation into the city planning framework.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Sports Facilities Strategy 2016-26 identifies where funding will be required in order to deliver a modern, comprehensive sport and leisure facility infrastructure across the city. The actual level of financial investment required is not identified. What is identified is that funding will need to come from a variety of sources and there is no expectation of Aberdeen City Council being the main source of funding.

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

#### Legal

- 4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

## **Personnel**

- 4.2 There are no human resources implications arising as a consequence of this report.

## **Property**

- 4.3 Any investment into the sport and leisure estate across the city by Aberdeen City Council and / or members of the Active Aberdeen Partnership and other partners and stakeholders is helping to deliver improved property assets which will enhance the sport and leisure offer. The investment by Sport Aberdeen into facilities operated under its lease will help to improve their immediate condition and extend their longer term life expectancy.

## **5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

### **5.1 Background**

This committee received the draft Aberdeen Sports Facilities Strategy at its June meeting, following which it instructed the Active Aberdeen Partnership (AAP) to commence consultation with relevant agencies and stakeholders. This consultation process took place between August – October 2016 and incorporated a variety of methods with relevant agencies and stakeholders. This was followed up with two focus groups which explored key common issues raised by the consultation process.

Responses to the survey questions were generally very positive and constructive and this was evidenced in supporting statements. These included further detail to illustrate particular points or to suggest areas for consideration or issues / sports which it was felt had been omitted from the draft strategy.

### **5.2 Key Conclusions of the Consultation Process**

**Vision and Aims:** a significant majority were supportive of the AAP's vision *"To create a network of high quality, accessible and sustainable sport and leisure facilities, which offer inclusive service for all; enabling more residents to fulfil their potential by participating in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and wellbeing."* At the same time respondents require assurance that supporting policies around access, programming and transport are in place to ensure that the strategy is able to deliver increasing sports participation and improving health outcomes for all in the city.

There was also strong support for progressing with the immediate investment opportunities into those facilities identified within the Sports Facilities Strategy to make these fit for purpose. At the same time there

was clear support for addressing the identified gap in community sports provision in the west end of the city. Again, reference is made to programming and accessibility, particularly with regards to maximising the use of the school sporting estate.

Support for the proposal to maximise opportunities to engage with other services and, where possible, to create multi-agency hubs through the co-location of services also received strong support, with caveats of ensuring appropriate access arrangement for diverse user groups and maximising opening hours throughout the year ie not constrained by school holidays.

The proposed hierarchy of sports facilities with clearly defined roles and functions was generally supported. Areas of slight concern raised related to funding being equitably allocated across facility types ie high performance, specialist sports facilities should not be invested in at the expense of small, community facilities. The need for integrated transport services providing easy access to facilities was also raised.

### 5.3 Omissions and Amendments to the Strategy

Feedback received identified the need to more explicitly include reference to cricket, alternative sports eg surfing, beach volleyball, skiing, skate parks and green gyms in parks. References to Community Empowerment legislation also need to be included, to reflect potential changes in ownership arrangements. A number of existing facilities, accessible to community groups, had also been omitted.

These are now included within the final strategy; this is attached as Annex A to this report. It should also be noted that a short summary version will be prepared for general publication.

### 5.4 Link with the Strategy for an Active Aberdeen and the Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy

The consultation process was undertaken at the same time as that for the Strategy for an Active Aberdeen. There is clear synergy with this strategy, particular in relation to the 'Invest in our infrastructure of people and places'.

Likewise, the Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy (2014 – 2020) previously approved at the then Culture and Sport Sub-Committee in May 2014, also links closely with both strategies. The city Vision for Aquatics for 2020 is for a mix of high quality well maintained facilities in suitable places, joined up development pathways balancing the needs of inclusive recreational swimming and competitive programmes, supported by participation pathways for all and facilities and their associated programmes all part of an economically sustainable water management infrastructure.

## 5.5 Next Steps

It is anticipated that this final Sports Facilities Strategy will be adopted by this Committee with an expectation that it would be incorporated into the Community Planning Framework.

## 6. **IMPACT**

### **Improving Customer Experience –**

- 6.1 Improving the sport and leisure facilities across Aberdeen and supporting policies in terms of access, programming and investment, will provide enhanced opportunity for all of the city's residents, and visitors to the city, to participate in high quality sport and leisure facilities and receive high quality experiences; all of this will play a key part in encouraging Aberdeen's population to become more active, more often.

### **Improving Staff Experience –**

- 6.2 Although the staff engaged in supporting individuals participating in sport and leisure are employed by the Council's ALEO's and other agencies, it is believed that they too will benefit from working in improved facilities.

### **Improving our use of Resources –**

- 6.3 The strategic review of sport and leisure facilities which has informed the Sports Facilities Strategy has set the strategic direction and identified the future priorities for sport and leisure developments in Aberdeen. Provided future developments are aligned to this strategy this will maximise the use, value and sustainability of resources.

### **Corporate -**

- 6.4 It is the AAP's intention to make Aberdeen the most active city in Scotland. This strategy plays a key role in providing places for people to take part in sport, leisure and physical activity and underpins the Smarter City vision and supports the Community Planning Framework.

### **Public –**

- 6.5 The Public will benefit from improved facilities across the city. These will provide enhanced opportunity for all to participate in sport and physical activity.

## 7. **MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

The Active Aberdeen Partnership (AAP) will take overall responsibility for the management and risks related to the Sports Facilities Strategy. In particular, Sport Aberdeen will oversee the review and management of risks, as part of its wider strategic responsibilities.

## 8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Finance, Policy & Resources Committee- 7 June 2016 (Agenda Item 8.2: Review of Leisure Assets – ECS/016/

AAP Aberdeen Sports Facilities (May 2016) Draft for Consultation

Culture and Sport Sub-Committee – 7 May 2014 (Agenda Item 8: Aberdeen Aquatics Strategy – Ref ECS/14/035

## **9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

Jill Franks  
Director of Business Development  
Sport Aberdeen  
[Jfranks@sportaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:jfranks@sportaberdeen.co.uk)  
01224 577745