

Report

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Report to:	Community Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 June 2009
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Council Leisure Strategy 2007 to 2011
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ inform the Committee of the progress of the Council's Leisure Strategy (LS)

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the progress to date in working towards achievement of the objectives of the Leisure Strategy be noted
- (2) that approval be given for the Leisure Strategy Implementation Group to agree on a new working title for the South Lanarkshire Leisure Strategy.

3. Background

- 3.1. In line with the Council's commitment to *'improve the quality of life for everyone in South Lanarkshire'*, South Lanarkshire Leisure (SLL) was asked to facilitate the development of an integrated Leisure Strategy which would provide a strategic framework for future leisure provision in South Lanarkshire and so raise levels of physical activity and ultimately health improvement.
- 3.2. Following an extensive consultation programme with community groups, internal and external agencies and staff from SLL and SLC, the Leisure Strategy was launched in February 2008.
- 3.3. In March 2008 a Leisure Strategy Implementation Group (LSIG) was established with the responsibility of delivering and monitoring the LS. Chaired by SLL, the group meets quarterly and comprises representatives from Council Resources and key external agencies such as **sportscotland** and NHS Lanarkshire.
- 3.4. It was important that each partner realised its role in both the development and implementation of the Strategy and that it wasn't the sole premise of South Lanarkshire Leisure.
- 3.5. Consequently a series of presentations to each of the Council's Resources was organised which highlighted on an individual basis the links to their own objectives:

- ◆ **Community Resources** – Greenspace Strategy; community recreation
- ◆ **Corporate Resources** – safe and healthier communities; promotion of healthy lifestyles
- ◆ **Education Resources** – Curriculum for Excellence; Health Promotion Schools; Active Schools programme
- ◆ **Enterprise Resources** – Regeneration; Transport Initiatives; Community Growth
- ◆ **Housing and Technical Resources** – Anti –Social Behaviour; Diversionary Activities
- ◆ **Social Work Resources** – Integrated facilities/services
- ◆ **South Lanarkshire Leisure** – Opportunities for participation; healthy lifestyles; coach education
- ◆ **NHS Lanarkshire** – Childhood obesity; active lifestyles

3.6. The LSIG links in to the Community Planning agenda through the Health and Care Partnership.

4. Update on Progress

- 4.1. Four key strategic goals are at the heart of the strategy, namely increasing participation, providing pathways into physical activity, improving access and building stronger partnerships.
- 4.2. The Strategy contains both long and short term actions to achieve these goals as it is expected that some goals will take many years to achieve significant change but steps are now being taken to set the correct direction.
- 4.3. In terms of infrastructure, progress has been made in relation to the implementation of the Council's capital investment programme vis a vis facilities at Carluke, Lanark and Fairhill and the Schools Modernisation Programme (SMP), although the unexpected level of works required at the Dollan Aqua Centre has meant that feasibility studies planned for three other facilities has had to be put on hold.
- 4.4. The last year has also seen the introduction of a number of new developments which will hopefully augur well for improving the health and physical activity levels of individuals living in South Lanarkshire:
 - ◆ The piloting of a new transport initiative in the Clydesdale area whereby children from rural areas have been bussed in to Biggar Sports Centre over an eight week period.
 - ◆ Through funding from NHS Lanarkshire, the establishment of the 'Active Communities ' initiative designed to encourage sedentary adults into non-traditional physical activity such as cycling ,walking and gardening
 - ◆ The opening of three new facilities at Uddingston, Lesmahagow and Fairhill
- 4.5. Progress has also been made in terms of increasing participation across the population, with a 6.9 % increase in over 60's attendances (273 821) and a 38% increase in U16's usage of outdoor facilities (250 349).
- 4.6. Through the work of the LSIG, stronger partnerships are also being built with both internal and external agencies, in particular with NHS Lanarkshire.

- 4.7. Cross-resource working has also enabled the efficient and effective signposting of both individuals and initiatives to particular areas/officers of the Council where previously it might have been achieved by a more circuitous route. The direct contacts made between Enterprise, Community, SLL and the Rural Transport Scheme in developing the above mentioned transport initiative is one such example.
- 4.8. Furthermore, although established to drive forward the Leisure Strategy the Group has also become a consultative forum for other areas such as Community Growth and the Greenspace Strategy, and it is anticipated will become an important cross-resource forum for future issues relating to health in the community, the reduction of crime and disorder, social inclusion and environmental enhancement.
- 4.9. Appendix 1 highlights some of the high level performance information for 2009/2009 for South Lanarkshire Leisure.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1. It is proposed that work continues on developing the action plan for 2009/10 in relation to issues arising from the revised 'Connect' priorities and SLC's Single Outcome Agreement.
- 5.2. It is important to continue to emphasize that the Leisure Strategy is not seen as the sole premise of SLL, but that all Resources have a role to play in its successful implementation and so it is anticipated that next year more specific commitments on physical activity will begin to appear in resource/service plans, reviews and strategies demonstrating coordinated action and mainstreaming across the Council.
- 5.3. In order to clarify the role of the Leisure Strategy and the fact that it encompasses the whole range of physical activity it is suggested that a working title be adopted which has more emphasis on physical activity rather than leisure.
- 5.4. A change in the title will also help distinguish the strategy as being the Council's rather than South Lanarkshire Leisure's, a confusion which has arisen in the past.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Inevitably, for some proposals contained in the strategy Council Resources may require to further assess financial impacts and balance these against the social and environmental impacts in line with the principles of continuous improvement and best value.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. None

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 9.2. A comprehensive consultation exercise was carried out in the initial development of the Leisure Strategy.

Norrie Anderson

Executive Director (Community Resources)

21 May 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Development services for older people
- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Increase involvement in lifelong learning
- ◆ Improve community safety
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Improve lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Support the local economy by providing the right conditions for growth, improving skills and employability

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Leisure Strategy – equal opportunities impact assessment
- ◆ Leisure Strategy 2007 to 2011

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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Swimming Pool Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
1,248,714	1,418,510	-12%

Figures down on last year due to closures i.e. Dollan Aqua centre

Other Indoor Sports & leisure facilities Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
1,380,909	1,298,975	+6.3%

Figures up on last year due to new facilities opening i.e. Fairhill

Development Services Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
261,612	251,262	+4.1%

Outdoor Recreation Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
673,798	646,309	+4.3%

Golf Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
163,682	208,723	-21.6%

Figures down on last year due poor weather conditions during the year.

Concessions

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
183,376	191,680	-4.3%

Figures down on last year due to closures i.e. Dollan Aqua centre

Activage Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
273,821	256,192	+6.9%

Under 16s Free Outdoor Pitch Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
250,349	180,586	+38.6%

Under 16s Free Indoor Club Attendance

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
25,610	-	-

Programme in place since July 2008. 84 teams now registered under the scheme.

User Satisfaction rate

2008/09	2007/08	Difference
97%	97%	0.00%

