

Report

7

Report to:	Community Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	3 September 2013
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Update on Development of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ update the Committee on work carried out to date on the development of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017 and to obtain approval to carry out a consultation exercise as part of its development

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that consultation is carried out as part of the development of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017.

3. Background

3.1. In 2006, a dedicated sports pitch strategy was developed in line with SportsScotland guidance. The lifespan of that Strategy is complete and this report outlines proposals for a new Pitch Strategy that will help inform the future provision and development of pitches across South Lanarkshire.

3.2. Although the Pitch Strategy will be able to operate as a stand-alone document, it will also have strong links to the overarching Physical Activity and Cultural Strategy.

4. Current Position

4.1. Work on the new Strategy is on schedule for it being operational on 1 April 2014. The Strategy will consider the various uses of the Council's sports pitches with particular focus on the seven main pitch sports of football, rugby, hockey, cricket, baseball, shinty and American football.

4.2. The Strategy will take account of 116 full size grass pitches, 19 synthetic pitches, 7 blaes pitches, 95 5-side and 7-side pitches and 65 associated changing facilities. A key consideration of the Pitch Strategy will be the condition of changing facilities and how these feed into the Council's Thematic Review of Property.

- 4.3. The new Strategy will highlight the significant investment the Council has made since the 2006 Strategy through the creation of new pitches as a result of the Community and Enterprise capital programme and the Schools' Modernisation Programme. It will also recognise the increase in quality and type of provision and improved maintenance regimes whilst proposing new and innovative ways of continuing to develop our pitch portfolio.
- 4.4. The following structure is proposed for the new pitch strategy:

<i>Executive Summary</i>
<i>Introduction</i>
<i>Section 1 – Previous Strategy 2006</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of 2006 strategy, achievements against 2006 strategy
<i>Section 2 – National and Local Policy Context</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> covering National context, local context, equalities, environmental sustainability, links to health, links to other strategic documents, governance arrangements, consultation.
<i>Section 3 – 2014 to 2017 Strategy Principles and Strategic Process</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> including pitch supply and demand developments since 2006 strategy, annual theoretical carrying capacity for full size football pitches, theoretical carrying capacity for synthetic pitches, other sports and informal play, condition of pitches, condition of associated changing facilities, demographic influences.
<i>Section 4 –Future Provision</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> including strategic aims and objectives, financial considerations, future maintenance arrangements, training sites, access to SLLC managed pitches, access to pitches within Education portfolio, artificial surface pitches, multi-use games areas, leased junior football clubs, recreational and open space.
<i>Action Plan</i>

5. Consultation Arrangements

- 5.1. It is proposed that a consultation exercise is undertaken to ascertain the various requirements of pitch users throughout South Lanarkshire. The consultation will seek the views of existing clubs, informal users, the general public, governing bodies (e.g. Sportscotland) and any other relevant internal and external stakeholders.
- 5.2. A variety of methods will be used to gather information including meetings, workshops, questionnaires, exit surveys and opinion meters. Information will be collated on type of sport, age of user, location used and type of user as well as user and non-user perceptions of cost, access arrangements and the condition of pitches and associated facilities.
- 5.3. It is anticipated that the consultation exercise will be undertaken during the period from 1 October 2013 to 31 January 2014. The information gathered will then be analysed to help inform the future direction set within the new Pitch Strategy.
- 5.4. The consultation exercise will be carefully managed to ensure that those being consulted with do not have their expectations raised beyond a deliverable level.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no employee implications at this stage.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Financial implications will be considered through the development process.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. There are no significant risks or sustainability issues associated with this proposal

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. Work on an Equality Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Sports Pitch Strategy 2014 to 2017 is underway and progressing in line with the development of the strategy. A Health Impact Assessment is also being developed for the strategy.
- 9.2. Consultation will be carried out as detailed in paragraph 5.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

13 August 2013

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Efficient and Effective use of Resources

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Sports Pitch Strategy 2006

Contact for Further Information

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

David Booth, Operations Manager

Ext: 5302 (Tel: 01698 455302)

E-mail: david.booth@southlanarkshire.gov.uk