

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 13th October 2014

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Community and Leisure – Councillor Carter

PART I **KEY DECISION**

LEISURE STRATEGY

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to advise Cabinet of progress in implementing the Leisure Strategy approved at its meeting in July. The strategy is designed to get more people more active more often. The report describes two strands of activity. The first is to modernise core leisure facilities, including ice. The second is to implement a community based programme of activity that brings leisure opportunities close to where people live in open spaces and community venues, particularly targeting those who are least active.

2 Recommendations

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- (a) That the Assistant Director for Community and Skills be authorised to implement the next steps as set out in section 9 of this report, following consultation with the Commissioner for Community and Leisure, including:
- i. Agree the best scheme for the ice arena for the budget available, working initially with Morgan Sindall through the Slough Regeneration Partnership.
 - ii. Develop and assess options to make a recommendation for a new leisure centre.
 - iii. Develop a 5 year implementation plan for the leisure strategy.

3 Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- **Economy and skills**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Regeneration and environment**
- **Safer Slough**
- **Civic responsibility**
- **Improving the town's image**

- 3.1 All the actions within the Leisure Strategy will contribute towards achieving the overarching vision of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy and will make significant contributions specifically to the health, wellbeing and safer Slough themes.

- **Health and Wellbeing.** Cabinet in July 2014 approved a strategy for leisure, with the overarching aim to "enhance the health and wellbeing of Slough residents by ensuring

leisure activity is adopted as a habit for life for all – more people, more active, more often”. The causal link between physical activity and overall health indicators is clear, particularly for obesity and heart disease, which are high priorities for Slough.

- **Safer Slough.** The opportunity to participate in shared leisure activities makes a positive contribution to community cohesion and interaction for all members of the varied and diverse community in Slough.
- **Regeneration and environment.** Leisure facilities, both open spaces and buildings, can be used for leisure purposes, contributing to the quality of the environment of the town. They provide opportunities to regenerate specific sites and local communities.

3.2 This will be one of a group of strategies that underpin and enable the Wellbeing Strategy. Each addresses a specific area of activity and links with and reinforces the strategic aims and objectives of others. All are linked by the common vision of the Wellbeing Strategy.

4 **Other Implications**

4.1 Financial

A more complete plan for revenue and capital investment for up to five years will be available for Cabinet in December as part of the updated strategy. At this stage, the main financial strands are:

- £1.463m related capital investment in this year’s programme predominantly for repairs and maintenance to existing facilities.
- £3.5m earmarked for future improvements to the ice arena subject to final approval.
- £450k over 3 years allocated for small capital improvements in community venues including parks for leisure purposes.

4.2 There is currently no confirmed capital budget for major new leisure development other than ice in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

4.3 Risk Management

| Risk | Mitigating action | Opportunities |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Legal | None at this stage | |
| Property | A detailed facilities options appraisal will be done as part of the development of the Leisure Strategy | |
| Human Rights | None | |
| Health and Safety | None | |
| Employment Issues | None | |
| Equalities Issues | The strategy focuses on identified priority groups, but will maintain opportunities for all. There will be a clear link between local dispersed provision and the ability of priority groups to engage | Improved access to quality facilities will contribute to increasing levels of activity by Slough residents |
| Community Support | User and non user information has been used to inform the strategy. | Further consultation will be undertaken as proposals are developed |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Communications | None | |
| Community Safety | None | |
| Financial | See section 4.1 | |
| Timetable for delivery | None | Link with contract ending in 2017 |
| Project Capacity | None | |

4.4 Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no direct Human Rights Act or other legal implications arising from this report.

4.5 Property Implications

Evidence gathered from technical surveys suggests that capital funding in excess of £6m would be required to comprehensively refurbish the Montem Leisure Centre. In July Cabinet decided to move the main leisure facility from this site. In December Cabinet will receive an assessment of potential alternative locations that will balance best value (capital and revenue) with the desire to get more people, more active more often.

4.6 The refurbishment of the Ice Arena will substantially improve the appearance of the building internally and externally. It is anticipated that around circa £3m would be spent with the next 5-10 years on planned maintenance.

4.7 The current programme for capital investment in leisure facilities is summarised in section 4.1. The property implications are:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Montem | Maintenance and repairs for 3-5 years only pending decision on new pool |
| Ice | Maintenance and repairs to summer 2015 only, then major refurbishment |
| Langley | Maintenance and repairs for 20 year life |
| Centre | Maintenance and repairs for 3-5 years pending decision on new pool |
| Ten pin | Maintenance and repairs for 20 year life |

4.8 Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed for new leisure facilities when those plans have been developed.

4.9 Workforce

There are no direct workforce implications arising from this report.

5 Progress in implementing the leisure strategy

5.1 **Strategy development**

Cabinet agreed the leisure strategy in July. The strategy has the following overarching outcome:

“That the health and wellbeing of Slough residents is enhanced by ensuring that physical activity through sport and leisure pursuits is adopted as a habit for life for all - **more people, more active, more often.**”

5.2 This outcome will be achieved by maintaining levels for those who are currently active and engaging more people in active lifestyles.

1. 5% more active Slough adults than in 2013 (63% increased to 68%)
2. 1% fewer children reported as overweight or obese in reception and at year 6 in the highest rate wards

- 5.3 The strategy is closely interlinked with wellbeing and health and with the emerging parks strategy to improve access and use of parks and open spaces. Performance will be measured through measures of participation showing the impact on target groups and also the reach and use of locally based improvement in facilities and its use.
- 5.4 A steering group comprising officers as well as the Commissioners for Community and Leisure, Environment and Open Spaces, and Health and Wellbeing, has been set up to ensure momentum and focus in implementing the leisure strategy is maintained.
- 5.5 At the heart of the strategy are two inter-related programmes to improve opportunities for local people to participate in physical activity. Together, these address the imperative to maintain current use and to reach out to new audiences and engage those most in need of support. They will drive the procurement of operational management of the council's leisure centres contract from 2017.
- 1) **Improvements to core leisure facilities.** This includes new provision to meet future needs for a pool and associated market desirable functions and refurbishing and upgrading the ice arena, as well as retaining the Langley leisure centre and potentially developing a football focused community sports facility. These facilities will maintain and build on existing strengths in participation.
 - 2) **Community leisure programme.** The most effective way to get more people more active is to take leisure programmes and small scale facilities into local communities close to where people live in open spaces, parks and community venues. This is revenue intensive, making use of staff time and community champions to engage people. Examples of opportunities include outdoor gyms, walking trails, tai chi areas, dance, pilates, zumba, MUGAs or skate boarding. The Community Sports Activation Fund (CSAF) programme from August 2014 is testing how these principles.
- 5.6 This strategy proposes investment in new core leisure facilities, which would be designed to meet identified demand and be efficient to operate. This should mean the council's current management fee of £330,000 a year would be reduced to zero.
- 5.7 The community leisure programme would require smaller seed corn investments in equipment and facilities at an estimated cost of £150,000 a year for three years. Additional funding would be secured through contributions in return for health and community outcomes and an increased role for community and voluntary sector partners.
- 5.8 This strategy marks a significant shift from capital intensive investment to more flexible revenue funded activities to engage local people. This would would require a further £50,000 a year investment to run activities and events and work with local organisations and champions to develop a cost neutral and sustainable programme. This will be put forward as a separate growth bid for 2015/16.

6 Progress to date

- 6.1 Progress in implementing the strategy to date includes:
- Consultants appointed to work with council officers to develop a 5 year plan for the strategy and advise on options for leisure facilities.
 - Capital budgets established for ice arena refurbishment and the community leisure programme.
 - Community Sports Activation Fund programme started.
 - Structural survey of the ice arena.

- Leisure strategy steering group established.
- Eltham playing pitches opened for use August 2014.
- £10,000 and practical support secured for the project from Sport England
- Outdoor rowing and canoeing centre soft launch in November 2014 and full opening in the Spring 2015

6.2 **Community Sport Activation Fund (CSAF)**

A 3 year 'Get Active' programme has been funded through Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund, with the Council receiving £195,000 from Sport England and a further £182,000 from other partners and sources including Premiership Rugby.

- 6.3 The programme aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity, encouraging individuals to take part in at least 30 minutes of sporting activity, once a week. The programme targets young people not in education, employment or training, women and people with a disability living in Baylis and Stoke, Britwell, Foxborough and Wexham.
- 6.4 Over the next three years the funding will provide opportunities for local people to take part in a wide range of sports and activities including multi sports sessions, netball, disability wheelchair sports, rowing and canoeing, zumba, boxing and basketball. Schools across the borough will also be visited by a touring disability road show throughout the year, in partnership with Arbour Vale School, where pupils can take part in a variety of disability sports.
- 6.5 Many activities will be delivered in our parks and open spaces ensuring they are fully accessible to the local community. This will target those that do very little or no exercise to encourage more people to form new habits of physical activity to reduce the incidence of obesity and improve mental health and well being. A reward card will be available to everyone signing up to the programme with incentives linked to free physical activity opportunities in partnership with Slough Community Leisure.
- 6.6 The programme will recruit up to 30 individuals each year to develop coaching skills and gain a level 1-2 qualification in their chosen sport. This will provide a pool of suitably qualified individuals to carry on the programme when funding ends in 2017. Recipients of the training will be required to volunteer up to 30 hours of coaching in their community once they have achieved their qualifications.
- 6.7 The programme was launched over the summer with welcoming sports festivals in each ward and started on 22 September. 80 people so far have registered with the scheme.

7 **Ice arena development**

- 7.1 Cabinet in July agreed that the ice arena should be refurbished and given a stronger presence to the A4 frontage as a priority. Since July a structural survey has been completed and through the Slough Regeneration Partnership, Morgan Sindall have been engaged to develop designs and plans, working with GT Architects. This will take into account site layout and future development opportunities at the Montem Lane site.
- 7.2 The budget for the project is £3.5m. The main features of the design include:
- Two storey extension to provide a striking and welcoming frontage to the A4
 - Building re-clad to improve its appearance and impact
 - Long term solution to roof issues
 - Replace ice plant
 - Introduce light and colour to the interior

- Refurbish seating and area surrounding the rink
- New entrance and reception area and space for café
- Space that can be developed later by the leisure contractor for adventure activities

8 Leisure facilities development

8.1 Leisure consultants FMG, in partnership with CJ Consilium, the Sport, Leisure and Culture Consultancy and GT Architects, have been appointed to work with the council to:

- Review current and future needs, supply of facilities in the area and future demand.
- Assess the market viability of facilities that could be included in a new leisure centre to replace Montem.
- Review site options and provide information on feasibility and costs.
- Advise on funding options and re-procurement of the leisure contract in 2017.
- Produce a 5 year action plan to implement a community leisure programme as well as facility improvements.

9 Next steps

9.1 Cabinet in December will receive a report detailing progress and seeking authorisation to progress in implementing the leisure strategy, including the following:

- Proposed scope and location and budget for a new leisure facility
- Developed design, costs and timetable to refurbish and extend the ice arena
- Five year plan to implement the leisure strategy
- Assessment of options to finance and manage SBC facilities, including links with the leisure services contract expiring in June 2017
- Finalised parks strategy showing how this supports and enables the leisure strategy

9.2 There will be consultation with local people in the autumn to make sure the council's 5 year plan meets needs as effectively as possible.

10 Comments of other committees

10.1 None.

11 Conclusion

11.1 This report outlines how the leisure strategy approved by Cabinet in July 2014 is being implemented. The strategy will ensure investment in core facilities to maintain current participation in physical activity, and in particular, the community leisure programme will reach out and enable residents to be more active in ways that fit with their lifestyles and needs in localities where they live. Targeted capital and revenue investment will mean more people are more active more often, which will deliver significant health benefits and longer term savings in health costs, as well as enhancing individuals' quality of life.

Appendices Attached

None

Background papers

Leisure Strategy. Cabinet report, 14 July 2014