

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Slough Wellbeing Board **DATE:** Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Roger Parkin – Director of Customer & Community Services  
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875241  
Alison Hibbert – Head of Culture & Sport  
(01753) 875896

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **GET ACTIVE SLOUGH - A 5 YEAR LEISURE STRATEGY FOR SLOUGH**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report is to advise Slough Wellbeing Board of progress in implementing the Slough Leisure Strategy – “Get Active Slough”. The strategy is designed to target those not taking regular physical exercise to get more people more active more often. The report presents the proposed five year plan for community leisure development including the replacement of Montem Leisure Centre, a programme of small capital schemes aimed at improving facilities at a neighbourhood level in our parks and open spaces and a comprehensive physical activity programme targeting areas of the town with high levels of inactivity. The Wellbeing Board is also advised that the newly adopted Parks and Open Spaces Strategy plays a key role in getting local people more active and is closely interlinked with the leisure-wellbeing strategy.

##### **2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Board is requested to resolve that:

- (a) That the Slough Wellbeing Board note this report and support its objectives as described.
- (b) That where possible due consideration is given to how the Board can provide proactive support and where possible budget to assist in delivering the proposed outcome

##### **3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

###### **3a Slough Joint 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.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

- By offering a wider choice of accessible leisure facilities and programmes more people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs by participating more regularly in physical activities which are proven to enhance both physical and emotional wellbeing
- Children and young people are a priority target group for increased participation in sport, play and physical activity which also contributes to targets and outcomes identified in the obesity strategy.
- The leisure capital improvement programme will maximise income and the value of our leisure assets will be maximised

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

Within the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) capital programme, funding has been allocated for a number of leisure projects. The main 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.
- £540k for capital improvements to Baylis Park
- £2.3m Section 106 funds, including commuted sums, allocated to parks and leisure priorities

There is currently no confirmed capital budget for major new leisure development other than ice in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Further allocations of major capital funding will be considered as part of the detailed design development of any new facilities and will be presented to Cabinet in July 2015.

(b) **Risk Management**

Legal	None at this stage	
Property	A detailed facilities options appraisal will be carried out as part of the development of the Leisure Strategy and will be presented to Cabinet in July 2015	Release sites for housing regeneration that will generate a capital receipt

Human Rights	None	
Health and Safety	This will be addressed for new facilities as they are developed	
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	5 year action plan produced and draft capital programme in place	Link with contract ending in 2017
Project Capacity	Working Group established and lead officer appointed.	

#### Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications.

#### Equalities Impact Assessment

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

#### (c) Workforce

There are no workforce implications

### 5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Cabinet agreed the leisure strategy “Get Active Slough” in July 2014, which has been developed to achieve the overarching outcome of **more people, more active, more often**. 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

“Get Slough Active” is central to improving wellbeing and health outcomes. It is a key driver for the parks strategy. The updated draft parks strategy for the Council (summary attached as Appendix A) identifies strategic parks and priorities for development. This feeds into the overarching leisure strategy and will enable improvements that will encourage more people to use parks to improve their levels of activity which will help the community derive more benefit from the many parks that are in the town.

## 5.2 Five year plan for community leisure

- 5.2.1 The outline action plan for a five year community leisure programme (dispersed strategy) is included as Appendix B. Plans to increase community participation include negotiating enhanced levels of public access to school swimming pools, sports halls and playing fields, and targeted investment in locally accessible venues including particularly parks, as well as the Community Sports Activation Fund programme “Get Active”. This complements work by schools and sports clubs as well as play provision.
- 5.2.2 The community leisure programme will reach out to and engage people who are not currently active to encourage them to take exercise close to where they live or work. There will be facilities and programmed activities and outreach activities to develop new users and act as a bridge to the main leisure facilities and in turn encourage their use.
- 5.2.3 The strategy gives priority to increasing participation of children, young people and women. Key wards with poor health outcomes and low participation will be prioritised, particularly Baylis and Stoke, Britwell and Northborough, Foxborough and Wexham Lea, but there will be activities and improvements across all parts of the borough. Implementation is already in progress.
- 5.2.4 Capital funding of £150,000 a year for the next three years and revenue funding of £50,000 has been allocated to develop community facilities and build local programming. Investment will include simple and accessible facilities like walking and trim trails, outdoor gyms or MUGAs at a convenient location in an outdoor community venue, including particularly parks. This shows the intent of the Council in investing in improving health outcomes, but it is a priority to secure further funding through partners to embed and extend the improvements. Work is currently underway to install new equipment in Bloom Park, Mercian Recreation Ground and Godolphin Playing Field.

## 5.3 Main Leisure Facilities

- 5.3.1 A team of consultants led by FMG have assessed all available evidence of community needs for leisure. This included data from Sport England, local demographic trends information, and some user and non user surveys, as well as consultation with schools and the sports community and governing bodies. This work identified some special factors affecting leisure provision in the borough, including:
- Significant population growth
  - Unmet demand for swimming time at pools
  - Importance of a central venue to be accessible to more people
  - Charging and programming sensitive for some parts of the community
- 5.3.2 Evidence from the review proposed the following facility mix to replace the Montem Leisure Centre to meet future needs for the next 10-20 years.
- Minimum 8 lane swimming pool
  - 125m<sup>2</sup> learner pool
  - 100-125 station gym
  - 3 studios (2 fitness studios and a spinning studio)
  - 5 court sports hall
  - 2 squash courts
- 5.3.3 The leisure strategy capital programme identifies four major leisure schemes for major development and improvement works over the next five years. These include:
1. Refurbishment and improvement works to Langley Leisure Centre
  2. Refurbishment and improvement works to Slough Ice Arena
  3. Re-provision of the Montem Leisure Centre on the The Centre site

4. Development of a new community sports facility on the Arbour Park site

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

A follow up report will be taken to Cabinet in July 2015 with final, fully costed business cases for the proposed capital programmes.

7. **Conclusion**

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.

8. **Appendices Attached**

'A' Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - Summary

'B' Leisure strategy 5 year action plan

9. **Background Papers**

None