

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Update

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Entertainment and Leisure

28 March 2023

Exempt

None

Purpose

To give an update on the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and the Indoor and Built Facilities strategy currently being undertaken by external leisure consultants Knight, Kavanagh & Page.

Recommendations

- 1) to endorse the approach outlined in the update.
- 2) to approve the timetable in bringing the strategies to Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee following receipt and processing of final drafts.

Executive Summary

The draft versions of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport strategy and Indoor and Built Facilities strategy were recently received by officers, and after an initial appraisal there are some areas of the documents that officers would like to see amended and some greater depth investigated in areas where there are perceived gaps. Amendments to the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport strategy propose the inclusion of facilities and clubs within close proximity of the border of the borough that officially reside within Lichfield but predominantly serve Tamworth residents and are not included in the equivalent Lichfield strategy document. With regards to the feasibility of a new leisure centre for the Gungate development, the initial indications are that there is no demand for a full complement of traditional leisure centre provisions, so a tailored approach looking at specific dryside provision is now being investigated by the consultants. The new scope, which will add value to the outputs, is impacting on the expected timeline from the initial specification.

The outcomes of these adaptations have the potential to change some of the current draft recommendations, so there is a risk at this point discussing the draft documents and is premature given the potential scope of change.

There have been no discussions of the strategy findings with any elected member, and officers are still analysing, digesting and processing the copious amounts of data held within the reports. The final drafts of the reports are expected at the end of April 2023 which includes addressing the current proposed amendments. It is suggested that a more detailed update can be presented for consideration later in the year, to fit with the scrutiny committee workplan.

Financial Implications

There are no expected financial implications due to recommended delay, amendments, and adaptations.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

N/A

Equalities Implications

N/A

Sustainability Implications

Consideration of these strategies collectively at final draft stage will ensure that none are undertaken in isolation. In completing each area of work in this way it remains relevant, fit for purpose, future proof and as sustainable as possible at the current time.

Background Information

The Council needed to renew the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport strategy and Indoor and Built Facilities strategy as part of the data and evidence required for the local plan. The data produced from these documents will enable the authority to make informed decisions on its future leisure offer. The production of the leisure strategy documents were procured via tender and the consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page were the successful submission. These documents have a projected completion date of the end of April 2023.

Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment

The Council's five year Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment was due to be undertaken in 2019 and was then delayed further by the covid19 pandemic. This assessment was last fully reviewed in 2008 and subsequently refreshed in 2014. Due to the changing demographic of Tamworth and the impact of covid19 on sports facility usage a full update of this document was procured. In order to align with current Sport England led strategy this will now comprise of two separate documents, those being the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport strategy and Indoor and Built Facilities strategy.

Gungate Leisure Feasibility Study

The 2020 masterplan for the development of the Gungate site included a leisure facility and as such, a feasibility study was required to understand both the current community demand and the most economic delivery method and model for the site should the needs analysis recommend this.

Report Author

Karen Moss – Sports Development Manager

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