



Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: 2nd March 2020

Title: Review Sports & Activity Development Plan

Purpose of the Report: To request that Members consider an external review of the previously endorsed Sports & Activity Development Plan to ensure it remains fit for purpose and representative of parish wide need.

Contact Officer: Ian Haynes – Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Corporate Objective/s	Objective 38: To seek to maintain and enhance sporting provision
Implications:	
Financial	That a maximum of £2,500 be allocated for the purpose of the revision which is to be met from Code 4110/230 – Grounds Maintenance.
Human Resources	None
Operational/Service delivery	To provide the Town Council with a better understanding of current need around the subject of sporting provision and facilities within the Parish.
Procedural/Legal	
Risk/Health and Safety	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the proposals are to:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To Endorse the external review of the Sports & Activity Development Plan and the Action Plan, with a maximum of £2,500 being allocated to fund the review from 4110/230 (Grounds Maintenance Budget)

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Town Council has sought the creation of a Sport and Physical Activity development plan so that it can try and help adopt a holistic approach to the provision of sport and physical activity across its geographical area.
- 2.2 The plan seeks to assess current club and activity provision, the facilities that support these activities, and estimate future facility needs and requirements to ensure that good quality, sustainable demand-led facilities and activities remain available to its residents.
- 2.3 The scope of the plan was to review existing and projected facility stock, a detailed overview of sporting provision available through the sporting club network, together with an overview of non-club-based opportunities available through the Leisure Centre, Community Centres and the Parks and Open Spaces across the Town. It also looked at the support and resources available through national and local sporting agencies and the opportunities to for possible partnership working to try and secure a future inward investment to help satisfy the demand of an increasing and ageing population.
- 2.4 Significantly the plan includes a number of potential partnership actions which, if jointly implemented, will positively impact upon the Town's vision to 'improve what we have, to try and create new facilities and work in partnership to ensure that we have excellent quality and sustainable sport and physical activity opportunities for the town.
- 2.5 The Leighton-Linslade Sport and Physical Activity Development Plan sets out the possible actions that could be undertake in order to invoke the vision presented below:

Sport & Physical Activity Opportunities – from the beginner's first steps through to competitive games; for all ages and abilities; Leighton-Linslade will be a place to take part in sport and physical activity for fitness, competition and community fun.

Investing our time, using our influence; the Council will try and improve what we have, by looking at how we can create new facilities and work in partnership to ensure we have excellent quality and sustainable sport and physical activity opportunities in Leighton-Linslade

- 2.6 In creating this document, the following list of actions and processes have guided the creation of the action plan;
- Review current sport provision in Leighton-Linslade

- Provide a Plan that is considered fit for purpose by potential funders in securing valuable funding to develop new and existing facilities.
- Provide information to assist with the existing provision of outdoor sports space and its improvement.
- Provide an up to date audit of facilities available for outdoor sports, to assist the public and sporting groups to access sporting facilities.
- Consider implications of corporate documents including the Central Bedfordshire Council Leisure Strategy
- Inform sport and physical activity development opportunities and initiatives.
- Consider the importance of the public health agenda and the role that sport and physical activity has to play in this area.
- Encourage and facilitate community use of outdoor facilities on education sites.
- Help inform responses to planning policy, particularly the standard for outdoor pitch and play provision in association with existing and new development.
- Inform policies to protect sites for outdoor sport and physical activity from inappropriate development, particularly those identified as being of particular importance for the delivery of outdoor sport and physical activity in Leighton -Linslade.
- Consider who the key strategic and delivery partners are and how they can help inform and deliver this development plan.

2.7 The action plan has been prepared in tabular format and forms appendix A. The areas covered within the action plan includes and identifies the following:

- New facility provision.
- Upgrading and refurbishing existing facility provision.
- Making the most of;
 - Existing facility provision.
 - Enhancing access.
 - The Cycling Parish.

- Strategic and delivery partnerships.
- Possible Community Asset Transfers.
- Programme awareness and availability.

2.8 The purpose, to review the document by way of a light touch engagement exercise in order to ensure that the outcomes remain salient.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Whilst it is fair to say that in isolation, the Town Council has little opportunity to deliver all of the Sports & Activity Development Plan actions plan points. However, the development plan sets out some good “starting blocks” to build going forward and will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it develops at the same rate that the Town does. Even if the development plan only helps to inform responses to planning policy, particularly the standard for outdoor pitches and play provision in association with existing and new developments, this alone should be considered a positive outcome.