

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE – 19 AUGUST 2019

REPORT ON: DUNDEE SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY UPDATE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO.: 263-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update elected members on the progress of Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy 2016-2026.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Notes the progress to date with a number of key actions identified within the strategy.
- b) Approve the continued development of the strategy through completion of actions, which aligns with the sportscotland partnership agreement and Physical Activity Strategy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications resulting from this update report. It is emphasised that, as with the format of the previous strategy (Item V of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on 31st October 2016, report 340-2016 refers) the financial implications noted in Appendix 1 represent the estimated funding required to complete these projects. It is noted that not all these projects are contained within the existing Capital Plan 2019-24 although as the Plan is a rolling investment programme individual projects are considered for inclusion accordingly when this Plan is reviewed and submitted to Committee for approval on an annual basis.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Reference is made to Item V of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on 31st October 2016, report number 340-2016, where the Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy was agreed. Since then a number of actions have been completed and others have made significant progress. This report provides an update on these highlights and provides an update for all actions contained in the strategy (Appendix 1).

4.2 Since the publication of the Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy, strategic and operational groups, chaired by Dundee City Council, have been established involving major stakeholders to oversee the implementation of strategic actions. In addition to officers from Dundee City Council, these include Leisure and Culture Dundee, sportscotland, Scottish Football Association, Scottish Hockey and Scottish Rugby. Representation has also been widened to include Tennis Scotland, which although not part of the current strategy have welcomed the opportunity to work with the group.

4.3 Since its agreement, the Sports Pitch Strategy has been well received by stakeholders, as has the formation of the strategy groups. The strategy provides a framework for the development and management of Dundee's pitch resource, with the groups providing an important forum for governing bodies, sportscotland, Leisure and Culture Dundee, as well as the Council to progress common themes.

4.4 The Strategic Group has a partnership agreement between sportscotland, Dundee City Council and Leisure and Culture Dundee which is being developed. This builds on the very

positive relationship between all of the organisations and includes a planned investment approach towards a shared list of strategic priorities.

- 4.5 The partnership agreement will enable a review of current provision of pitches, playing fields, school sports and leisure facilities across Dundee, to ensure that an adequate variety of sporting opportunities are available throughout the city.
- 4.6 To take account of the above agreement, the remits of the Pitch Strategy Groups (Strategic and Operational) will be widened to review the current provision of facilities, identifying any gaps or over-provision, future developments, maintenance plans and replacement schedules. This work will align directly to the Physical Activity Strategy and Council's 365 schools model.
- 4.7 Active Schools, Community Sports Hubs and Community Asset Transfer have become far more prominent since the Strategy was agreed. The Strategic Group above provides a platform to integrate actions from all three with key stakeholders represented. These stakeholders have encouraged the production of this report, as they have welcomed the opportunity to further work in partnership, at a strategic level.
- 4.8 A major development contained in the strategy is the Regional Performance Centre for Sport at Caird Park. Whilst the Centre is not a result of the strategy, it is an integral and important part of the delivery of sport in Dundee and a key component of the playing pathway for participants.
- 4.9 Included in the progress of the strategy is the replacement of the pitch surface at Dawson Park. Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders identified a surface which can cater for the widest possible range of sports and abilities / levels, but conforms to the Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy, and allows both hockey and football to be played on the new surface.
- 4.10 At nearly three years into the ten year strategy, the pitch strategy groups have taken the opportunity to review the actions contained within it, both from a timeframe and implementation perspective. As the pitch user community has changed significantly, not least because of the further development of Community Sports Hubs, some actions have been taken on by specific sports communities – such as provision of portable goals (G3). Other actions relied on external funding being sourced by partners (S2). There is also an additional action, identified by the pitch strategy group, at S22. To take account of the foregoing, the timeframes and recommended changes are contained in Appendix 1.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risks. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundee.gov.uk/iia.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Council Management Team has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Leisure and Culture Dundee and sportscotland have also been consulted.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Tony Boyle
Head of Environment

19 July 2019

APPENDIX 1 - Dundee Sports Pitch Strategy Actions – update
Dates in brackets have been revised.

| Strategic Actions – General | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Reference | Action Proposed | By end of | Estimated Funding Required | Lead | Progress / Action |
| G1 | Review, in discussion with governing bodies, the possible closure of pitches which are surplus to playing requirements and the centralisation of play on sites to be improved. Seek a secondment to facilitate this exercise. | 2019/20 (2017) | - | Dundee City Council | Ongoing preparations for the implementation of electronic booking system, enabling audit of pitch bookings. Audit will identify underplayed pitches. This will confirm use in terms of short and long term and inform future resource requirement. |
| G2 | Increase the number of pitches available for summer football play | 2017 | - | Dundee City Council | Complete – number of pitches satisfies demand. |
| G3 | Provide additional portable goals at appropriate sites | 2018/19 (ongoing) | £20k per annum | Dundee City Council | Clubs to provide portable goals at appropriate sites in consultation with Dundee City Council – Funding required – external, Lead – Football Clubs |
| G4 | Identify potential reserve pitches of use by rugby in inclement weather ideally at Dawson Park | 2019/2020 (2016) | - | Dundee City Council | Discussions ongoing with relevant stakeholders to identify demand. |
| G5 | In order to sustain the quality of the grass pitch stock, publish an annual audit and management plan | 2019/2020 (ongoing) | - | Dundee City Council | Ongoing preparations for the implementation of electronic booking system, enabling audit of pitch bookings. Audit will identify underplayed pitches. This will confirm use in terms of short and long term and inform future resource requirement. |

| Strategic Actions – Specific Sites | | | | | |
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| Reference | Action Proposed | By end of | Estimated Funding Required | Lead | Progress |
| S1 – Caird Park | As part of the Regional Performance Centre, provide one outdoor floodlit 3G pitch, one covered pitch suitable for football and rugby and one bookable grass pitch available for community use | 2019 | £17m | Leisure & Culture Dundee | Regional Performance Centre will be officially opened in October 2019 |
| S2 – Dawson Park | Seek to establish a partnership approach to the development of Dawson Park facilities with Abertay University/Dundee and Angus College | 2017 | - | Dundee City Council | Abertay University unsuccessful in gaining funding to develop Centre for Sport at D&A Gardyne Campus |
| S3 – Dawson Park | Resurface the Dawson Park Synthetic Pitch with a dry surface suitable for national level hockey play and multi-sports use | 2019/20 (2021) | £400k | Dundee City Council | Replacement 2G surface to be completed Summer / early Autumn 2019. |
| S4 – Dawson Park | Provide an artificial wicket and two artificial nets for cricket | 2019 (2018) | £70k | Dundee City Council | Demand for facility being investigated with local cricket clubs. |
| S5 – Dawson Park | Refurbish the changing facilities to make them appropriate for mixed gender use and able to meet the needs of DDA legislation and Child protection guidelines | 2020 | TBC | Dundee City Council | Initial discussions taken place with potential stakeholders, with a view to take forward upgrade through a partnership agreement. |
| S6 - DISC | Refurbish the watering system for the Hockey pitch | 2017 | £50k | Dundee City Council/ Leisure & Culture Dundee | Repairs completed. Options for a replacement surface being investigated, along with potential funding sources. |
| S7 - DISC | Review the maintenance regimes and the playability of the surface of the above to maximise the amenity of the site | 2016 | - | Leisure & Culture Dundee /Dundee City Council | Repairs completed. Options for a replacement surface being investigated, along with potential funding sources. |
| S8 – Dundee East Community Sports Hub | Develop a 3G full sized pitch and associated facilities at Whitton Park | 2018 | External funding | Community Sports Hub | Under construction – due to be completed by the end of June 2019. |

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| S9 – Dundee East Community Sports Hub | In the light of the above actions encourage further discussions about the best way of providing enhanced changing and social facilities integrated with existing provision | 2020 (2017) | - | Leisure & Culture Dundee / Dundee City Council | Will be considered after completion of Whitton Park 11 a side 3G. Possible second phase development. |
| S10 – Dundee North West Community Sports Hub | Provide a 3G floodlit 7 a side training pitch at Charlotte Street | 2019 | £300K | Dundee City Council | Business Case presented to pitch strategy group Dec 2018. Hub to present facility vision to DCC/Sportscotland later in 2019. |
| S11 - Dundee North West Community Hub | Encourage a partnership between the NW Hub and the new Baldrigon Academy in respect of the use of the new 3G pitch at the school | 2018 | - | Leisure & Culture Dundee | Access agreement in place between LACD and DNWCSC. Started on 1 st October 2018 for 12 months with the view to extend for a longer period. |
| S12 – Dundee North East Community Sports Hub | Investigate further the need for synthetic training facilities at Fairfield Park | 2020 | - | Community Sports Hub | Two funding bids recently rejected therefore funding required for full size pitch not achieved. Hub have taken the decision to now put in place smaller training size pitch with view to extend this in the future. |
| S13 – Dundee North East Community Hub | Following the planned asset transfer of the pavilion at Fairfield Park, support the upgrade the existing changing and other facilities | 2020 | External funding | Community Sports Hub | Drumgeith Pavilion has been transferred to Fairfield CSH through Asset Transfer and is currently under refurbishment. No current upgrades ongoing to changing facilities at Fairfield Park. |
| S14 – Dundee West End | Seek to create a new partnership involving the existing clubs, Dundee University and Harris Academy leading potentially to a new Community Sports Hub | 2017 | - | Dundee City Council | WECSH formally established. |
| S15 – Dundee West End | Following the creation of the partnership, investigate the need for additional or refurbished changing on the integrated site | 2019/2020 (2018) | - | Dundee City Council | Initially, SFA to progress with Riverside Community Sports Club. WECSH based at Harris Academy. |
| S16 – Dundee West | Seek to develop a new Community Club based around the existing pitches at Lochee Park initially for football but with the potential to grow into a | 2019 (2018) | - | Dundee City Council | Scottish FA East currently working with Ancrum Community Football Hub to create a Community Football Club in Dundee West. |

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| | Community Sports Hub | | | | Vision & purpose agreed – governance documents & legal structure in process of being developed. |
| S17 – Dundee West | Once the partnership is established, support the development of appropriate changing facilities and a minimum of a 3G floodlit 7 a side pitch | 2023 | £1m to include external funding | Dundee City Council | Scottish FA are facilitating meetings with Ancrum CSH & Lochee CSC discuss potential use of proposed 3G pitch at Kings Cross Road. Discussions are ongoing. Pavilion development at Lochee park is seen as a priority project with the proposed 3G pitch being put on hold. |
| S18 – Dundee Central | Investigate the development of a football Community Club based on the facilities at Fairmuir Park with the potential to grow into a Community Sports Hub | 2019/20 (2017) | - | Dundee City Council | Initial discussions held. SFA have recommended a thorough feasibility study is produced. Involvement of local stakeholders to discuss possible facility development. |
| S19 – Dundee Central | Once the partnership above is established, support the development of appropriate changing facilities and a minimum of a 3G floodlit 7 a side pitch | 2023 | £1m to include external funding | Dundee City Council | The need for this will be documented within the feasibility study. SFA to support group with creation of feasibility document. |
| S20 - Elliot Road | Discuss with Harris Academy FP Rugby Club the best future use of the Elliot Road site if the school relocates its main use to Riverside. | 2019/20 (2017) | - | Neighbourhood Services | School has not re-located use of sports pitches. |
| S21 - St Paul's | Consider adding floodlights to this site to maximize use especially for hockey | 2019 | tbc | Dundee City Council | Implementation of action to be determined by owners of school. |
| S22 – St John's | Additional action - Access to all weather pitch. | Tbc | Tbc | Dundee City Council | Possibility of tying into planned private synthetic pitch. |

| Strategic Actions – Management and Implementation | | | | | |
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| Reference | Action Proposed | By end of | Estimated Funding | Lead | |
| M1 | Seek to integrate the Children and Families' and Neighbourhood Services booking systems | 2019 (2017) | - | Dundee City Council | To be implemented for 2019 season, ensuring equitable booking system for all who book sports facilities. |

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| M2 | Establish an on-going pitches strategy implementation and advisory group to support the implementation of the strategy | 2017 | - | Dundee City Council | Complete – strategic / operational groups established. |
| M3 | Review the charges for synthetic pitches to stimulate demand at off-peak times | 2019 (2017) | - | Leisure & Culture Dundee | Working group established by Leisure and Culture Dundee |
| M4 | Bring all Council owned school synthetic pitches under the management of Leisure and Culture Dundee | 2019 (2018) | - | Leisure & Culture Dundee | Working group established by Leisure and Culture Dundee |

Glossary

CSH – Community Sports Hub

CSC – Community Sports Club

LACD – Leisure and Culture Dundee

DNWCSH – Dundee North West Community Sports Hub

WECSH – West End Community Sports Hub

