

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Leisure Strategy	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Presentation		

## 1 THE ISSUE

*The Council requires a Leisure Strategy to determine its investment and service delivery options for the next 25 years.*

*A key function of the leisure strategy is to form the basis for a procurement process for a new leisure contract.*

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 PD & S provides feedback on the direction of travel of the strategy based on the presentation provided

## 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

3.1 No budget decision is required at this stage. The leisure strategy provides an evidence base that will form invest to save projects that centre around the core leisure facilities. Detailed final solutions for these projects will be formed through the procurement process for the new leisure contract throughout 2014.

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

4.1 Public Health and Inequalities

## 5 THE REPORT

### Why Leisure?

## 5.1 The Cost of inactivity

This cost currently stands at an estimated £2.8 million per year in Bath and North East Somerset – We know from the Active People Survey that only 27% of adults are doing enough physical activity to benefit their health, this compares well with national level of 22%, however 43.7% of adults are doing little or no activity.

## 5.2 The Health Benefits

Exercise has been described as a ‘wonder drug’ or ‘magic pill’ which, if used in the right measures can:

- Reduce the risk of heart disease by 40 per cent
- Lower the risk of stroke by 27 per cent
- Reduce the incidence of diabetes by almost half
- Reduce the risk of recurrent breast cancer by almost half
- Lower the risk of colon cancer by over 60 per cent
- Decrease depression as effectively as Prozac

‘The scientific evidence is compelling. Physical activity not only contributes to wellbeing, but is also essential for good health. People who are physically active reduce their risk of developing major chronic diseases by up to 50%, and the risk of premature death by about 20% - 30%.’ Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, 2004.

Evidence shows that the health impact of inactivity in terms of coronary heart disease, for example, is comparable to that of smoking, and almost as great as that of high cholesterol levels.

On average, an inactive person spends 38% more days in hospital than an active person, and has 5.5% more family physician visits, 13% more specialist services and 12% more nurse visits than an active individual.

## 5.3 School Achievement

Youngsters who are active have numeracy scores, on average, 8% higher than non-participants.

## 5.4 Halting the rise in Obesity

In Bath and North East Somerset it is estimated that £45.8 million was spent by the NHS in 2010 on disease related to overweight and obesity, set to rise to £49 million in 2015. We know that in B&NES 21.5% of adults are obese, 30.6% of children in year 6 and 25.9% of children in reception (compared to 22.6% nationally) are an unhealthy weight.

## 5.5 Health Inequality

There is a life expectancy gap of 6.3 years for men and 3.5 years for women between the wards at either ends of the spectrum.

## 5.6 Social Engagement

Leisure activities are not just about helping the population to become healthier. They help bring communities together and help people to feel engaged in and part of their local community. They can help to reduce social isolation for older people and can offer families opportunities to engage with one another across generations.

### **Understanding the Problem**

- 5.7 A detailed evidence base report that will form an appendix to the leisure strategy has been developed to make an assessment of supply and demand for the key facilities contained within the Council's leisure estate. It takes into account local demographics, makes use of Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, market segmentation information, latent demand reports, current performance data and available benchmarks and best practice around facility provision.
- 5.8 A series of maps were produced to interpret the data and inform decision making.
- 5.9 Detailed condition survey reports have also been carried out on the current leisure estate showing that there is a significant backlog of maintenance and repairs that needs to be addressed and highlights the current poor condition of the facilities.
- 5.10 To ensure that the facilities are delivering the health benefits outlined in the 'Why Leisure' section above, the work to develop an evidence base seeks to understand the most effective way to drive increases in participation through the leisure estate through a clearer understanding of local need.
- 5.11 The work also seeks to make an assessment of the financial viability of different types of facilities to ensure that any recommendations and the required repairs to the buildings can be delivered in an affordable way.
- 5.12 Consultation has been carried out with a number of partners and stakeholders, particularly around Health and Wellbeing, to understand the priorities and outcomes that new developments will need to deliver against.
- 5.13 The Leisure Strategy has clear links with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and these links will be recognised in the document.

### **Initial Conclusions – The basis of a strategy**

- 5.14 Investment is required in the key leisure facilities in the three major population centres of Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton where the majority of facility visits take place to ensure they are fit for purpose and meeting local need.
- 5.15 This investment should seek to make a step change in participation in these facilities delivering the associated health and wellbeing benefits outlined in the 'Why Leisure?' section above.
- 5.16 These changes need to provide a more modern facility stock that will be more attractive to the public to help increase participation and customer satisfaction and provide opportunities to attract new people to the facilities.

- 5.17 There is a need to ensure that improvements are made on an invest to save basis with clear business cases that demonstrate financial viability to secure the long term future of these facilities.
- 5.18 That any proposed changes should be subject to consultation to ensure they meet local need.
- 5.19 That the proposals form the basis for the procurement of a new leisure contract for the Council. The procurement process will allow the Council to draw on the expertise that exists within the market place for delivering improvements to leisure, helping to refine proposals and allowing a transfer of risk from the Council to a contractor for delivery of the schemes.

## 6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 These conclusions have emerged following extensive research. The authority will wish to now undertake further consultation to establish the shape of service provision for the future by testing the assumptions and priorities that have led to these conclusions.

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Due to the investment that is required to rectify the backlog of repairs and maintenance issues, continuing to operate the facilities in their current form presents significant financial challenges and so the leisure strategy has been tasked with finding an alternative solution.

## 8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Strategic Management Team, Section 151 Officer, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Divisional Director for Environmental Services

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>Include your name and contact telephone number here</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report because they are already in the public domain, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
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