

SPORT AND LEISURE SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1** Following the progress report submitted to the Social Affairs Policy and Performance Group of 8th September 2008 it was agreed that a further report should be brought to the meeting originally scheduled for 10 February 2009 which would include an update on the review of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy.
- 1.2** The analysis of the achievements of the 2005/08 Sport and Physical Activity strategy is currently being drafted and a report will be available for circulation by late March 2009. The interim findings indicate significant improvements in the scope and quality of activity across Argyll and Bute.
- 1.3** The research and consultation process for the updated strategy which will cover the period 2009-14 has commenced and it is anticipated that the final draft will be submitted for Members consideration in April 2009.
- 1.4** The Sport and Leisure Service and Facilities Services are working in partnership with **sportscotland** to develop updated strategies for sport facilities and pitches which will sit within the overall Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. The target completion date for these strategies is December 2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** Members are asked to:
- a)** Note the achievements produced through the targets contained in the 2005 – 08 Sport and Physical Activity Strategy as evidenced in the interim findings.
 - b)** Note that the evaluation report will be finalised and circulated by late March 2009.
 - c)** Note the progress made towards the development of the new Sport and Physical Activity Strategy

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 Sport and Physical Activity Strategy: Argyll and Bute Council's first ever Sport and Physical Activity Strategy was adopted by Members in September 2005. This strategy laid out the aims, objective, targets and outcome for sport and physical activity development and delivery for three years.

3.2 A review had been undertaken to assess the outcomes of the 2005 Strategy against its targets and aims. This review is being finalised and the interim findings indicate a very positive improvement in participation rates and the range and quality of Activities available in Argyll and Bute.

3.3 The following high level results have been achieved and the detail to support these findings will be contained in the final review report;

- The Aims and target outcomes of the 2005-08 Strategy indicate an inclusive and comprehensive approach to sport and physical activity which touches all dimensions of the local community and active visitors to the area
- The 2005-08 Strategy links well with national programmes and strategies, particularly such as Active Schools and Curriculum for Excellence
- There are key indicators that show that the overall delivery of the strategy is successful. These include the national awards given to the Stramash activity programme, the measurement of adult participation in sport that puts Argyll and Bute in the top quartile in Scotland; the explosion in coaching awards taken (from 47 in 2005 to 350 in 2008)
- Overall, the Strategy shows a good vision of how to deliver national and local objectives in relation to Sport and Physical Activity with the result that the people of Argyll and Bute are being given, and are responding to, many more opportunities to participate in activities giving beneficial health, emotional wellbeing and social impacts.

3.4 A small, short life steering group has been constituted to begin consideration of the new strategy development. This group comprises Councillor D Philand, Community Services Sport & Leisure and Education Services, Facilities Services and **sportscotland**. Other partners will be invited to participate in smaller working groups.

3.5 As an integral part of the strategy development a focused workshop was held in Lochgilphead on 16th January 2009 which was attended by a wide cross section of both internal and external partners. The forty participants were divided into three areas of interest; Facilities and Infrastructure, Health and Inclusion and Sport Development. The workshops were extremely productive and will provide a valuable platform for joint planning, partnership working and sharing of staff and resources.

3.6 A series of local focus groups is planned for March to consult with the voluntary sector and local communities as well as a workshop specifically targeting outdoor learning and sports.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The review of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2005 is being finalised with collation of outcome data and setting baselines for the new strategy.

4.2 The interim findings indicate that the 2005 Strategy has provided significant improvements in participation rates across Argyll and Bute.

4.3 Consultation and development is ongoing to produce an updated strategy for Members consideration in April 2009.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

POLICY:	All actions detailed above are consistent with Council policy
FINANCIAL:	Development of a robust strategy will help guide and inform future funding decisions.
PERSONNEL:	Nil
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY:	The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy embraces the Council's policy of equality of access.
LEGAL:	Nil

Director of Community Services
25 February 2009

For further information contact:

Malcolm MacFadyen
Head of Community Regeneration
Tel: 01546 604412