



AGENDA ITEM: 8
SUMMARY

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| Report for: | Cabinet |
| Date of meeting: | 24th April 2012 |
| PART: | 1 |
| If Part II, reason: | |

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| Title of report: | Sports Policy Statement and Sports Facilities Audit |
| Contact: | <p>Cllr Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Residents and Regulatory Services</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officer: Natalie Webb, Partnerships, Policy & Innovation Team Leader (x 2743)</p> |
| Purpose of report: | To seek Cabinet approval for the Sports Policy Statement and Dacorum Borough Council's approach to sport and sports facilities. |
| Recommendations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet approve the Sports Policy Statement 2. That Cabinet adopt the Sports Facilities Audit 3. That the Sports Facilities Audit and options contained within it, (as outlined in this report in Paragraph 5 of this report) form the basis for consideration of future development for sports facilities across the Borough |
| Corporate objectives: | <p>This report links to the following objectives:</p> <p>Dacorum Delivers</p> <p>Building Community Capacity</p> <p>Regeneration</p> <p>Safe and Clean Environment</p> |
| Implications: | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no specific financial implications relating to this report</p> <p><u>Value for Money</u></p> <p>By working with partner organisations and showing DBC's commitment to sport the Council is supporting the delivery of</p> |
| 'Value For Money Implications' | |

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| | <p>such services to our community. The council's endorsement is vital in building partnerships and empowering and enabling others.</p> <p>By considering the provision of sport facilities in the Borough we are able to focus improvements to those facilities which most require funds.</p> |
| Risk Implications | <p>Commitment to sport and sports facilities across the Borough recognises its contribution to the health and wellbeing of our community and the impact that sport has on community cohesion. Without a Sports Policy Statement there is a risk to the Council's reputation, particularly amongst sport deliverers and interest groups.</p> |
| Equalities Implications | <p>Equalities Impact Assessment completed in April 2012. There are no specific equalities implications related to this report</p> |
| Health And Safety Implications | <p>There are no specific health and safety implications related to this report</p> |
| Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments | <p>Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>I have no comments to add to this report.</p> <p>S.151 Officer</p> <p>Whilst the report identifies that there are no specific financial implications relating to this report.</p> <p>Areas for future development of sports facilities across the Borough are identified in paragraph 5. Some of these improvements are currently contained in the five year Capital Programme. This policy statement provides focus for the Council's future investment priorities and can be utilised to target opportunities for external funding as they arise.</p> |
| Consultees: | <p><u>Sports Policy Statement consultees</u></p> <p><i>External:</i></p> <p>John O'Callaghan, Hertfordshire Sports Network, Club, Coach and Sports Development Officer</p> <p>Andy Criddle, Dacorum Sports Network, Chair</p> <p>Tom May, NHS Hertfordshire, Health Improvement Advanced Practitioner</p> <p>Clare McCawley, Dacorum School Sports Network, Dacorum School Sports Manager</p> <p>Ed Sandham, Sport England, Local Government Relationship Manager</p> <p>Dave Cove, CEO Sportspace- Dacorum Sports Trust</p> <p>Rebecca Dukes, Sportspace- Dacorum Sports Trust, Sports Development Manager</p> |

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| | <p>Amanda Colwill, Sportspace- Dacorum Sports Trust, Business Development Manager</p> <p>Brian Worrell, Dacorum Cultural Forum, Chair</p> <p>Brian Doran, Dacorum Festival of Culture, Chair</p> <p><i>Internal:</i></p> <p>Claire Covington, Parks and Open Spaces Manager</p> <p>Heather Overhead, Planning Officer</p> <p>Katy D'Souza, Outdoor Recreation Officer</p> <p>Joe Guiton, Team Leader, Neighbourhood Action</p> <p>Julie Still, Group Manager, Residents Services</p> <p>Gill Barber, Dacorum 2012 Officer</p> <p>David Gill, Group Manager, Partnerships and Citizen Insight</p> <p>Cllr Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder Residents and Regulatory Services</p> <p>CMT</p> <p><u>Sports Facilities Audit Steering Group:</u></p> <p>Dacorum Borough Council</p> <p>Dacorum Sports Trust</p> <p>Sport England</p> <p>Genesis Consultancy</p> <p>Hertfordshire County Council</p> <p>Hertfordshire Sports Partnership</p> <p>PCT</p> <p>Dacorum Sports Network</p> <p>Dacorum Schools Sports Partnership</p> |
| <p>Background papers:</p> | <p>The following supporting documents may be of interest:</p> <p>Sport snapshot of Dacorum produced by Sport England</p> |
| <p>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</p> | <p>SFA – Sports Facilities Audit</p> <p>STP – Synthetic Turf Pitches</p> <p>NGB – National Governing Body</p> |

BACKGROUND

1. Dacorum Borough Council has a relationship with many sports deliverers/providers such as Dacorum Sports Trust and other sports providers and networks. The Council also has good connections to wider sports interest groups and organisations such as the Dacorum Schools Sports Network and Sport England. These relationships vary enormously from formal funding arrangements to informal connections between staff.

2. The Sports Policy Statement articulates the Council's approach to Sport and formalises the Council's financial investment in sports provision. It aims to set the Council's investment in sport and sporting facilities in the context of the council's strategic priorities. The Council does not have an existing Sports Strategy or Policy, though various documents exist which relate to sport e.g. the core strategy.
3. The Sports Facilities Audit offers a comprehensive review of provision and facilities in the Borough and contains options for improvements. A sport snapshot of Dacorum compiled by Sport England is attached at Appendix B

SPORTS FACILITIES AUDIT

4. The Sports Facilities Audit (SFA) (copies in Group Rooms and on the Dacorum Borough Council website) was undertaken in 2010/11 by a group consisting of representatives of local and national groups. The scope of the strategy included a study of the availability of specific facilities.
5. The Audit identified options to address the issues identified. These are included in Chapter 10. Generally, the findings and recommendations are:
 - 5.1 Sports Halls - provision is very good - the age and the quality of some facilities means that investment will be required to ensure that modern, quality facilities are provided. The sports hall at Sportspace Tring is particularly in need of refurbishment/improvement in the very near future.
 - 5.2 Swimming Pools – Dacorum has a large amount of water space so additional pool space is not going to be required to meet the predicted future increase in population. It is important to maintain the quality of existing pools.
 - 5.3 Synthetic Turf Pitches – there is a need for investment to re-surface the STP at Sportspace Hemel Hempstead, Sportspace Tring and Sportspace Berkhamsted.
 - 5.4 Health and Fitness facilities – the quality of facilities in Dacorum is good although demand for workstations appears to be significantly higher than the current provision.
 - 5.5 Athletics Track – overall the quality of the athletics track is adequate although improvements could be made to increase its use for larger athletics meetings.
 - 5.6 Netball – there is demand for more outdoor court space across the Borough, and there is a particular lack of facilities in the Berkhamsted and Tring area. The majority of facilities do not meet the minimum NGB standards for local league and school competitions and general quality is poor. There is a demand for indoor court space.

SPORTS POLICY STATEMENT

6. The purpose of the statement is to demonstrate Dacorum Borough Council's commitment to sport. This document has been produced collaboratively with partners listed under the 'Consultees' section of this report.

7. The statement comprises of a list of commitments from the Council which will support the Council's investment in sport, support sport deliverers generally and will provide a foundation for groups making funding applications. It will also help to give a platform to potential investment and development as and when the opportunities arise. The Sports Policy Statement is attached at Appendix A

Appendix A



Dacorum Borough Council Sports Policy Statement

Background

This document has been written by Dacorum Borough Council in consultation with key relevant partners. For the purpose of this statement, the definition of Sport will be as set out by Sport England from the European Council:

'Sport means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels'.

The primary purpose of this statement is to show Dacorum Borough Council's commitment to Sport. This statement is not supported by specific funding, however it is hoped that it will help to focus existing resources and, by its existence, it will help to attract relevant funding to the Borough.

Context

Sport can help deliver the Council's Vision and priorities in the following ways:

- **Regeneration**

Exemplar buildings such as the Snow Centre and XC encourage sporting tourism to Dacorum, which in turn creates economic benefits. Good opportunities for sport to comprise part of the offer of an attractive place to live and work, therefore forms part of a package to attract investment. Having good sporting provision helps regenerate the area as a whole. A strong base of successful and active community clubs also attracts visitors into the community and enhances its reputation.

- **Safe and Clean Environment**

Active transport (walking and cycling) can reduce carbon emissions and the promotion of sport and leisure activities allows people to connect to their environment, therefore building up a level of respect for the area. Sport can help promote a safer environment as it can act as a diversionary activity for young people. Greater participation in sport can work towards reducing health inequalities and obesity in the borough. Well maintained outdoor sporting facilities, such as playing fields, can help to protect and enhance our green areas and overall environment.

- **Building Community Capacity**

Sport is closely linked with the voluntary sector; 52% of adults who volunteer do so in sport, therefore it plays an integral part of building community capacity. The majority of sport in Dacorum is delivered through community clubs which are a vibrant part of the third sector. Sport can also engage the entire community, not just participants: for example sports clubs require support in the form of treasurer's, chairpersons and other committee members. Schools also use sport to engage the wider community and collaborative work which extends beyond that of the National Curriculum.

- **Affordable Housing**

Dacorum Borough Council is committed to providing affordable housing within the Borough, sport provision is an important consideration within this to ensure that our residents have access to appropriate sports facilities and services.

- **Dacorum Delivers**

The health benefits gained from participating in exercise are important for staff and therefore may have an impact on sickness levels and performance of the workforce. By promoting physical activity within the workforce (and beyond), DBC can be an exemplar employer thus attracting a high calibre of staff and potentially reducing staff turnover.

Commitment

Dacorum Borough Council recognises the importance of sport clubs and facilities for citizens of, and visitors to, the borough. Dacorum has a thriving sport sector in which the skills and commitment of volunteers (administrators, coaches, officials, managers etc) is integral to sport delivery. Our aim is to ensure that, through Council resources and by the support of local community sports providers (such as community clubs), the Borough is able to deliver the sporting infrastructure necessary to promote participation and provide appropriate sporting opportunities for all sectors of our community. Dacorum should promote its wealth of sporting facilities and aim to be one of the most active Boroughs in Hertfordshire.

To achieve these aims, Dacorum Borough Council will:

1. Seek positive partnerships with local clubs and sporting organisations, building relationships and promoting joint working where possible
2. Maintain a relationship with Dacorum Sports Trust who deliver major sports provision to the community using sports centres owned by the council
3. Continually strive to improve the quality and quantity of sporting facilities in the Borough and endeavour to ensure that socially and geographically appropriate opportunities are available to people in Dacorum
4. Work with community sports providers who wish to expand their operations by supporting funding applications where it fits with DBC policy
5. Work towards a joined up approach on sports policy and regeneration and develop proposals that enhance sports provision in the borough
6. Promote sports and recreation through development proposals in the borough, by applying planning policies that support the provision of new open space and leisure facilities, and encourage dual use.
7. Ensure that the provision and development of sporting facilities is considered as an option for the allocation of infrastructure funding
8. Promote a healthy, motivated workforce by encouraging employees to participate in sports and physical activity
9. Enable clubs to take on some management responsibilities for the Council's sport and leisure facilities such as football clubs who may want to manage

grass pitches and facilities in order to improve them and try and develop them as the clubs own ground.

These aims will be delivered through the application of policies within the Council's Local Planning Framework (LPF), planning decisions and ongoing partnership working with the Dacorum Sports Trust and other Sports clubs/providers.

Appendix B Sport Snapshot of Dacorum produced by Sport England:

Dacorum 

How active is Dacorum?

- 21.6% of adults in Dacorum take part in sport and active recreation compared to the national average of 21.8%¹
- However, 43.4% of adults do no sport or active recreation at all¹
- And, 49.2% of adult residents in Dacorum want to start playing sport or do a bit more.²

What are Dacorum's sporting statistics?

- 10.2% of your adult residents are regular sports volunteers, compared to the national average of 7.3%³
- 28.3% are members of sports clubs, compared to 23.3% nationally⁷
- 75.6% are satisfied with sporting provision in the area, compared to 69.0% nationally⁴
- Your most popular sports for adults are: Swimming, Gym, Cycling, Athletics and Football.¹

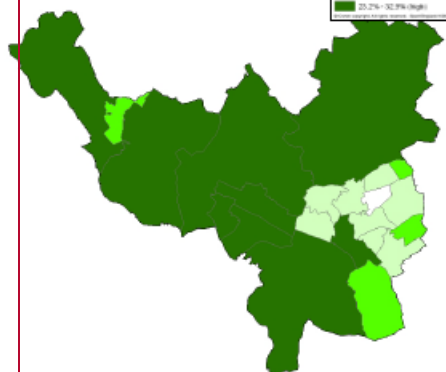
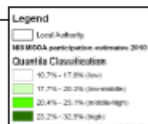
What does inactivity cost?

- The health costs of inactivity in Dacorum is at least £0.8 million per year⁶
- Nationally the cost of responding to incidents of anti-social behaviour is £3.4 billion per year⁸

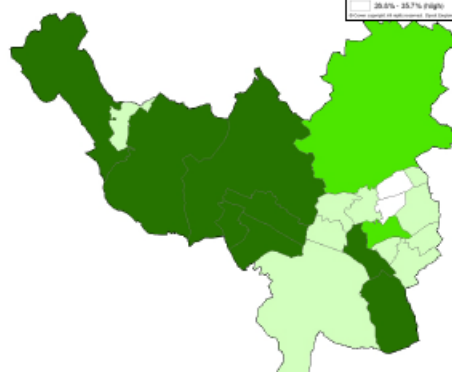
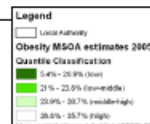
The value of investing in sport

- Sport contributes economically to your community with 40 businesses trading in sporting goods or services in your area⁷
- The health gains of a 30-49 year-old who plays football are valued at £27,600 over their lifetime⁵
- Youngsters who are active have numeracy scores, on average, 8% higher than non-participants⁹
- Sport is the number one choice for volunteering: 62% of adults who volunteer do so in sport.⁹

Adult participation in sport and active recreation*



Adult obesity rates**



*Source: Sport England Active People Survey (APS)
Dataset: APS3 and APS4 Model Based Estimates, 2006-2010

**Source: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care (The NHS IC)
Dataset: Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours: Model Based Estimates, 2003-2005

Sport England can help your council improve its sports offer, get more people taking part and save you money.
To find out how, turn over.