



Meeting: Council

Date: 5 February 2015

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Torbay Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategies (Mayoral Decision)

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented- 5 February 2015

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1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1 Torbay Council, with the support of Sport England, commissioned Neil Allen Associates to produce a Sports Facilities Needs Assessment, Facilities Strategy and Play Pitch Strategy (**Appendix 1**) for Torbay in August 2013. The Strategies will replace the existing Sports Facilities Strategy (2009) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2009) which are now out of date.
- 1.2 This Strategies set out the strategic direction and site specific priorities for the future delivery of sports facilities across Torbay until 2021. The Playing Pitch Strategy assesses current and future needs for playing pitches in Torbay and will underpin future protection, enhancement and provision of the pitch stock in Torbay.
- 1.3 It is important that indoor and outdoor sports facilities, playing fields and other facilities opportunities are considered together. They are often located in close proximity to each other and can benefit from this co-location, joint management and operation. It also increases the opportunities available for people to participate in a range of sports.
- 1.4 All existing provision should be fit for purpose and maximises users without damage to future sustainability.

2. Proposed Decision

That the Mayor be recommended:

- 2.1 That the Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to the submitted report be approved.

2.2 That the Executive Head of Residents and Visitor Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Highways, Environment and Sport be delegated authority to engage with clubs, organisations and agencies across the sports sector and develop funding options for the implementation of the aims and objectives on a regular basis.

3 Reason for Decision

3.1 The Plan for Sport (2007-13), Sports Facilities Strategy (2009) and Playing Pitch Strategy (2009) are now out of date and need to be revised and updated.

3.2 The aim is to set an overall vision for sport in Torbay which is adopted by the Council and other key partners e.g. Health and Well Being Board, Education and Torbay Sports Council. This will give a clear sense of direction with prioritised and planned actions based upon established need and informed by analysis of appropriate data and evidence.

3.3 The Sport Strategies identified concerns over levels and quality of provision. These consider the need to make the current provision fit for purpose and able to meet future demand.

3.4 The strategic vision will provide a framework for future plans which will enable access to funding support from the National Governing Bodies for Sport and inform any further investment by the Council, sports agencies and other partners for the improvement of sport facilities across Torbay.

Supporting Information

4. Position

4.1 It is important that indoor and outdoor sports facilities and opportunities for recreation are considered together. The documents record, examine and assess in detail the facilities available, also the demand and the adequacy of provision across a range of facilities and sports.

4.2 A draft vision for sport has been developed in consultation with a key stakeholder group which was established early in the strategy development process. The vision for sport 2014-2021 identifies Torbay as an area where:

- Accessible, affordable and high quality opportunities are provided for all ages and abilities to develop a sporting habit for life.
- Sport is recognised and makes its contribution to addressing health equalities.
- Sport contributes positively to the economy of the area, raising the profile as a destination for sport.
- Sports facilities are fit for purpose, well maintained and managed and are viable and sustainable.

4.3 By 2021 Torbay will be:

- The most active authority locally in terms of adults participating in sport.
- Reducing health inequalities through the contribution of more people leading active lifestyles.
- An area where the attitudes of inactive people towards sport and active lifestyles, particularly the elderly have changed.
- An area where those involved in sport and active lifestyles have a quality and affordable experience.
- An area where the facility infrastructure has been protected, enhanced and that facilities will be viable and sustainable.
- An area where priority projects have been delivered.
- Recognised as a model for good practice for working in partnership with National Governing Bodies.
- Recognised for developing the use of the bay as a major watersports and outdoor adventure activities centre.
- Renowned as a host of major sporting events, which boosts tourism and the profile of the area.

4.4 Monitoring of the strategies will involve 6 monthly meetings with both stakeholder groups and the production of annual progress summary on the delivery of the strategies. This will include:

- A review of participation with support from National Governing Bodies.
- Identification of any key changes to participation trends in Torbay, and the likely implications of these changes to the strategy.
- An assessment of changes to the facility stock.
- Progress on the strategy delivery to include a summary of the amount of funding secured for sports facilities through various grant programmes, capital expenditure and planning contributions.

5. Position - Funding

5.1 The funding of the sports sector is under pressure more than ever before. With local authorities including Torbay finding that investment in discretionary services are severely under pressure, there is a need to apply for external funding from national funding bodies and explore the further development of collaborative sector partnerships.

5.2 It is acknowledged by the sector nationally that the engagement and participation in sport can contribute to community cohesion. It also supports the health and well being benefits of the community at large.

5.3 Without adopting the new strategies new funding sources will not be attracted to Torbay. There is a wealth of talent in Torbay which can be harnessed to work collaboratively to ensure sport remains a key part of life of its residents and visitors.

5.4 The new strategies will ensure there is a renewed focus on sport. The strategies will help to deliver an improved and exciting sport facilities network across the bay.

6. Possibilities and Options

6.1 To adopt the Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies which supports the development of new and enhancement of existing and sustainable sports facilities across Torbay. This will promote and support participation, and a growth in sports activity, recreation and fitness.

6.2 Not adopting the strategies may lead to a lack of additional external grant funding being available to the sports sector as a whole. This would in turn lead to further deterioration in the condition of sports facilities across Torbay and risk the loss of sport infrastructure in the longer term.

6.3 The preferred option is to adopt the Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies to enable the council and partners to improve sports facilities across Torbay and ensure funding is secured from key agencies like the Football Foundation and Sport England.

7. Fair Decision Making

7.1 To ensure that the strategy is tailored to the needs of Torbay and reflective of the aspirations of the local sporting community, a comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement has been undertaken. Key Stakeholder Groups were set up at the start of the process. These groups included Councillors, Officers, Sport England, NGBs and Torbay Sports Council representatives. Questionnaires were distributed to sports clubs and the National Governing Bodies of Sport.

7.2 Meetings were held with sports clubs and users. A sports club consultation evening was also held and a survey form posted on the council's website. Presentations were made to neighbourhood forums and Councillors.

7.3 A Draft for Consultation was prepared in April 2014 and circulated widely to all sports clubs, league secretaries, schools, facility managers, sports providers and individuals who had an input or expressed an interest in the strategy process. Their comments and amendments have been used to inform the final document, including the action and implementation plans (**Appendix 3 and Appendix 4**). The consultation process is outlined in **Appendix 5**.

8. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

8.1 There is no procurement of services required as a result of the recommendations.

9. Risks

9.1 The main risks relate to funding and the potential lack of investment in sustaining existing infrastructure and developing new sports facilities.

- 9.2 In recent years the funding available for sport in Torbay has been significantly reduced. As a result the condition of the sector may be that of 'survival' rather than development. This has the potential to slow the progress of the strategy and limit the work needed to secure additional funding. There needs to be a renewed emphasis on collaborative working between all partners, clubs and organisations in Torbay to bring in new funding to sustain and improve the bay's sports facilities.
- 9.3 Failure to adopt the strategies may result in further deterioration in the condition of Torbay's sports facilities. The council and other sports organisation would be unable to apply for external funding as major organisations like the Football Foundation and Sport England require up to date sports strategies to be in place before funding applications are considered.
- 9.4 There may be a reduction in, or loss of sports provision if a focus on priorities is not fully developed to ensure those in greatest need of improvement are not identified.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Torbay Sports Facilities Strategy
- Appendix 2 Torbay Playing Pitch Strategy
- Appendix 3 Torbay Sports Facilities Strategy Action Plan
- Appendix 4 Torbay Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan
- Appendix 5 Consultation process
- Appendix 6 Equality Impact Assessment

Additional Information:

None.