

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee 22 August 2005**

**REPORT ON: Dundee's Pitch Strategy 2005- 2011**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts**

**REPORT NO: 488-2005**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To gain the Committee's agreement to the contents of the Pitch Strategy and approval to take the Strategy forward by creating an action plan in consultation with user groups.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 approve the contents of Dundee's Pitch Strategy
- 2.2 remit the Director of Leisure and Arts to consult with pitch user groups and **sportscotland** to produce a 6 year action plan to take forward the recommendations of the strategy and establish a steering group to oversee its implementation.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Proposals within the Strategy will either be contained within existing revenue and capital budgets or be the subject of external funding applications.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The contents of the Strategy reflect the range of opportunities that are available to the public ensuring that access to culture, leisure and recreation is ready and available to all and that local needs are met locally.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The ongoing actions contained within the Strategy demonstrate a positive continuing commitment to the quality of provision and increased access to services.

### **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The Leisure and Arts Department has undertaken a review of its current provision of outdoor pitches. The review included a survey of all existing pitches in the 11 different sports provided for, determining quality, maintenance issues and ancillary provision i.e. changing rooms, car parking etc. This information was then collated into a database to help clarify the needs of the pitches, their capacity levels and how improvements could be made within existing budgets.
- 6.2 The review also undertook an analysis of the present bookings of existing pitches and how this compared with potential capacity levels for each sport, to give a picture of how well the pitches are being used and if they were any under or over usage issues.
- 6.3 A questionnaire was sent out to all sports clubs in the City to determine their views on current provision and future needs.

- 6.4 To complete the review consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies of the relevant sports and the private sector as well as **sportscotland**. A desk top research of other pitch strategies in Scotland was undertaken as well as consideration of any other relevant published report on usage of pitches and future development proposals for each of the relevant sports.
- 6.5 This work has now all been brought together to produce a Pitch Strategy that will provide the basis for future development of pitches in the City up until 2011. A copy of the Pitch Strategy is available in Councillor's Lounges.

Each sport is discussed separately as each has its own issues and recommendations. The strategy is based on a supply and demand model, assessing the current supply of pitches against the projected future demands of each sport.

6.6 Key Findings from the report are:

- The supply of sports pitches in Dundee currently satisfies local demand. Provision will be enhanced in future through making school sports grounds publicly accessible on once weekly basis.
- The projected population loss of the Dundee Local Authority area will affect future demand and has been factored into the future requirements for each sport as appropriate.
- Unplayable surfaces on football pitches result in lost potential usage. Home pitch allocations for football clubs can result in teams playing on an unsuitable pitch whilst another playable pitch lies empty because of location or booking restrictions.
- Increasing demand for hockey needs to be addressed with the development of an additional new artificial surface.
- Tennis courts and bowling greens are heavily under-used areas, so consideration should be given to the potential new uses and increased development opportunities they may offer
- Caird Park Stadium needs to undergo refurbishment to create a regional facility for athletics, with a new track and modern facilities.
- Cycling should be reintroduced into the sporting activity in the city with the development of a regional cycle academy at Caird Park Velodrome.

- 6.7 The Committee is asked to approve the Strategy so more detailed discussions can be undertaken with the relevant user groups to draw up an Action Plan. It is proposed that a Steering Group is established to oversee the implementation of the 6 year Action Plan with annual updates based on the supply and demand issues of each sport as they arise.

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Director of Education and Head of Communities as well as **sportscotland** have all been consulted on the contents of this report and are in agreement with its content.

**8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**8.1** None

**STEVE GRIMMOND  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS  
26 JULY 2005**