

REPORT: Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 14th November 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

SUBJECT: Draft Sports Strategy

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the draft sports strategy and update The Board on operational issues.

2.0 RECOMMENDED That:

- (1) the report is noted; and**
- (2) Board Members comment on the draft Sports Strategy 2012 -2015.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Sport and Recreation Team reports its performance to this board through quarterly monitoring reports produced by Community and Environment Services. It describes key developments and progress against objectives and performance indicators for the service.
- 3.2 This year a key objective is to produce a new sports strategy for Halton. Consultation, essential for the success of the strategy, has already begun with sports forums and others with an interest in sport.
- 3.3 An outline draft copy of the Halton Sports Strategy 2012 -15 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 The strategy takes into account government policy, Sport England Strategy, National policies from other relevant bodies; relevant regional policies, sports specific policies and local plans, strategies and priorities.
- 3.5 The strategy identifies 6 key themes
- Increase Participation and Widening Access
 - Club Development
 - Coach Education and Volunteering
 - Sporting Excellence

- Finance and Funding for Sport
- Sports Facilities

It will be underpinned by the need for Partnership working with local and national key partners and active promotion and publicity to raise the profile of sport.

- 3.6 A key outcome is to increase participation in which Halton has made excellent progress. This is evidenced within the strategy. Many successes and initiatives of Halton Borough Council have contributed to the rise in performance since 2005;
- Improved leisure facilities, notably a new athletics facility, 2 AstroTurf Pitches, Indoor Tennis Centre, expansion of Gym facilities Kingsway Leisure Centre.
 - Partnership with DC Leisure to manage the council's Leisure Centre's and to develop participation.
 - Sports participation project, working with other sport providers especially within the voluntary sports club sector to improve and increase the opportunities available within community settings
 - Free access to Park activities including Tennis, Basketball and Bowling
 - Free junior sports pitch hire.
 - 100% rate relief for sports club
 - Extended programmes of activity across all providers e.g. partnership with Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust including delivery of programmes, such as, Target wellbeing, Mens GO and specialist weight management programme
 - Comprehensive health walks programme
- 3.7 The council maximizes external funding that is available for Sport. The ability to secure grants and work with partners, to assist with future delivery, will be essential.
- 3.8 The Council's budgets are suffering significant reductions. As part of this process the Board should be advised that there are budget savings at the council's leisure centre's under consideration. These include the removal of the annual centre accreditation scheme, reducing the Halton Leisure Card discount, removing the Crèche facility, increasing some admission charges above inflation and reducing operating hours.
- 3.9 Investment in School Sport has significantly reduced since the government's withdrawal of funding to School Sports Partnership. As a consequence provision and policy for School sport is solely within the children and enterprise directorate and will be reported independently by that Directorate.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Sports Strategy 2012 -2015 provides a vehicle through which the Council and its partners develop and communicate actions that will contribute towards a coordinated approach to sports delivery in Halton.
- 4.2 The Sports Strategy is monitored by the Halton Sports Partnership, which comprises of key stakeholders from the voluntary sport sector.

5.0 BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These are contained within the report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 Sport is cross cutting and the benefits gained from participation and involvement in sport contributes towards achieving wider council priorities, such as, improving health in Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Failure to deliver actions. This can be mitigated by regular review and progress meetings.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Consultation with representative organizations and individual service users will be necessary for the successful adoption of the Sports Strategy and for the implementation of and service reductions at Leisure Centre's required to meet budget targets.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 9.1 There are none within the meaning of the Act.