

Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday 11 September 2018

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

Item number	8.1
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Executive/routine	
Wards	All
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Executive Summary

It was agreed on June 19, 2018 at the Culture and Communities Committee to produce a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for the period 2019-2023. This report lays out the likely drivers, factors and influences on the pending strategy and the recommended approach to consultation.

The sporting landscape in Edinburgh has undergone a significant transformation in the last five years. Facility wise we have seen the opening of the Oriam Performance Centre at Heriot Watt University and the refurbishment of the Royal Commonwealth Pool. In terms of other major facility developments, the new Meadowbank Stadium is planned to re-open in 2020 and the University of Edinburgh have major plans for upgrading their sporting complex at Peffermill.

In tandem with this has been the development of the school estate. The building of new schools at Forrester/St Augustine's, James Gillespie's, Portobello High School, and Queensferry High Schools (now underway) has produced modern high class sporting facilities into these communities. The first three named schools are now part of a network of community sport hubs across the city.

In addition to this we have seen the emergence of community led initiatives such as the Spartans Community Football Academy, Inch Park Community Sport Hub and Projekt 42 in Leith. These organisations are using sport and physical activity as the tool for personal and community development. Similarly, we have successful examples of sports centres at the Craggs and at Queensferry being asset transferred to local organisations. As a result of

the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act of 2015 this is likely to be a developing picture over the next decade.

In line with the City Vision and the Council's Business Plan one of the key challenges that we currently face is addressing inequality. It is expected that this shall be at the heart of the new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy.

We are fully aware through work such as the '1 in 5' Poverty Awareness report (referenced in background reading section) that there is a gap between the affluent parts of Edinburgh and areas of multiple deprivation. In a sporting context and backed by evidence being produced through ASMO (sport Scotland's Active Schools Monitoring Online reporting system) this gap shows itself in the range of club provision, the levels of participation and personal achievement of young people living in specific neighbourhoods within our city.

The range of Cultural Grants to organisations in Edinburgh (as detailed in the Culture and Communities Committee Report of March 2018) is impressive. Consideration could be given to exploring options to create a similar approach to funding sports organisations.

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the contents of this report and the intention to hold a series of consultations in Edinburgh with key partners, sports clubs and other community organisations.
- 1.2 In relation to addressing inequalities to agree to a further report on option regarding establishing a grants scheme for voluntary sports organisation to support their work in areas of deprivation for next financial year 2019-20.

2. Background

- 2.1 The previous Physical Activity and Sport Strategy was approved in March 2014. It covered the period 2014-17. It was agreed on June 19, 2018 to produce a new strategy for the period 2019-2023.

3. Main report

- 3.1 In July 2018 at the Community Sport Hub at Forrester High School, the new Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, Joe Fitzpatrick launched the Scottish Government's national Physical Activity Delivery Plan (see Appendix 1). This plan plays a significant role and will shape the future investment in physical activity and sport over the coming years. Our local plans and strategy for Edinburgh shall include many of the programmes and initiatives referenced in this document.
- 3.2 The national agency for sport, sportscotland are in the process of consulting on their next Corporate Plan. This is being done through an online questionnaire and a series of consultation meetings with Local Authorities, Leisure Trusts, National Governing Bodies and other organisations. Sportscotland currently invest 830k per annum in Edinburgh. The two flagship programmes are Active Schools and Community Sport Hubs. It is hoped these programmes shall receive continued funding for the period 2019-23. Their new Corporate Plan and related investment streams shall greatly influence the direction and implementation of our citywide strategy.
- 3.3 Another key driver of our future strategy is emerging through the Local Improvement Plans. It was felt extremely important to wait for these local plans to be published prior to the publication of any citywide plan for Edinburgh. We are now in a position to confirm that increasing physical activity is a key outcome and gaining access to affordable facilities and sporting/leisure opportunities is an ambition shared by all the neighbourhood sectors. The first outcome in Scotland's

National Physical Activity Plan is to encourage and enable the inactive to be more active. With this in mind we consider the work being done at a local level through the Physical Activity Health Alliances shall assist shape the direction of the new strategy.

- 3.4 It is expected that any new investment agreement with sportscotland shall have a strong focus on reducing inequalities. Children and families experiencing poverty is a feature in almost all our schools and neighbourhoods but there is a widening gap between the affluent parts of the city and areas of multiple deprivation. The recent report entitled '1 in 5' Poverty Awareness captures the key issues (see Background reading 10.1). In a sporting context poverty shows itself in the lack of club provision, the levels of participation and personal achievement of people living in specific neighbourhoods within our city.
- 3.5 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act of 2015 allows for greater influence over community planning, local service provision and the use of land and buildings. We are entering an era of co-production with communities for better services. The City of Edinburgh Council like many other local authorities faces financial pressures and maintaining the desired level of subsidy and investment in all our sports centres, pavilions and pitches is challenging. In addition to Edinburgh Leisure there is a wide mix organisations (for example, the Spartans Community Academy, the Inch Park Community Sports Club, the Queensferry Sport and Community Hub) that are proving capable of successfully running sports facilities. In the period of the forthcoming strategy and the next decade we fully expect more facilities to be transferred to community ownership. We need to be able to remove barriers to accessing our sporting estate and be open to new possibilities. We also need to ensure this process is straightforward and transparent and we as an enabling Council are as supportive to sports clubs and community organisations as possible.
- 3.6 The City of Edinburgh Council works closely with a wide range of partners such as sportscotland, Edinburgh Leisure, NHS Lothian, National Governing Bodies, Universities, Independent Schools, sports clubs and community groups. We recognise these organisations all have their own visions, aims and priorities and many of these shall be achieved without the presence of an overarching city strategy. However, to address the major issues of the day such as poverty and community empowerment we fully believe that these cannot be achieved unless all key partners are on board and actively engaged in change and the co-production of better services.
- 3.7 In order we engage in change and bring a sense of a collective ownership and a collegiate approach to the setting of a new strategy it is intended to hold a series of consultations in Edinburgh with key partners and with sports clubs and other community organisations. This engagement is expected to commence in November 2018. A related facility strategy shall flow from the approval of this new strategy and shall be fully developed following the publication of this strategy and the review of the service and funding agreement with Edinburgh Leisure (as previously reported

to this Committee Report 20 March 2018). The engagement with National Governing Bodies on their views on improving facilities in Edinburgh is ongoing.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Children, young people and families living in areas of deprivation and targeted groups receive an enhanced delivery of opportunities within their communities and existing barriers to participation are reduced.
- 4.2 The community management and/or ownership of sporting facilities is increased during the period of the next four years.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 To be achieved within existing budgets. Consideration to be given to creating a grants scheme similar to that for cultural organisations.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This report and the potential impact of successful partnership approaches can positively affect the ambitions in the Council's Business Plan around health and wellbeing and tackling inequalities.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Equalities and tackling inequality is expected to be a top priority in the proposed strategy.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no adverse impacts in relation to this report

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 This report focusses on engagement and consultation with key partners and sports clubs and other community organisations.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Raising Awareness of Child Poverty: Report to Education, Communities and Families 24 May 2016. Report includes appendix on '1 in 5' handbook.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/3944/education_children_and_families_committee

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11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1: A More Active Scotland (Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan)