

Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Sport facility investment update

Item number
Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 To note the update on sport facility projects.

Andy Gray

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Sport facility investment update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on Council sport facility projects including Meadowbank Sports Centre and Hunter's Hall Park.

3. Background

- 3.1 Meadowbank Sports Centre is Edinburgh's flagship sporting venue and its replacement will provide a significant boost for sport in the city.
- 3.2 The Council's investment in its school estate has also strengthened the city's sporting infrastructure with new indoor and outdoor facilities coming on-line and in the pipeline.

4. Main report

Meadowbank Sports Centre

- 4.1 Meadowbank Sports Centre closed to the public at the end of 2017 and the main contractor (Graham Construction) has been on-site since December 2018. Whilst progress continues to be made and important milestones (such as the external fabric of the building) completed, the project has of course been delayed by the Covid pandemic.
- 4.2 The current estimate is that the building will be completed by the summer of 2021 and ready to be used by the public shortly after it is handed over to the Council and Edinburgh Leisure.
- 4.3 The Meadowbank Member Officer Working Group has met over recent months and is developing a project to commemorate individuals who have contributed to the centre's sporting legacy within the internal fabric of the new building. Details of this project will be shared with the committee in due course.

Hunter's Hall Park

- 4.4 The new 3G pitches at Hunter's Hall Park were opened by the Convener of Culture & Communities in January 2020 and the Council has also been able to progress and complete the construction of a new wheeled-sport pump track which opened to the public in October 2020.

- 4.5 The final elements of the masterplan include the outdoor velodrome and competition standard BMX track. A funding gap remains to complete these new facilities and discussions continue with the Council Leadership Team and Edinburgh Leisure on the way forward.
- 4.6 **sportscotland** have recently launched their new £8M [Cycling Facilities Fund](#) and the Council has submitted an expression of interest.

Roseburn Park

- 4.7 As part of the planning permission for the new Edinburgh Rugby venue at Murrayfield, Scottish Rugby have committed funding to upgrade the grass rugby pitches at Roseburn Park. Murrayfield Wanderers are leading this project with support from Council officers and works should begin on-site in spring this year.

School investment

- 4.8 The Council continues to invest significantly in its school estate and with this investment brings new sports facilities. Officers from the Council's Learning Estate Team and Sports Team have worked closely with Edinburgh Leisure colleagues to deliver sport spaces that benefit pupils and the local community and are designed in a way that their use can be maximised by both groups.
- 4.9 The new Queensferry High School opened for curricular use at the start of the 20/21 academic year and community access began in November 2020. The school has a 6-lane swimming pool, games hall, fitness suite and dance studios and a new 3G pitch will be built on the site of the old school later this year.
- 4.10 Craigmillar HS is on-site and scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. The new school will have an outdoor 3G pitch as well as indoor sport spaces. A new sports centre at Bangholm Recreation Ground is also scheduled to start on-site in March 2021 as part of phase 1 to replace Trinity Academy. All of the school's sports facilities will be based at Bangholm and this will include a 4-court games hall, dance studio and fitness suite. The new centre should be completed by spring 2022.
- 4.11 In December 2020, the Scottish Government announced that Wester Hailes Education Centre (WHEC) has been included in their Learning Estate Investment Programme. Along with the Government's support, the Council's commitment to the school replacement has allowed the fast-tracking of a new full-size 3G pitch. The new pitch is scheduled to be completed by spring this year and will be able to cater for full-size rugby and football matches. The pitch will be a fantastic asset for the local community and the Council is keen to ensure that opportunities to take part and develop interest and ability in football and rugby are maximised. The Council have therefore begun discussions with Scottish Football and Scottish Rugby to appoint anchor community clubs to the new facility. The anchor clubs would receive priority access to the booking schedule and in return will create strong links with the local primary and secondary schools, create opportunities for the local community to participate in sport and ensure player pathways are in place for both male and female sides of their respective sports.

- 4.12 The new Currie High School is currently in the conceptual phase and as detailed above officers from Communities and Families Department's Learning Estate Team and Sports Team are working with Edinburgh Leisure officials to design the new sport spaces.
- 4.13 The Council has also developed a partnership approach to the refurbishment of the synthetic pitch at Leith Academy. The Scottish Football Association, Scottish Football Partnership and Scottish Rugby worked together with the Communities and Families Department and school to create a funding package to replace the pitch surface. The project was completed in time for the start of the new school year and is a sport space that will have significant benefits for the school and community.
- 4.14 The Council has also worked closely with Scottish Rugby and Leith Rugby Club on the grass pitches at Leith Academy. Funding from Scottish Rugby will enable the pitches to be re-aligned and the creation of a second grass rugby pitch within the school playing fields. This will support the development of the club and sport within the local community.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 To report back to committee at the earliest opportunity with updates on the above projects.

6. Financial impact

None

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The delivery of the above projects will have a significant positive impact for sport development and the health and well-being of local communities across the city. Strong partnership working with stakeholders has helped to create the best possible facilities that will maximise benefits for the city.

8. Background reading/external references

None

9. Appendices

None