

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Response to motion by Councillor Osler – Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine All
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Culture and Communities Committee is asked to note:
 - 1.1.1 The update provided on development of a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh, as requested on 16 August 2022;
 - 1.1.2 That a Partnership Group has been established to develop the strategy, recognising the importance of working with partners, and that the partners have now agreed a vision for the strategy moving forward;
 - 1.1.3 That the new strategy and resulting action plan will focus on tackling inequality, with a specific theme expected to be included on improving inclusion and diversity and reducing health inequalities;
- 1.2 Culture and Communities Committee is also asked to agree:
 - 1.2.1 That the draft strategy will be subject to a consultation process with specific engagement with Elected Members and equalities groups, as outlined in paragraph 5.2; and
 - 1.2.2 That, once the new strategy is approved, an action plan to deliver the strategy will be developed and implemented.

Paul Lawrence

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Report

Response to motion by Councillor Osler – Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update for Committee on the development of a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, as requested by Committee on 16 August 2022.

3. Background

- 3.1 On [16 August 2022](#), Culture and Communities Committee agreed to note the following motion by Councillor Osler on Physical Activity and Sport Strategy:
- 3.1.1 Agrees the fact that sport is not only important to individuals' health and mental wellbeing but also is positive for the wider community.
 - 3.1.2 Congratulates all the athletes representing Scotland who recently took part in the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.
 - 3.1.3 Congratulates the Lionesses on their recent win of the European Cup.
 - 3.1.4 In football, the gulf in support and resources between the male and female game.
 - 3.1.5 The recent report finding Cricket Scotland institutionally racist.
 - 3.1.6 Agrees the importance of the Council having a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and understands and appreciates the challenges the Council has faced in the last two years in bringing one forward.
 - 3.1.7 Therefore, agrees to provide within 2 cycles an update on the present development of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy including a focus on how the strategy tackles inequality be it by gender, race, ability, sexuality or economic opportunity.
- 3.2 On [16 November 2021](#), Committee considered a report on Planning Ahead for a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy and:
- 3.2.1 Agreed that officers in the Culture and Wellbeing service should lead on re-engaging stakeholders on the proposed strategy approach;

- 3.2.2 Asked for a further update on the governance and reporting on sport and physical activity in early 2022;
- 3.2.3 That a plan for stakeholder engagement should be initiated, with feedback on priority actions to support improved outcomes relating to sport and physical activity;
- 3.2.4 Noted the need for a separate action plan and discussion about sport with key partners, to agree the priorities for sport and to report back on the issues regarding sport and the wider benefits of this on health and wellbeing; and
- 3.2.5 Agreed to consider the provision of improved facilities for sport, including the school estate, and the possible use of facilities that have fallen out of use.

Active Scotland Outcomes Framework

- 3.3 The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework sets out shared vision and goals that have shaped the approach by Scottish Government and partner organisations to support and enable people in Scotland to be more physically active.
- 3.4 The national agency for sport, **sportscotland**, also provides guidance and support through their corporate strategy – Sport for Life – with the vision of an active Scotland where everyone benefits from sport.
- 3.5 These national approaches confirm that there is no single solution or panacea to increasing physical activity levels within the population. Multiple strands of work taking place concurrently and integrated across multiple settings (such as education, transport, healthcare, and sport) delivers the best chance of successful outcomes. Council officers hope to adopt this style of partnership approach in order to create active communities across the city.

Recent Investments

- 3.6 Although there have been challenges in developing a new strategy, the Council has continued to invest in sporting infrastructure, including:
 - 3.6.1 Completion of the new £47m Meadowbank Sports Centre;
 - 3.6.2 Completion of new Queensferry High School with additional swimming pool space and new 3G pitch;
 - 3.6.3 Completion of Castlebrae Community Campus with four-court games hall and 3G pitch;
 - 3.6.4 Completion of Trinity Academy Sports Campus with four-court games hall and commercial size fitness suite; and
 - 3.6.5 New and refurbished 3G pitches at Currie High School, Tynecastle High School, and Saughton Sports Complex.

4. Main report

- 4.1 As noted in Councillor Osler's it is very important for the Council to have a Physical Activity and Sport Strategy. While it has been challenging to develop a strategy over

the past few years due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), once complete, it will provide guidance and direction for the city to progress, improve and deliver the best possible outcomes, within the available resources, for the people of Edinburgh.

- 4.2 As Committee recognised in November 2021, sport and physical activity opportunities in Edinburgh are delivered by a range of public, private and third sector organisations and therefore it is important that the key stakeholders are engaged in the development of any future strategies.

Partnership Group

- 4.3 Recognising this, Council officers have established a Partnership Group which includes partners from Edinburgh Leisure, **sportscotland**, The University of Edinburgh, Scottish Student Sport, public health partners and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).
- 4.4 The remit of the group is set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.5 In the early discussions, it became clear that, whilst there will be cognisance of the strategy development previously undertaken, it was important to take a fresh approach to the development of the new strategy in order that all of the organisations can work towards common goals and outcomes.
- 4.6 The group held a visioning workshop in October 2022 and agreed a clear vision which has the support of all of the partners: *An Edinburgh where everyone enjoys the benefits of an active life.*
- 4.7 The group has also undertaken a SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results) analysis to help identify the areas which the new strategy will need to prioritise to achieve the partnership vision.

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

- 4.8 The new strategy plans to build on the good practice that exists across the city and the work taking place to address issues and deliver improvements.
- 4.9 The new strategy will focus on tackling inequality, with a specific theme in the strategy expected to be improving inclusion and diversity and reducing health inequalities, including gender, race, ability, sexuality or economic opportunity inequalities.
- 4.10 The other themes expected to be reflected in the strategy include:
- 4.10.1 Increasing physical activity levels within communities;
 - 4.10.2 Increasing capacity within clubs and programmes to provide opportunities to participate in physical activity and sport;
 - 4.10.3 Support for athletes to reach their potential;
 - 4.10.4 Contribution of physical activity and sport towards net zero carbon targets;
 - 4.10.5 Improvements to Edinburgh's sports facility network; and
 - 4.10.6 Raising the profile of sport and physical activity in Edinburgh and its contribution to the health and wellbeing of the city.

Action Plans for Sport

- 4.11 As noted in paragraph 3.2.4, Committee previously noted that a separate action plan to agree priorities for sport would be required.
- 4.12 However, discussion with partners has highlighted that the development of action plans should follow on from the development of the strategy to ensure that the action plan is aligned to the future vision and shared outcomes/ambitions for the development of physical activity and sport. Therefore, it is proposed not to bring forward a separate action plan for sport at this time.
- 4.13 Once the new strategy is in place, an action plan to implement the strategy will be developed.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Partnership Group are now focussed on gathering intelligence from each of the organisations in advance of developing a draft strategy.
- 5.2 Following development of the draft strategy, it is proposed to engage with Committee and with equalities groups prior to consulting on the strategy. This is important to ensure that the draft strategy aligns with the priorities of the Council and recognises the importance of ensuring that the strategy retains its focus on tackling inequality. It is expected that the engagement will take place in early 2023, with the consultation expected to begin around spring 2023.
- 5.3 After the completion of the consultation, it is expected that the final strategy will be presented to Committee for approval around August/September 2023.
- 5.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment will be undertaken alongside the development of the strategy.
- 5.5 Thereafter, an action plan to support delivery of the strategy will be developed.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Stakeholders involved to date include Edinburgh Leisure, **sportscotland**, Edinburgh University, NHS Lothian and Scottish Student Sport.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Physical Activity and Sport Strategy: Progress Update. Culture and Communities Committee, 12 November 2019.](#)

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - Remit of Physical Activity and Sport Partnership Group.

Remit of Physical Activity and Sport Partnership Group

Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh

Remit of Partnership Group

1. To steer the development of a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh.
2. To represent views and perspectives of organisations, industry sectors, and service areas during the development of a new strategy.
3. To support the consultation and engagement with the physical activity and sport community and physical activity and sport stakeholders across the city.
4. To share intelligence, evidence, and baseline information about physical activity and sport in the city with the partnership group.
5. To explore opportunities for collaboration, partnership activity and sharing of resources.
6. To provide briefing notes and reports to Culture and Communities Committee.
7. To launch a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh.
8. To support the implementation of a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Edinburgh.