

Report to: Executive Board – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR LEISURE - CONSULTATION PROCESS

<p><b>Report of:</b> Strategic Director (Physical Environment)</p> <p><b>Report Author:</b> Tony Stephens Leisure &amp; Parks Business Manager Tel no. 01865 467247 Email: tstephens@oxford.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Lead Member Responsible:</b> Councillor Maureen Christian</p> <p><b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibility:</b> Environment</p> <p><b>Key Decision:</b> YES</p>	<p><b>WARDS AFFECTED</b> <b>ALL</b></p>
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### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**This report seeks Executive Board approval to enter into public consultation on key elements of the developing framework for Leisure**

Staffing Implications – There are no staff implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications – There are no financial implications arising from this report. Costs of the public consultation exercise will be met from existing budgets within the Leisure and Parks business unit.

Legal Implications – There are no adverse legal implications arising from this report.

**The Executive Board is ASKED to:**

- 1. Comment on the draft strategies attached to this report, and approve them for consultation.**
- 2. Approve the consultation timetable outlined within the Appendix to the report.**

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The 2004 Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) commented that the City Council has had no Leisure Strategy in place since 1989. However, officers have been working on a series of strategic assessments of leisure services since before the CPA inspection, to inform the production and publication of relevant strategies. This suite of strategies will form a new 'strategic framework' for leisure provision across the City.

- 1.2 Three of these strategies are appended to this report, and Executive Board is asked both to comment on the draft documents and to approve them for public consultation.

## **2 Strategic framework for Leisure**

### ***Historical Context***

- 2.1 Local authorities have produced 'Leisure strategies' since the mid 1980's. These have been variable in their content and very much dependent upon the nature of the individual authority and the services provided by that authority.
- 2.2 Since the mid 90's these strategies have tended to be more holistic in their approach, recognising the role of local authorities as direct providers of some services and strategic enablers of others, for instance through such tools as planning policy. As part of the Best Value regime (introduced after the change of central government in 1997) the production of these wider ranging 'cultural strategies' became a key indicator of an authority's performance.

### ***Current context***

- 2.3 Although the production of a 'cultural strategy' is no longer seen as a key indicator, the CPA process has focused on how cultural and leisure related services have been linked to corporate aims and objectives. This focus is set to increase in the future as from 2006 CPA will contain a 'cultural block': an assessment of how a local authority values and provides for cultural development.
- 2.4 The development of a strategic framework for the City Council's involvement in leisure and cultural services will be an important element in its response to the next round of CPA.
- 2.5 This report covers the following key elements of such a framework:

**Sports and Leisure Strategy** – this is the 'umbrella strategy' for those elements dealing specifically with the provision of sports and leisure facilities, both indoor and outdoor.

**Leisure Facilities Strategy** – this element is concerned with the quantity, quality and the range of indoor sports facilities within the City, and the options for the City Council's future role in the provision of leisure facilities.

**Playing Pitch Strategy** – this component relates to sports pitches and outdoor facilities. It considers the level and quality of provision against demand levels, and the alternative use of pitches as other forms of open space.

- 2.6 The draft Sports and Leisure Strategy identifies the broader framework of how the two individual strategies fit together. It highlights how they will link within a revised cultural strategy, as well as to other corporate planning documents (for example the Oxford Plan and the Community Strategy).

## **3 Consultation process**

- 3.1 These documents are part of the Council's Policy Framework and as such must be released for public consultation for at least 28 days prior to approval and adoption.
- 3.2 Although extensive consultation was undertaken at the assessment stage for both the Leisure Facilities and Playing Pitch strategies, further consultation on the draft documents would provide valuable insight into public and partner perspectives.
- 3.3 In addition to general consultation with the public, for example via the internet, through Area Committees and at public for a, specific consultation will be undertaken with interested parties including local sports clubs, schools, voluntary organisations, other sports providers, Universities, County Council and neighbouring District authorities.
- 3.4 The consultation process proposed is outlined in Appendix 1.

#### **4 Staffing Implications**

- 4.1 There are no identifiable staffing implications arising from this report and all consultation will be conducted utilising existing staff resources.

#### **5 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There will be some costs associated with the implementation of the consultation process and the final publication of an approved strategy. These have been budgeted for within the current years budget projections.

#### **6 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Other than the requirements associated with the approval of a Policy Framework document, there are no legal implications identifiable at this stage. The proposals outlined in this report reflect the Policy Framework requirements.

#### **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 In order to develop a robust strategic framework for leisure in line with the Council's Policy Framework, Executive Board are recommended to:

- 1. Comment on the draft strategies attached to this report, and approve them for public consultation.**
- 2. Approve the consultation timetable outlined within the Appendix to the report.**

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY:

Dr. Sharon Cosgrove  
Councillor Maureen Christian  
Claire Reid  
Lindsay Cane

Strategic Director Physical Environment  
Portfolio Holder – Leisure  
Financial Services  
Legal and Democratic Services