

Report of: Sharon Cosgrove, Strategic Director Physical Environment

To: Executive Board

Date: 3 April 2006

Item No:

Title of Report : Strategic Framework for Leisure



Summary and Recommendations



Purpose of report: To update the Executive Board on the outcomes of the public consultation on the Strategic Framework for Leisure, and to seek EB's agreement to recommend the revised strategies to Full Council for adoption under the Policy Framework.



Key decision: Yes

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mary Clarkson

Deputy Responsibility: Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by: Cllr Clarkson



Jeremy Thomas, Legal and Democratic Services



Sharon Cosgrove, Strategic Director
Andy Collett, Finance and Asset Management

Policy Framework:
Framework

The leisure strategies are listed on the Policy Framework



Recommendation(s): That Executive Board approves the leisure strategies as amended in light of public consultation and recommends them to Council for adoption.

1. On 12 December 2005 Executive Board approved three strategies for public consultation. These strategies are part of the Strategic Framework for Leisure are:

- The Overarching Leisure strategy, which provides overall direction for the suite of leisure and cultural services supported or provided by the Council;
 - The Green Spaces Strategy, which provides direction in greater detail for those leisure and cultural services that specifically relate to green spaces;
 - The Sport and Leisure Strategy, which provides more detailed direction for those leisure and cultural services that relate specifically to sport.
2. The period for public consultation was extended from 17th January 2006 to 6th February to allow for the Christmas period. Following the closure of the consultation period, the strategies have been amended to incorporate the comments received from consultees.
 3. Attached to this report are:
 1. The revised strategies in final draft
 2. A log of the consultation comments received, the proposed response that has been incorporated into the final drafts of the strategies, and a page reference to help identify specific textual changes in response to individual comments.
 3. Copies of the strategies that demonstrate how and where specific changes have been made in response to the consultation comments. The page references in the consultation log relate to these copies of the strategies.
 4. Executive Board is asked to recommend the final drafts to Full Council for adoption as part of the Policy Framework.

Details of others who have been consulted

- 5 Many of the priorities and actions identified within the strategies have been based on the outcomes of previous consultation and in-depth research on the current issues relating to leisure.
- 6 The report and associated strategies have been to SMB, and earlier drafts of the Overarching Leisure Strategy and the Green Spaces Strategy have been the subject of a cross-party discussion.
7. The following consultation methods have been employed:
 - A press release was issued to announce both the start and extension of the consultation period with details of how to respond.
 - The strategies and a supporting presentation have been delivered to each Area Committee.
 - A summary paper was made available on the website and in hard copy to those who requested it.
 - The full strategy documents were available from the website and in hard copy on request.
 - Displays were erected at key facilities around the city to engage users of council facilities.

- Workshops were arranged for interest groups to meet and feed in their comments.
8. The key points that came out repeatedly through the consultation are:
 - The need to increase specific reference to allotments
 - Concerns over potential closure of Temple Cowley Pool
 - Queries over cost implications and capacity to deliver
 9. There were also several operational comments, both positive and negative, all of which have been forwarded to the relevant officers.
 10. A cross-party Member group has also provided guidance on the key issues from the consultation that need to be incorporated into the revised drafts. A full log of the consultation comments received is provided at appendix 1.

Financial implications

11. Many of the activities prioritised within the strategies are achievable within existing resources. Where the current allocation of resources is not sufficient to allow all prioritised activities to be delivered, this is noted in the relevant strategy. The Best Value Review of Leisure and the ongoing search for efficiency gains should release some resources for reallocation to currently unbudgeted activities. It is not certain at this stage whether this will be sufficient to ensure that all prioritised actions can be delivered within overall current resource provision. Subsequent reviews of, and updates to, the strategies will need to reflect changes in funding availability and where necessary additional resources will be sought through annual budget processes.

Legal implications

12. No immediate legal implications have been identified in relation to the approval of these strategies for consultation. However, some of the activities identified within the strategies relate to s106 agreements, lease arrangements and statutory duties relating to biodiversity and conservation.

Staffing implications

13. Some staffing implications may arise from some of the priorities identified in the strategies as some activities are time-intensive, for example seeking recognition under the Green Flag scheme requires significant investment of time. The recent restructure in Leisure and Cultural Services, the prioritisation that has occurred in developing these strategies and the forthcoming Best Value Review may all yield opportunities to release and reallocate staff time. The extent to which this is possible is not yet clear.

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Background papers: None

