



COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 20TH JULY 2006

Title: SPORTS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Report of: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report reference: CS38/06

Summary:

This report provides as an appendix the Executive Report of the facility feasibility study. That report provides future options for consideration following analysis of the current facility provision.

Recommendations:

Members note the report and provide a response to Executive on the study provided.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

Introduction

The facility feasibility study was commissioned to provide the Council with a strategic perspective of the facility provision and demand in the City.

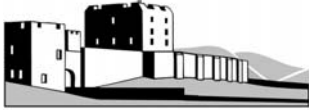
The Executive considered the appended report on 12th June 2006 and has forwarded it to Community Overview and Scrutiny for comment. This will be part of the overall consultation process which includes feedback from the local groups and organisations that were originally consulted by the consultants.

The Study

The study outlines the demand analysis for a range of sports facilities which either build on existing provision or identify shortfalls based on the Sport England facility-planing model.

Conclusion

The facility study provides a very useful guide for future investment; it does not preclude, if accepted, the Council from engaging with voluntary groups or companies to facilitate investment in facilities. However, it does provide the context for future decision making on facility development.



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: LEISURE CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Date of Meeting: 12TH JUNE 2006

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

Inside Policy Framework Yes

Title: SPORTS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY
Report of: COMMUNITY SERVICES
Report reference: CS25.06

Summary:

The report presents a draft of the sports facility feasibility study that presents options for infrastructure improvements to enhance sport facility provision.

Recommendations:

The Executive is recommended to:

1. Agree the priorities set out in the Report.
2. Forward it to Community Overview & Scrutiny for comment.
3. Release the full draft to all consultees for their comments.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1.1 Introduction

Carlisle City Council appointed PMP Ltd to develop a feasibility study considering the current facility provision in Carlisle in relation to existing and potential future demand. This will assist officers and members determine priorities in relation to overall corporate objectives. The executive summary of the report is appended and a copy of the full draft document has been placed in each of the political offices for members to view.

A range of individuals and clubs were consulted as part of the work, including a survey of existing users of facilities, which the authority provides via a contract with Carlisle Leisure Ltd.

In the UK, the major provider of community leisure remains Local Authorities, although actual delivery mechanisms vary, i.e. directly provided, through a trust or the private sector. However, the voluntary sector also plays a significant role through local clubs and organisations that provide sporting opportunities for hundreds of thousands of people weekly.

The position mirrors locally the national position, with the City Council playing a major part through the management contract with Carlisle Leisure Ltd and the support given through Culture and Community Services to clubs, individuals and schools.

1.2 The Study

The facility feasibility study provides a useful tool for examining the current position and sign posting potential routes, which through the setting of priorities can be either explored at this time or in the future, in accordance with other priorities the Council has at this time.

It has considerable relevance to and with Carlisle Renaissance, especially as the Pools site may form part of the viaduct development once a clearer picture emerges from the work currently underway.

The impact of the 2012 Olympics is not covered, however, because unless there are significant changes to Government funding, capital schemes are unlikely to be a major legacy of the games, except for those specific to East London.

Capital funding from the lottery is no longer the primary route for facility development it once was, although it still forms a major financial foundation stone for any proposed capital development. However partnership funding has and will become increasingly more important. In the Northwest region for example out of a total £22m budget allocated to sport, only c£10.5m is for capital projects. With only £0.5m likely to be allocated to any one facility. This is a far cry from the position ten years ago when multi-million pound grants were not unusual. The focus is moving away from capital investment to capacity building, e.g. developing coaches to provide people help people acquire news skills.

1.3 The Way forward

The Feasibility Study provides an opportunity to explore a number of potential routes, some of which are already underway. Officers see the following as priorities for the Council:

- A. The Council owns and operates 27 senior and 5 junior community football pitches on 23 different sites, excluding the Sheepmount. A comprehensive playing pitch strategy needs to be developed which will map out how these can most suitably provide facilities for local people. This would also seek to address the issue of changing accommodation (Melbourne Park, Hammonds Pond, Keenan Park, Richardson Street, and facilities at Briar Bank and Harraby Community Centres) and pitch drainage.

- B. Long term a replacement for the “The Pools” needs to be considered. The re-use of the existing site in an area covered by the development framework being developed for Carlisle Renaissance could contribute to this. A repair and maintenance profile for the next 10-15 years needs to be produced in conjunction with Carlisle Leisure Ltd to determine when decisions need to be made.

This is the major capital proposal within the study and the Council will need to define the priority it has relative to all of the other competing priorities currently vying for Council resources.

- C. Indoor tennis – this opportunity is currently being investigated with the Lawn Tennis Association and Carlisle Leisure Ltd and was the subject of an earlier report to the Executive.
- D. Synthetic Pitch – if funding is made available from the Football Foundation this proposal will be developed at the Sheepmount. A capital budget provision of £250,000 has been set aside in the 06/07 year to match fund this scheme.
- E. Cricket provision at Carlisle Cricket Club should be considered as part of the work of Carlisle Renaissance, linked to the development along the Eden and Caldew.
- F. The City Council becomes fully engaged in the extended school programme and the review of senior schools in the city to maximise the provision of community facilities.
- G. The Council facilitates investment from the private sector when opportunities present themselves, especially if they involve the provision of facilities identified in the study but not a priority for the Council.

1.4 Conclusion

The study provides a useful tool in giving strategic direction for the development of facilities in the City. Which have in turn been used to establish some priorities for the Council. It is recognised that future capital developments need to be considered in the light of competing demands for resources and work with partners is an essential aspect of any development, large or small. The range of partners as shown with the recent multi-use games areas can add significant benefit to a scheme, both with initial funding and with subsequent support.

Clearly the most significant limiting factor for the Council is the availability of resources. It is important to stress that although the feasibility study may raise expectations, these have to be tempered by the reality that the Council does not have the financial capacity to deliver all of the schemes highlighted.

2. CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation to Date.

PFH, Members, SMT, Officers. Consultees, clubs and facility users as part of the study.

2.2 Consultation proposed.

All of the original consultees, The Executive, PFH, Community O&S, SMT

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is recommended to:

- 1 Agree the priorities set out in the Report.
- 2 Forward it to Community Overview & Scrutiny for comment.
- 3 Release the full draft to all consultees for their comments.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable consultation to be concluded on the final draft study.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources –
None in connection with the draft, although if pursued, aspects of study would require officer and financial commitment.
- Financial – Members need to be aware of current pressures on the large projects fund. Robust financial appraisals will be required as part of the decision making process if and when any projects are being considered.
- Legal – None in the context of this report
- Corporate –
The study contributes to the work of Carlisle Renaissance and improving the city for visitors and residents. It has been discussed at SMT
- Risk Management –
Any project that is derived from the study would be subject to a full risk assessment.
- Equality Issues –
None in the context of the report.

- Environmental –
If new buildings or significant alterations of Council owned assets were to be considered a full environmental impact assessment would be undertaken.
- Crime and Disorder –
The role of sport in helping to alleviate crime and disorder is well documented. The study identifies potential sporting opportunities that may assist.
- Impact on Customers –
Improving facilities for customers generally provides a higher level of satisfaction in Council services and may help to increase the percentage of participation for active recreation, which is a Government target. However any capital investment would have to be balanced against the competing demands for other priorities across the District.