

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report on | Sports Facility Strategy |
| Date of Meeting | 10 May 2018 |
| Reporting Officer | Oliver McShane |
| Contact Officer | Oliver McShane |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To seek Members approval for the Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) Sports Facility Strategy. |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | The MUDC Sports Facility Strategy provides a framework to inform the priority for the development and provision of sports facilities at a local level, to meet identified community need in Mid Ulster. The strategy rationale is to develop a framework for future prioritisation and development of sports facilities based on identified need, increasing participation, addressing health inequalities and other local specific factors. |
| 2.2 | The focus of the facilities analysis has been sports halls (4 courts or above – except those on education sites), pools of 20m length and above, health and fitness suites of 20 stations and above, MUGAs, and full size AGPs. The drive time catchment area of 20mins has been used as this is the average distance most users of sports facilities will travel to access facilities. |
| 2.3 | This is one of 11 Local Strategies to be developed in the context of the wider NI Sports Facility Strategy. Sport NI have recently opened a capital grants programme that Council and other sports clubs/organisations can apply to. The Council and these clubs will require their project to fit within the MUDC Sports Facility Strategy framework. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | The Northern Ireland Framework for Sports Facilities Development 2016-2026 sets out a number of recommendations for facilities of NI wide and cultural significance, and for those providing for high performance training and competition. The recommendations stress the need for an evidence-based approach to the future planning for sports facilities, based on need, to ensure that investment is strategic, and will deliver sustainable provision, benefitting communities across NI. |

| | |
|-----|--|
| 3.2 | <p>Mid Ulster has a growing, if ageing, population, the majority of whom are in good health. As well as the growth in numbers of older people, there will also be significant increase in the number of younger people. Most people are in employment, and own their own home, and there are only a few pockets of deprivation; two of these are noted as part of the NI context and include rural areas. However, rents are high which impact on levels of available disposable income, which can lead to child poverty. Levels of car ownership are high, which suggests that the population is mobile. However, accessibility from and within rural areas is a challenge. The number of those under 16 is set to increase, as will the number of older people; both age cohorts will need to be catered for in terms of access to opportunities to be physically active.</p> |
| 3.3 | <p>These factors point to a community which is, in the main, able to access sports facilities, and opportunities to be physically active; however, accessibility needs to be improved for those in the rural areas, and those with physical disabilities and suffering from mental health problems. The fact that the population is ageing has some impact on the type of activities in which people choose to be involved. For older people access to opportunities for physical activity may be more important than simply the provision of sports facilities. For young people, and those in their later teens to early 30's, access to good quality, accessible indoor and outdoor sports facilities may be more of a priority. Growing obesity levels suggest there is a need to facilitate increased participation, and to ensure availability of quality sports facilities, which are both affordable and accessible to the local community. It will be important to ensure that communities have equal access to sports and leisure facilities to ensure that levels of obesity do not continue to show significant increases.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p>As the population continues to grow, demand for access to quality sports facilities will increase. The opening of facilities on education sites to create a greater level of public access could facilitate increased levels of participation in sport and physical activity, which could contribute to reducing health inequalities.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p>The consultation process for this Strategy has identified a number of key issues and priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment for this Strategy highlights the need for some additional provision of sports halls, and swimming pools. There is a current over-supply of community accessible fitness stations +30, which decreases to +8 fitness stations in the future as a result of increased demand. However, assessment of accessibility highlights that the majority of the Mid Ulster communities are generally within the catchment area of a community accessible sports facilities. <p>Future levels of under provision against identified demand, based on population growth are however relatively small. There are existing sports hall facilities in the District (44 identified which do not currently have community access on a pay and play basis) which could accommodate the demand for more courts by 2037 (8.96 badminton courts)).</p> <p>There will be an under-supply of 2 lanes of a 4-lane x 25m pool by 2037; this is not a significant level of under-provision, and there are existing learner and leisure pools which provide water space excluded from the formal water space assessment. The redevelopment/replacement of Dungannon Pool should take into account this projected under supply.</p> <p>Some existing facilities are unavailable for community access because they are on education sites. This impacts particularly on the supply of accessible sports hall, pitch facilities, although there are some existing good examples of facilities shared between the community and a school e.g. Fivemiletown College, Aughnacloy High School.</p> |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on club feedback there is a lack of all-weather pitches/3Gs in the local area, particularly for training. New provision should be considered/supported where it would replace poorer quality grass pitches and can be shared between a number of local clubs/organisations. New provision is about improving quality, not the need for additional facilities, given that there is a sufficiency of AGPs in the District. • A further significant issue is the future of Dungannon Leisure Centre, given its age. Investment will be needed in the pool and sports hall in the medium to long term to refurbish or replace the existing facilities. • Coalisland / Gortgonis is one of the most deprived areas in the District and NI. There is a need to develop dryside facilities here to provide additional resources for local people and address the needs of clubs in the area. There is also a need to upgrade the quality of the sports facilities at this site. • Other identified facility needs were highlighted through consultation as increased provision of cycling, running and walking trails/circuits, particularly safe walking trails in and around urban areas and existing sports facilities. The need for a safe off-road cycling circuit is also identified by a number of local cycling clubs (See Appendix 6), alongside the need for development of facilities on education sites and improved access to existing education facilities. There are also opportunities for the development of provision for boxing, judo and other martial arts, outdoor activities, petanque, and a range of communal sports spaces in the more rural areas. There is no existing provision in the council area for off road cycling. Existing facilities for judo, boxing and other martial arts are extremely limited. • Rural areas generally have less provision; given the need for facility provision to be sustainable, any development should be underpinned by collaborative working between education, local clubs and the community to ensure there will be optimum use of provision. • The opportunity to further develop safe walking, running and cycling routes for informal recreational use clearly presents a significant opportunity to increase participation levels and engage more people in regular physical activity. These routes need to be local and accessible on a daily basis, so would complement the more formal opportunities presented by forest, mountain and loch-based trails and routes. The local routes could be developed on education sites or on sports club sites around existing pitches or could link existing communities together. |
| 3.6 | Working with other relevant bodies should underpin all future investment in sports facility provision to ensure it 'fits' with, and addresses identified needs of the district, and can maximise access to, and securing of, all available external and internal funding opportunities. This includes working with neighbouring local authorities on cross boundary planning and provision. |
| 3.7 | The strategy makes a number of recommendation to address the issues and priorities identified and provides a framework within which to develop sports facilities in Mid Ulster. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications |
| | Financial: The strategy includes a number of recommendations that will incur capital expenditure. These are being considered as part of the capital programme approved by Council. |

| | |
|------------|--|
| | Human: N/A |
| | Risk Management: N/A |
| 4.2 | Screening & Impact Assessments |
| | Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A |
| | Rural Needs Implications: N/A |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | Members are asked to approve the Mid Ulster District Council Sports Facility Strategy and the recommended framework included within. |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| 6.1 | Appendix 1a and 1b - Mid Ulster District Council Sports Facility Strategy. |