

<b>Report on</b>	DfC Strategy for Sport Consultation
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	For members to note that Officers have issued a return for the Department for Communities (DfC) Strategy for Sport Consultation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	DfC had issued correspondence that they are developing a new Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity – <i>“Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020 to 2030 and beyond”</i> and therefore have requested for key stakeholders to complete a pre-consultation survey. The closing date for submissions was extended until the 30 October 2020.
2.2	DfC has stated that they wish for the new strategy to build on the successful foundations of the Sport Matters strategy which was published in 2009 and which continues to guide Government policy until the new strategy is agreed and put in place.
2.3	Members are advised that Officers have been actively engaging with DfC in relation to the Strategy for Sport 2020 – 2030.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	DfC have stated that their aim is for the new strategy to be cross-Departmental in nature, meaning that it will cover all the Departments of the Northern Ireland Executive and will focus on linkages and shared outcomes between sport and physical activity and other policies of the Executive, such as physical and mental health and well-being, education, transport, economic, urban and rural regeneration, good relations, community safety, social inclusion and social equality.
3.2	It is anticipated that the new strategy is to be developed through a process of co-design with a wide range of stakeholders. Co-design is a process of developing the strategy jointly and in consultation with those who have a key interest in sport and physical activities, and those who are currently not engaging in such activities and using their views to help shape and refine the final document.
3.3	As an early part of the co-design process the Department for Communities is keen to know the initial views of a range of key interest groups on issues, concerns and future opportunities in relation to sport and physical activity. These will be collected through this survey and via any focus groups or meetings.

3.4	The Department will then seek to ensure that those issues, concerns and future opportunities are considered effectively in the formal consultation process and ultimately in the development of the new strategy for sport and physical activity.
3.5	<p>Following a focus group meeting with DfC and neighbouring Councils, a number of issues emerged from the discussion which have been incorporated into the response from Mid Ulster District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective to increase participation in sporting and non-sporting physical activities</li> <li>• Seek to innovate by encouraging additional and new participants into physical activity through non-traditional routes.</li> <li>• Aim for closer engagement and alignment with Education that should promote early years to old age participation.</li> <li>• Seek to embrace new technology and how support can be given to become more digitally advanced.</li> <li>• Understand Impact of Covid 19 – specifically mental health and the role of physical activity.</li> <li>• Action Planning as a result of Covid 19 - financial challenges current/post pandemic and impact on programming and facilities.</li> <li>• Aim to provide enhanced support for people development and deployment specifically with volunteers.</li> <li>• Seek to clarify Sport NI's role and future – ie. Current Everybody Active 2020 Programme/Small Grants – What next? Specifically, for EBA 2020 as currently programme is due to end March 2021.</li> <li>• Aim to define the prioritisation and objectives clarity on investment between participation versus performance.</li> </ul>
3.6	The new strategy is due to be published in March 2021 and further updates, when received, will be brought back to Development Committee.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That members note the contents of this report.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A