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| <b>Report on</b>         | Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy Update |
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>   | 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021                     |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure                |
| <b>Contact Officer</b>   | Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure                |
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| <b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>         | Yes |   |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No  | X |

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>  |
| 1.1        | Council approved the Sports Facility Strategy in May 2018 which provided a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at a local level in order to meet identified community need, helping to increase participation, addressing health inequalities, and other local specific factors. With reference to grass pitches, it was noted to Members in September 2018 that it was recognized that the limitations to the strategic planning work undertaken included the fact that every natural grass pitch could not be visited and for this reason, the Strategy focused only on headline issues, with the realisation that natural grass pitches needed to be examined through a more detailed piece of research. |
| 1.2        | Previously in February 2021, it was noted to Members that Officers were continuing with work to develop a Mid Ulster District Council Pitch Strategy (which is an action reflective of a recommendation from the previously approved 2018 Sports Facility Strategy) and that updates on progress and proposed options to move forward would be presented to a future Development Committee for consideration when available.  |
| 1.3        | This report seeks to provide information on what the project entails and key milestones to be achieved.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Background</b>   |
| 2.1        | Following a procurement process, Otium Leisure Consultancy have been commissioned to undertake the work associated with this strategy development.  |
| 2.2        | Further details on the project brief are provided within Appendix A and it is estimated that it should take 6-8 months to complete this initial work with an anticipated presentation of initial recommendations for Members consideration by October/November 2021.  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
| 3.1        | The strategy development brief is detailed within Appendix A but in summary it is for a two part study to be carried out:   |

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|     | <p>(1) Part one should focus on an audit into the current design, distribution, demand/supply information and condition of each Mid Ulster District Council site that hosts Council owned and leased outdoor 'pitches' and associated changing facilities in the District. This should also include consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.</p> <p>(2) Part 2 should then build upon the part one audit and use that as a framework to create a strategy that could be used to further develop the pitch infrastructure in the District in a way that is affordable, sustainable, inclusive, high quality and consistent with current best practice in public pitch provision.</p> |
| 3.2 | It is envisaged that the final reports will provide a practical working tool to which Council can refer to whenever decisions relating to pitch provision are made in the future and this should reference indicative capital and ongoing annual revenue cost estimates.  |
| 3.3 | Additionally, the development of a strategy allows for a cross Council approach to use of leisure pitches and recreational space with Leisure Services, Health and Wellbeing, Community and Good Relations to ensure they are shared and maximised community assets.  |
| 3.4 | Presently the project team are carrying out detailed visits and assessments on all Council sites regarding condition/quality, location, size, usage profile, accessibility and ancillary facilities.  |
| 3.5 | It is anticipated that the commencement of the stakeholder consultation and engagement will begin with three evening consultation events in Magherafelt (7 <sup>th</sup> June), Cookstown (8 <sup>th</sup> June) and Dungannon (9 <sup>th</sup> June). There will also be a virtual event scheduled (date to be confirmed) and alongside these events there will be ongoing surveys and questionnaires with all interested stakeholders. All engagement opportunities will be advertised via the Councils online communication platforms and mailing lists.   |
| 3.6 | An indicative project plan is itemised below:   |

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|            | <p><b>Project Elements</b></p> <p><b>Month 1</b> <b>Month 2</b> <b>Month 3</b> <b>Month 4</b> <b>Month 5</b> <b>Month 6</b> <b>Month 7</b> <b>Month 8</b></p> <p><b>PART 1: AUDIT OF EXISTING PROVISION</b></p> <p>Project Initiation Meeting</p> <p><b>Audit current situation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site inspections/cost estimates</li> <li>Consultation Events x 3</li> <li>Survey work – clubs, schools, community</li> <li>Consultation Meetings/Interviews</li> <li>Research Demand/Supply Information</li> </ul> <p><b>AUDIT REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Report Preparation</li> <li>Presentation to Council Project Team</li> <li>Final Audit Report</li> </ul> <p><b>PART 2: PITCH STRATEGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategy Consultation Workshop</li> <li>Draft Pitch Strategy</li> <li>Stakeholder views</li> <li>Presentation to Council Project Team</li> <li>Final Pitch Strategy Report</li> </ul> <p><b>MILESTONE 1 – RESEARCH &amp; CONSULTATION COMPLETED</b></p> <p><b>MILESTONE 2 – AUDIT REPORT COMPLETED</b></p> <p><b>MILESTONE 3 – PROJECT COMPLETION</b></p> |
| 3.7        | Officers will continue to provide updates on progress and options for any decisions required via future Development Committee's when available.   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Other Considerations</b>   |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>   |
|            | Financial:<br>Costs for strategy development within existing revenue budgets.   |
|            | Human: Officer time.  |
|            | Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and will continue to ensure a more robust and standardised approach across Leisure services and facilities.   |
| <b>4.2</b> | <b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>   |
|            | Equality & Good Relations Implications: Will be carried out prior to each part of the strategy development and to be considered when future options are presented.  |
|            | Rural Needs Implications: Will be carried out prior to each part of the strategy development and to be considered when future options are presented.  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Recommendation(s)</b>  |
| 5.1        | To note the contents of this report on the development of a Mid Ulster District Council Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy.   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>  |

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|  | Appendix A – Pitch and Recreational Spaces Strategy Development Brief |
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