

# Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Community Services (Interim)

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To: Scrutiny Committee

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## Leisure Strategy

### Recommendation

That the Scrutiny Committee review the Leisure Strategy and provide feedback on the documents to Cabinet.

### Purpose of Report

1. To request the Scrutiny committee to review the attached Leisure Strategy and make recommendations to Cabinet (meeting on 7 June 2018)

### Strategic Objectives

2. The Leisure Strategy helps ensure that the council achieves its strategic objectives as set out in its Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020 in the following areas:
  - to 'build thriving communities' through the corporate priority to 'help people to be healthy and active'
  - to invest in the district's future by 'planning for the future leisure needs in the district'

### Background

3. The Leisure Strategy sets out the Council's action plans for the period up to 2033. The strategy documents identify the current leisure provision across South Oxfordshire and includes action plans for protecting and improving these facilities along with identifying new provision required to meet the needs of the growing population. Officers are committed to providing reports on performance against the leisure strategy to Cabinet and Scrutiny on an annual basis. To enable the Council

to adopt these documents, the Scrutiny Committee is requested to review the attached documents and provide feedback to Cabinet.

4. In line with the council's Public Engagement Charter, we have consulted residents and interested groups on the suite of documents that form the Council's Leisure strategy.
5. The Leisure strategy has been updated to take account of the new strategic site allocations and requires adoption before being considered as part of the evidence for the Local Plan Examination.
6. The online public consultation exercise closed on 7 May and provided an opportunity for the wider community to feedback on the suite of draft documents before adoption.
7. In line with methodology of the production of the draft strategy documents, a large number of key stakeholders have already been consulted throughout the process including National Governing Bodies, Sport England and local clubs.
8. The findings of the engagement will be reviewed and considered by the leisure team and any recommendations for change will be put to the Cabinet meeting for adoption.
9. The Leisure Strategy documents can be viewed at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/sports-leisure-and-arts/leisure-strategy-2033> .
10. Once agreed, it will form the basis of annual progress reports to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. The actions plans from the strategy will be rolling and the actions within it will be reviewed annually, with any actions not completed in year being rolled forward.
11. The first progress report is scheduled for March 2019.

## **Financial Implications**

12. There are no financial implications arising from monitoring and reporting on the Leisure strategies. Delivery of leisure projects occurring in the 2018/19 financial year are budgeted for. Delivering actions scheduled for future years will be dependent on budget being approved as part of the annual budget-setting process, Community Infrastructure Levy spending strategy and external funding partners.

## **Legal Implications**

13. None

## **Risks**

14. Should Cabinet decide not to approve the Leisure strategy there is a risk that it will not be adopted and therefore unable to be used as evidence in the local plan inspection. As we are already a significant way through the process of the local plan this could lead to reputational damage or missed opportunities to manage performance against our priorities effectively

## Equality Implications

15. In line with the public sector equality duties of the Equality Act, officers have carried out an equality impact check of the strategy. This has not identified any potential for discrimination, rather opportunities to promote the council's commitment to inclusion for all within the strategy. The strategy will be updated to reflect this, along with the outcomes of the consultation. To view equality impact check use the link below.

## Conclusion

16. Officers would welcome Scrutiny Committee's views on the proposed Leisure strategy to be taken forward to the Cabinet (meeting on 7 June 2018).

## Background Papers

- Link <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/sports-leisure-and-arts/leisure-strategy-2033>