

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **3 September 2014**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **LEISURE STRATEGY REVIEW**

SUMMARY

The Leisure Strategy sets out the vision and key priorities for the next five years and contains a series of actions that will be the primary focus for the Leisure and Community team.

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel are asked to comment of the Leisure Strategy and recommended that the Executive approve the implementation of the strategy.

1. The Leisure Strategy sets out the vision and key priorities for the next five years and contains a series of actions that will be the primary focus for the Leisure and Community team.
2. The previous version of the strategy was presented to the Leisure & Community Policy Development and Review Panel on 27 July 2013. Since then there have been a number of changes and emerging issues which have impacted on the service and these are summarised in the report along with the main achievements over the last year. A copy of the Leisure Strategy 2014 to 2019 is contained in Appendix A.

EMERGING ISSUES

3. Preparation has begun on planning for the transfer of 33 hectares of land at Coldeast into the Council's ownership. This will involve plans to construct new community infrastructure including the provision of a new swimming pool. There are also large areas of woodland and parkland that need to be prepared and maintained for public access. This will be the responsibility of the Countryside Ranger Service who has now employed a temporary Countryside Ranger to ensure this process can be managed effectively.
4. Hampshire County Council's reorganisation of youth provision has resulted in a lack of resources to deliver open access youth provision across the Borough. This has had a detrimental impact on both the management and the range of services provided in Council owned youth centres, particularly at Genesis and X-perience (in Trinity Street). The management arrangements for these facilities are being reviewed with consideration given to how best to meet the current demand for youth provision in Council -owned buildings and other local facilities.
5. Hampshire County Council is currently in the process of reviewing the funding arrangements for Council for Voluntary Services, Community Action Fareham. This review is scheduled to conclude in 2015 and is likely to impact on the way these services are delivered in the future.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

6. A brief summary of the main achievements for Leisure & Community service in 2013/14 are set out in the following section.
7. Lockwood Community Centre - The management of the Lockwood Community Centre at Centre Way, Locks Heath, transferred from Fareham Borough Council to the newly formed Lockwood Sports and Community Association on 1 August 2013.
8. Genesis Young People's Centre - The management of the Genesis Young Peoples Centre, Centre Way, Locks Heath, transferred from a joint arrangement with Hampshire County Council and Fareham Borough Council to a newly formed partnership between Fareham Borough Council and Y Services, who now manage the facility on behalf of the Council.
9. Fareham Park Project – External funding of approximately £65k has been obtained to benefit residents in the Fareham Park and increase the range of opportunities to access services and activities in the area. This funding support for nine new initiatives in the Fareham Park area through the development of the

'Fareham Park Purse', a free fun day was offered to the local community, attracting over 500 local residents. In addition external funding was also secured for a new initiative aimed at improving advice, access and information for young people (15 -25 years) in the Fareham Park neighbourhood. This initiative, called 'Clued Up 2 Go' has secured £32,995 for this project over the course of the next 18 months.

10. Broadlaw Walk Youth Project - a grant was secured from the Local Childrens Partnership (£6,000) to develop a youth project in the Broadlaw Walk area (Fareham South Ward). This area is not well served served with youth activities and the weekly youth club is attracting a regular membership of approximately 20 young people per evening.
11. Play Ranger Service – The Play Ranger Service continues to see high numbers of local children and young people accessing the free, interactive play sessions at various locations around the Borough. Feedback from parents and children clearly demonstrates the value that local residents place in this free, fun service and the opportunities it provides for encouraging younger members to get out and about during school holidays, rather than more sedentary activities.
12. Review of Community Buildings - The review of community buildings is a corporate priority and the fourth and fifth phases of the process, the Titchfield and Western Wards CATs areas needs assessment were completed and an action plan prepared in July 2014
13. Play Area Improvements - New play areas were installed at Swanwick Lane and Sarisbury Green.
14. Tennis Court Improvements - Improvements to the court surface and fencing at the Stubbington Recreation Ground Tennis Courts.
15. Matched Funding Grants - The Council awarded matched funding grants to the following groups to provide new and improved sport and community facilities in the Borough;
 - (a) Fareham Bowls Club for new changing rooms (£25,000)
 - (b) Sarisbury Green Community Centre for a new heating system (£7,500)
 - (c) The Salmiakki Group for an indoor multi sports rink (£21,500)
 - (d) Portchester Bowls Club for a new bowling green (£22,500)
 - (e) Titchfield Bowls Club for a new club house (£20,000)
 - (f) Fareham Hockey Club for floodlighting improvements (£11,000)
 - (g) St Margaret Mary Church for an outside play area (£7,500)
16. Bath Lane Pavilion – The construction contract was awarded to refurbish and extend the existing changing rooms at Bath Lane Recreation ground which include the provision of a new club house for Fareham & Crofton Cricket Club. The old dilapidated clubhouse will be demolished and a new grounds maintenance store provided.

17. A new cricket square has been constructed at Bath Lane Recreation Ground in advance of the works to extend the changing accommodation. This allows the cricket outfield to continue to meet the grading requirements of the local cricket leagues.
18. A drainage system has been installed on the football pitch at Burr ridge Recreation Ground. This allows the pitch to be used throughout the football season rather than the occasional use in received during dry weather.
19. Parks and Countryside Events - Successful programme of events organised across the Borough.

RISK ASSESSMENT

20. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

21. The past year has seen a wide variety of high profile events and new community facilities provided for residents and visitors to the borough to enjoy. The 2014-2019 Leisure Strategy provides an overview of what influences the demand for, and provision of, leisure and cultural facilities and activities in the Borough of Fareham.
22. The strategy document contained in Appendix A includes an action plan that sets out the programme for delivering activities and new leisure and cultural facilities over the next five years.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices: Appendix A - Leisure Strategy 2014 - 2019

Reference Papers:

Leisure & Community Policy Development & Review Panel - 24 July 2013 - Leisure Strategy Review.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Gareth Satherley, Leisure Development Manager (Ext 4476)