



CABINET – 27TH JULY 2016

SUBJECT: WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPORT AND LEISURE STRATEGY

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 28th June 2016, updated the Scrutiny Committee on the outcome of a recent Wales Audit Office (WAO) review of the development of a Sport and Leisure Strategy and the next steps to be taken by the Council in addressing the recommendations made by the WAO.
- 1.2 Members were reminded of two reports previously considered at Scrutiny Committee: Strategic Review of Leisure Facilities (28th October 2014) and Strategic Review of Outdoor Recreation Facilities (31st March 2015). Both of these reports summarised work that had been completed in undertaking a robust assessment of the facilities across the Authority and setting a strategic vision for the provision of facilities in the future. The latter review also progressed to Cabinet where the review recommendations were agreed.
- 1.3 In the final quarter of 2015/16, the WAO held discussions with Caerphilly County Borough Council and included a review of Sports and Leisure Services in its 2015/16 programme of work with the Council. The scope of the review was limited to “the development of a Sport and Leisure Strategy” and consequently did not examine the wider aspects of Sports and Leisure Services such as regional working, National Exercise Referral, outdoor adventures/education and sports development. A final report was published by the WAO in May 2016 (attached at Appendix 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report) which sets out the recommendations in the WAO Report and the Authority’s next steps.
- 1.4 To build on the substantial review work already undertaken and in response to the WAO findings, the development of the Sport and Leisure Strategy has been designated as one of the 13 Improving Services Programmes which are subject to formal project management arrangements and regular reporting to the new Improving Services Programme (ISP) Board. The Board has agreed to the appointment of a Consultant to review all existing plans, strategies, policies and other documents and to work with key Authority personnel in developing an over-arching Sport and Leisure Strategy for the Council. In addition, the ISP Project Team has developed a brief for the ISP Board (draft timescales are detailed in Appendix 2 of the Scrutiny Committee report). Developments are at an early stage and future updates will be provided to the ISP Board and Scrutiny Committee upon completion of the consultancy work.
- 1.5 During the course of the ensuing debate, a Member queried varying consultancy costs detailed within the Officer’s report and the ISP Project Brief. Officers explained that these costs have now been finalised as being in the region of £4,500 + VAT. It was also confirmed that the ISP Project Team will comprise of senior staff from Community and Leisure Services and Corporate Services, and that Corporate Management Team have involvement with the over-arching Business Improvement Board referenced in the WAO report.

- 1.6 Discussion took place regarding leisure centre usage and it was agreed that a previous report on this matter (Demographic Overview of CCBC Leisure Centre Users) be re-circulated to the Committee. Debate also took place regarding the services available within the Council's leisure centres and the facilities available within the private sector and Officers confirmed that this would be reviewed as part of the Sport and Leisure Strategy.
- 1.7 Following consideration on the report, Members noted the outcome of the Wales Audit Office review and unanimously supported the approach adopted by the Authority, which will include update reports to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.8 The report is referred to Cabinet for information purposes.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 28th June 2016 –
Agenda Item 8