



CABINET – 17TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES

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

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- 1.1 The attached report, which sought the views of Members on a recent review of existing outdoor recreation and leisure facilities across the county borough, was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 31st March 2015, prior to its presentation to Cabinet.
 - 1.2 The formal review of existing recreational facilities focused on a number of elements: Equipped Play Provision, Sports Pitches, Leisure Centres, Allotments, and Amenity Green Space).
 - 1.3 Section 3 of the review (Leisure Centres) was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 28th October 2014, with the conclusions and recommendations arising from that section of the review unanimously endorsed by Members at that meeting subject to user consultation being carried out and the results included in any future report to Cabinet. The review in respect of leisure centres is therefore the subject of a current consultation exercise with leisure centre users and a report on this section will be presented to Cabinet at a future date.
 - 1.4 The remaining elements were examined in the second phase of this review (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) with the intended aim of the review being to establish a way forward in relation to a future long-term leisure and recreation strategy.
 - 1.5 Officers outlined the conclusions arising from the review applicable to each of the Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) strategy areas (Heads of the Valley Regeneration Area - HOVRA, Northern Connections Corridor – NCC and Southern Connections Corridor – SCC). The review identified the strategy areas where there was good provision of facilities and, where improvements and expansion were needed to specific strategy areas, made a number of recommendations against each facility type accordingly.
 - 1.6 Officers explained that once the long-term leisure and recreation strategy was agreed, any future developer contributions from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 agreements would be channelled into identified gaps in existing provision to help meet the needs/requirements identified in the report.
 - 1.7 Discussion of the report ensued, and following some specific ward queries from Members, Officers confirmed that they would make further enquiries in relation to the location/status/condition of several equipped play provision facilities and allotments within the county borough, and report back to Ward Members individually. A query was raised regarding the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals in relation to bowling club provision and Officers advised that this was a separate matter to the review of existing outdoor recreation and leisure facilities. Officers also responded to a number of queries relating to the use of future funding contributions from CIL and Section 106 agreements.

- 1.8 Members referred to one of the main aims of the LDP, which requires development 'to contribute to improving public health, by promoting land use developments that contribute to healthy lifestyles and wellbeing'. Officers advised that the development of healthy living did not necessarily need to be provided via a structured facility, and that if funding could not be secured to develop this strategy, other alternatives (such as the benefits of taking exercise using the countryside and natural landscapes) could be used to promote this aim.
- 1.9 Following consideration of the report, the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein, the conclusions arising from the Review of Existing Formal Recreation and Leisure Facilities in Caerphilly County Borough be approved.
- 1.10 Members are asked to consider the recommendation.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 31st March 2015 –
Agenda Item 7