

APPENDIX C

Extract from minutes of Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 25 July 2013

Minutes No. SCOSC/13/33

Physical Activity Strategy

Cllr Dalgarno introduced the draft Physical Activity Strategy and referred to the three stages of the methodology used in its development. He also outlined the key issues that had been raised during the audit and assessment process, which had led to the development of four emerging strategic priorities. In response to the report the Committee discussed several issues in detail as follows:-

- The need to clarify what activity took place in Town & Parish Councils.
- Why the strategy excluded private health clubs. The Head of Leisure Services commented that private health clubs were considered to be a barrier to accessing sport/activity due to cost and the Council had less influence to direct their programmes. Whilst information regarding the usage of private health clubs continued to be recorded the Head of Leisure Services agreed to amend this reference.
- Concerns that the report was very informative but did not provide definitive actions or recommendations that would impact on development control or planning. Cllr Dalgarno commented that there would be more specific detail and an action plan set out in other chapters that would be presented to the Committee. Other chapters would also set out the ways in which the Council was working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver priorities.
- Concerns that no single agency was cited as having overall responsibility for providing, developing or promoting physical activity. Cllr Dalgarno commented there would be significantly more coordination between partners in order to deliver long-term benefits to residents.
- The importance of funding being allocated to rural communities, for schemes such as outdoor gyms, so that residents could be involved in sport and physical activity closer to home. The Deputy Executive Member commented that funding was provided through Sport England and the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver schemes in smaller villages. It was important that the Council was a facilitator for activity to take place rather than forcing people to drive elsewhere or providing the funding for the activity.
- The importance of a joined-up approach between partners to inform residents of the sport and physical activities that were available to them. Cllr Dalgarno commented that a more joined up approach was being developed in relation to the delivery of health checks at Leisure Centres. The use of schools to deliver sport and physical activities was also considered to be a key part of the strategy moving forward.
- The need to define the meaning of 'inactive'.

RECCOMENDED

That the comments of the Committee be taken into consideration prior to the adoption of the Physical Activity Strategy and that the Council takes strong action to access money to support the delivery of the Strategy via Bedfordshire and Luton County Sports Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.