

**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

19 October 2017

**PRESENT** – Councillors Carson (in the Chair), Cossins, Donoghue, Grundy, L Hughes and Lyonette. (6)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Coultas, KE Kelly, M Nicholson and Wright (4)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – (0)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Mike Crawshaw, Head of Leisure, Paul Foreman, Eastbourne and Move More Manager and Shirley Burton, Democratic Manager.

**P20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interests reported at the meeting.

**P21. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee held on 24 August and 12 September 2017.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as correct records.

**P22. MATTERS ARISING** – In relation to Minute P14(c)/Aug/17, Members queried whether cyclists had been consulted on an alternative cycle route; highlighted the dangers of using mobile phones when cycling, particularly in relation to young people, and suggested that an exercise could be undertaken with schools to raise awareness of that danger, through the Cabinet Member with the Children and Young People Portfolio. Concerns were also raised that some cyclists had no lights on their cycles while travelling at night.

In relation to Minute P15/Aug/17, the Chair advised Scrutiny that a report on the Bank Top Masterplan would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting scheduled for 7 December; intentions of the new owners of Darlington Markets had been superseded by an all Members' Briefing negating the need for a report to Scrutiny Committee; a report on the move of the Library service to the Dolphin Centre would be submitted to a future meeting of Scrutiny Committee; and the Creative Darlington Manager would attend the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee to give a full update on the work of Creative Darlington.

**P23. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY UPDATE** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) providing an overview of progress to date against the priorities outlined in the Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014-19.

Particular reference was made to the significant progress made over the last twelve months to improve the stock of Sport and Leisure facilities within the Borough, including the development of two new full size Artificial Pitches, with an investment of more than £1M.

Members were pleased to note that, although there was more to do in terms of School Club links and Club and Coach Development to ensure the sustainability of Sports opportunities across Darlington, there had been a continued development of the School Sport and Community infrastructure through strong partnership working.

The submitted report set out the visions, ambitions and outcomes of the Strategy and highlighted the progress made to deliver on a range of outcomes which included Darlington's School Sport Partnership continued development of the infrastructure for young people in the town to get involved in sport at all levels, through an extensive Events and Festivals programme. Aimed at primary and secondary school children across the Borough and based out of Eastbourne Sports Complex, more than 40 Sports Festivals, including the Sports Ability Festival (Disability Sports), the Primary and Secondary Athletics events, Tag Rugby, the Quadkids Athletics Festivals and the Primary Cross Country had taken place in the last academic year.

It was reported that the Sports Complex hosted several Tees Valley events and overall there have been 1500 young people from Darlington and 250 from the wider Tees Valley area who have used the Sports Complex site. Non sport-specific Clubs include Nordic Walking, Boccia and New Age Kurling with team games and a creative word/picture wall activity capturing the thoughts of young participants.

The School Sport Partnership (SSP) delivered a very successful apprenticeship programme to develop young people's life skills, employability skills and confidences through sports leadership and seven young apprentices passed the course and have gone onto various different forms of employment within the schools and leisure sector.

Successful funding applications by Darlington Borough Council's Sports Development Officers have enabled improvements to facilities and services for the benefit of a broad cross-section of residents in the Borough, including, working with the Football Foundation to secure a £412,000 grant to redevelop the artificial sports pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex; securing grants totalling £285,000 to help facilitate Darlington Football Club return to the town following a four-year hiatus in Bishop Auckland; a £150,000 capital grant from Sport England and the England Hockey Foundation to develop a new £550,000 sand-based artificial grass pitch at Carmel College to support curriculum needs and local hockey development; the Darlington Sports Development Team has supported the Darlington Dolphins Table Tennis Club with a successful £10,000 application to the Sport England Small Grants scheme; and Darlington Parks Bowls Association secured a successful Inspired Facilities application's for £65,000 towards refurbishing the playing surfaces at North Lodge and North Park and upgrading the ancillary facilities.

Details were also provided of physical activity programmes that have been delivered across the town with a focus on behaviour change programmes and engaging residents in new ways over the last three years. On average 63 per cent of the participants increased the number of days they played sport per week with an average increase of 1.2 hours. The success of the project has led to a further year's funding of

£37,516 from Sport England to continue the project from April 2017 to March 2018. A whole range of sessions have been developed to improve the local community sport infrastructure in the town for adults; including, Walking Football, Back to Netball, Couch to 5K, Indoor Cricket and a sheltered housing project.

Community based activity for young people includes the Move More Team forming partnerships with the YMCA offering young people the chance to access both the gym and the 3G football pitch at Eastbourne Sports Complex; the Darlington Harriers Athletic Club to establish a junior athletic club for children 5 to 8 years; Youth Engagement/Anti-social Behaviour to successfully engage children in a wide range of sports, #The Zone to provide a Friday Night Youth Project for 11 to 16 year olds; Top Up Swimming to enable low ability/confidence children to be able to swim 25m at the end of six weeks; and the Be Active Holiday Programme 2017 offering various activities including trampolining, gymnastics, athletics and badminton

A total of £10,000 has been acquired from Tees Valley Sport, Sport England and County Durham Foundation to subsidise courses to encourage local people to become coaches, volunteers and leaders in sport and physical activity.

Disability projects include Lakeside Lodge where activities include Boccia, walks in the park and exercise to music.

Discussion ensued on the adult only swim programme, and it was suggested that it might be an option to redirect some funding to target adults who could not swim; the provision of female only sessions for the Bangladeshi community; community grant recipients being accountable to use any grant funding received efficiently; and the level of support provided to clubs and organisations to help with funding and relevant training to ensure sustainability. It was also noted that Sport England offered workshops for certain roles within clubs and that Clubmark, the universally acknowledged cross sport accreditation scheme for community sports Clubs was required to obtain funding.

Following a question relating to advertising of the activities, Members were informed that there was a Community Plan/Strategy; the Communications Team targeted relevant sections of the community; a health based work programme delivered roadshows to larger employees within Darlington to raise awareness; the Council's website was kept up to date; and social media was actively utilised to promote activities.

The Chair queried whether there was scope for activities held within Community Centres and Church Halls to be promoted within the Strategy and was advised that a programme could be developed but the focus was on the larger sporting facilities due to available resources. It was stated that a Sport and Physical Activity Directory was dependent upon Clubs and Organisations keeping it up to date.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Scrutiny Committee notes the excellent progress made in developing the Strategy and looks forward to future developments.

**P24. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the revised methodology for this Scrutiny Committee’s current work programme.

It was reported that the proposed work programme has been reviewed and revised to enable the Committee to analyse information for each topic area aligning it to the eight outcomes and three conditions in the Sustainable Community Strategy, and relevant performance indicators from the Performance Management Framework.

The proposed structure of the work programme will provide Members with the opportunity to develop each topic through a series of questions and drill down to investigate particular aspects of extensive topics.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

(b) That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

**P25. LOCAL PLAN PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS REPORTS 15 AND 16** - The Director of Economic Growth submitted Highlight Reports 15 and 16 (previously circulated) outlining the progress; governance; key tasks and milestones; and risks in delivery of the Local Plan 2016 - 2036.

The Chair provided Committee with an updated position on the issues detailed in the highlight reports.

Discussion ensued on where expansion of new homes was taking place; the need to monitor new build homes; and a report on the Local Plan being submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.