

Subject:
Consultation on Leisure White Paper.

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 4th July 2007

Report of: Head of Community and Partnerships

Portfolio Holder: Health and Wellbeing

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members about the results of the consultation carried out on the leisure white paper.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The leisure white paper contributes significantly to the council's priority of improving health and well being across the Borough, supporting the council's ambition of increasing participation in physical activity to 30% by 2012.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no risk implications of this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 In January 2007 Cabinet received a report regarding leisure facilities in the Borough. This lead to the publication of the Council's first white paper on leisure which contained a series of suggestions for the improvement of facilities and the development of physical activity in the Borough.
- 4.2 The consultation was launched on 28th February and closed on 18th June. In total 18 responses were received to the consultation and in addition to this one meeting was held with the Rossendale Sports Club to hear their position on the white paper. It should be noted that many of the responses were from organisations which represented interests of many individual groups and stakeholders, for example the response from the SPAA (Sports and Physical Activity Alliance) covers over 30 individual sporting clubs and other partners.

- 4.3 In the main the comments were supportive of the proposals with most agreeing that improvement to the existing facilities needed to take place. Some consultees were concerned to make sure that the work did take place and a number of comments received were very clear that they felt that increased amounts of work were needed to encourage people to participate. Almost all of the consultees considered the need to improve the running track at Marl Pits was extremely important.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 The financial implications have not changed materially from those identified in the report to Council (28th February 2007). That report identified a number of areas:
- current spending was below that of external benchmarking
 - some capital investment has been factored into the capital programme to address the condition of buildings, but this did not deal with such issues as ski matting or track surfaces
 - the mini PFI for Haslingden Sports Centre remained viable

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 This is an important Report in the context of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications of this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The consultation has shown that the Borough Council is following the right approach and that the public are generally supportive of the proposed improvements.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 In light of the consultations the Cabinet are recommended to agree the continued approach of improving the facilities within the Borough.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 On line consultation, Rossendale SPAAC, Rossendale Sports Club

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Leisure White Paper	www.rossendale.gov.uk