

Portrush Community Leisure Developments	13th March 2018
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For information	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing
Cost: (If applicable)	NA

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the preparation of 3 business cases for community leisure projects in Portrush and to recommend next steps.

Background

In January 2016, June 2016, September 2017, November 2017 and January 2018 the Leisure & Development (L&D) Committee discussed the need for improvements to The Recreation Grounds at Ramore Avenue, Portrush. In February 2016 Members approved a capital prioritisation list that included the Recreation Grounds at joint 9th position. The current facilities at The Recreation Grounds are in poor condition and many of the features are of such an outdated design that they fail to meet current user expectations.

Officers have been working to scope the range of available options and have undertaken an extensive community engagement exercise to gain views from the general public and special interest groups in relation to a range of facility needs in the town of Portrush. The challenging geography of the town and limited site availability means that all of the possible solutions will require some compromise.

Facility Need

With reliance on the outcome of the public engagement exercise, the emerging findings from the Pitch and Play Audits and the Council's existing Leisure Facilities Strategy 2015, need has been identified within the following categories and facility types:

- Structured Sport & Leisure.
- Casual Physical Activity (free to use).
- Outdoor Recreation.
- Event Space.

Objectives

The following objectives for any related community leisure project/s in the town were approved by Committee and Council in January 2018:

- Improved quality of life and enhanced physical and emotional well-being of the citizens of Portrush.

- Increasing access to inclusive, multi-use and accessible leisure facilities that meet local need.
- Improve the appearance and recreational use of The Recreation Grounds.
- Make the most economically advantageous use of the available space.
- Enhance the attractiveness of the town for residents and visitors alike.

Priority Projects for Business Case Review

The outline business case (OBC) process is the key tool to fully assess need, evaluate site opportunities / constraints, develop design options, estimate costs and anticipate the benefits. In January 2018, following the stakeholder presentations, objective information analysis and Member's comments, L&D Committee and Council approved development of three OBCs as follows:

Project	Site Options	Features/ Considerations
1. Formal and informal outdoor recreation	Ramore Head Recreation Grounds	1 or 2 Bowling Greens 2 to 4 tennis courts Small play facility New pavilion Event space Associated parking Small urban sport area
2. Integrated Play Facility	The Bowl or Dunluce/Metropole	The main site for: Urban Sport MUGA Play
3. Training pitch/small sided games	Parker Avenue, Glenmanus, The Warren and/or Rugby Avenue	Increased/improved pitch space combined with synthetic training areas for formal bookings.

Recent Progress

SIB has contributed £10k for the Recreation Grounds OBC and has provided an Associate Advisors as the economist to undertake this work. This budget will be available to Council up to the end March 2018 and every effort is being made to prioritise work in advance of the financial year-end, although some is expected to extend beyond March. Council has appointed GM Design Coleraine to undertake work on the technical considerations, initial designs and cost estimates to support the work on the three business cases.

Options Development

The technical work undertaken by GM Design and the emerging OBC will result in options being identified as having a range of costs, benefits and constraints. Members will be briefed on the emerging option's evaluations. This would be an advisory rather than a decision making role so that officers better understand the local priorities. It is also recommended that the final shortlist of options is exposed to public consultation in advance of final decision making by Committee and Council.

Information for Noting:

Members are asked to note the recent progress on the development of the OBCs for community leisure facilities in Portrush with particular reference to:

- SIB financial and Associate Advisor support for an OBC for The Recreation Grounds.
- The appointment of a design team to prepare initial design options and cost estimates.