

<b>Ballycastle Sport and Leisure Facilities Update</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>
<b>To: Leisure and Development Committee For Information</b>	

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

**The purpose of this Report is to update Members on ongoing development of the available options for the provision of sport and leisure facilities in Ballycastle.**

## **Background**

Council's Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy identifies a shortfall in pool, sports hall, pitch and gym facilities provision in the Ballycastle area. Members will recall a presentation by Department of Education to the March 2016 Leisure and Development Committee outlining the Shared Education Provision being planned in Ballycastle – Cross and Passion College and Ballycastle High School – and the potential joint working opportunities that may emerge to provide public access to the planned sport and leisure facilities at lower cost than building separate stand-alone facilities.

## **Update on Progress**

Shared Education Campus: Work has been ongoing with Department of Education to establish what the likely facility mix to be provided on the Shared Education Campus will be, and to work out what is required from a physical perspective to enable the facilities to be used by the public outside of school hours.

This includes matters such as;

- Access to and security of school buildings during hours of public access.
- Adult changing facilities / showers and toilets.
- Reception desk and office facilities.
- Staff welfare facilities.
- Size of sports hall.
- Number of gym stations.
- Free weights area considerations.
- Balance between area of synthetic turf and natural turf pitches on site.

Once this work has been completed, the next step is establish the costs over and above what would be incurred by Department of Education to construct the facility purely for school use and to complete a Business Case to demonstrate if this option represents the best value for public money to provide the public service.

Work is also ongoing on the drafting of the Service Level Agreement that would govern any facility sharing arrangement as this is necessary to understand the ongoing operating costs that would result and that need to be taken into account in the Business Case.

Marine Hotel Country Club: Work has also been ongoing on the potential for the former Marine Hotel Country Club to be refurbished and brought back into use to provide pool and gym facilities in the area. This has the potential to be the lowest cost method to provide the necessary pool facilities but further detailed work is necessary to complete the Business Case to demonstrate if this is so. Similar to the potential Shared Education Campus facilities, the Business Case is looking at a number of costed options;

- Do nothing.
- Refurbish former Marine Hotel Country Club.
- New build on other potential sites.

The issues emerging from this work are as follows;

- The cost estimate for refurbishment of the former Marine Hotel Country Club is estimated at circa £1.6m.
- Detailed costings for suitable new-build are being developed to inform the Business Case options.
- The car parking numbers required are problematic and limit the development potential of the Country Club site in terms of any extension to provide classroom / dance studio / drop-in / office space etc.
- Work is ongoing to establish the potential to acquire or redevelop adjoining / nearby land to provide the necessary additional parking and the likely costs involved to inform the Business Case options.

This work is being progressed as quickly as possible. Members will be updated regularly on progress and the relevant Business Cases will be brought to Members for consideration at the earliest opportunity.