

## 6. RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT

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The purpose of this report is to outline progress on the development of a Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy, following the report presented to the Committee in February 2002 outlining the strategy development process.

### BACKGROUND

During the process to develop the Recreation & Sport Strategy for the city, the need to prioritise the city's needs for sport and recreation facilities was highlighted. The Council has carried out planning for some facilities, such as swimming pools. However, no evaluation and prioritisation of recreation and sport facilities needs has been carried out across a broad range of facilities.

The Council and other funders are regularly approached for facility funding requests and have to make decisions based on no clear priorities or strategy for the development of facilities in Christchurch city. Research to establish future needs for sport and recreation facilities for Christchurch, will enable the development of a strategy to identify and prioritise these needs.

Accordingly, the recreation and sport facility strategy (RSFS) is intended to identify the priorities for the provision of sport and recreation facilities. These are described in the following aims:

- To identify and prioritise the city's recreation and sport facility needs over the next 10-15 years
- To develop a strategy which outlines future provision of major sport and recreation facilities

### PROGRESS TO DATE

The process for the development of Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy is divided into several stages.

Stage 1: Identify sport and recreation facility needs.  
Identify existing major facilities and their level of utilisation.

Stage 2: Match needs identified with capacity of existing facilities.  
Develop sport and recreation facility priorities for the city.

Stage 3: The Council to identify its strategy and priorities for recreation and sport facilities.

As part of Stage One, over 150 questionnaires were sent out to regional Canterbury or Christchurch sporting associations and sporting facilities. Seventy-five organisation questionnaires have been received (63% response rate) along with 43 facility questionnaires (96% response rate). Information received from the questionnaires has been analysed in terms of organisational issues and facilities issues. The organisational issues as identified by various sporting associations have been summarised by sports categories in the attachment.

To date there have been several issues that have been the subject of further consultation. Three sporting groups (ice sports, equestrian, and shooting) were identified as having common issues affecting them, with possible solutions to their problems at various stages of investigation. Cluster group meetings were arranged with each group to bring parties together to examine their issues in a facilitated context. Background information on the issues faced by these groups is summarised below:

#### Shooting

Several of the shooting sports are located together on McLeans Island Road. There have been changes in land ownership of adjoining properties, including newly acquired Council land and a new property owner wishing to change from sheep farming to dairying.

This has affected the operation of the overshoot zone to the extent that it is no longer viable, resulting in the current cessation of activities of the shooting clubs.

## **Ice Sports**

The ice sports surveyed reported serious limitations to the current privately owned ice facility in Christchurch. Issues of overuse, lack of access, high cost, inadequate size and substandard features were raised, with the sports also noting a large current and potential demand. The four ice sporting bodies in Canterbury who attended their cluster group meeting (July 2002) have formed the QEII Ice Stadium Trust to pursue the formation of a new ice facility in Christchurch.

## **Equestrian**

The equestrian sporting groups are keen to utilise Canterbury Park in a co-operative manner, having highlighted the need for an indoor facility in their questionnaires and for the ongoing development of an equestrian sports and recreational area. The Council has recently approved a proposal for an indoor multi-use equestrian facility at Canterbury Park, and for the Halswell Pony Club to relocate there from Halswell Domain. There are also plans for polo to develop a 300m by 200m area.

A number of other sports and recreation issues have also been identified, most of which will require further analysis in Stage 2 of the strategy development. Wider factors affecting possible facility provision – i.e. demography, urban growth, activities of neighbouring local authorities, and recent trends in recreation – are also being considered.

## **NEXT STEPS**

A core in-house Project Control Group has been established for the ongoing work and management of the project. Given that the proposed strategy is to prioritise sport and recreation facility needs of Christchurch City, rather than only those of Council, a Steering Group comprising of a mix of external representation from the industry, Councillors and the Leisure Unit staff has also met several times to examine issues raised to date.

As part of Stage Two, the Steering Group will soon consider the facility priorities for Christchurch City. A consultant who has been engaged for on-going advice with the strategy will assist in this process, using a method developed with other local authorities to develop an indicative set of priorities. This will form the basis for a draft strategy the Council can use for consultation as part of Stage Three of the strategy development.

The remaining timetable for this project is currently estimated at a minimum of six months to complete all three stages.

## **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.