

4. RECREATION AND SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY

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The purpose of this report is to present the results of the Community and Leisure Subcommittee that was set up to examine the Recreation and Sport Facilities Strategy (hereafter referred to as the Strategy), and to recommend priority needs for major recreation and sport facilities.

BACKGROUND

In July 2003 the Committee considered a report (attached) on the development of the Strategy. This presented the Strategy to the July 2003 meeting, a document that established and prioritised the future needs for major sport and recreation facilities for Christchurch. The process used was one that identified from regional sports organisations a list of substantive issues that had at least regional implications. This list was then subjected to a prioritisation process to determine the relative priorities of the facility issues, by evaluating each identified major facility issue against a set of assessment criteria.

The Strategy development process resulted in the identified facility issues being grouped into high, medium and low priority bands. For reference, the Strategy's facility priorities are listed alphabetically within these bands in Table One below. The meeting decided to form a subcommittee to consider the Council's support for the facility issues identified in the Strategy.

Table One: Recreation and Sport Facility Strategy Priorities

Band	Facility Issue	Description
High	Flat Water Sports	New premier facility proposal for Christchurch. Overuse and safety issues at Kerrs Reach
	Leisure Centre	Further provision to meet demand in areas of growth in Christchurch
Medium	Cycle Velodrome	Modern facility sought to replace worn out facility at Denton Park
	Ice Arena	New facility to meet excess demand for ice space at existing facility
	Marina/Boating	Marina and boating facilities in Lyttelton Harbour for public access
	Netball – Indoor	Indoor facility sought for frontline competition, training
	Shooting	Improvements needed at McLeans Island ranges to comply with safety requirements
Low	Athletics Track	Additional all weather track sought
	Basketball	Three court facility to accommodate growth, development, and competitions
	Bowls	Covered greens sought at Burnside to compliment regional office relocation and national development centre
	Equestrian Centre	Indoor facility for year round access, McLeans Island approaching overuse
	Golf	Junior golf facility to accommodate growth
	Gymnastics	Have outgrown existing facility, need to accommodate growth and development
	In Line Hockey	Current facility run down, inadequate; also for sale
	Jade Stadium	Redevelopment of eastern stands
	Kart Racing	Need to relocate due to zoning changes adjacent to existing site
	Rugby League Grounds	Grandstand redevelopment
Rugby Union Fields	Field access in spring for representative matches	

PROGRESS

The subcommittee met twice to consider the Strategy. After discussing and raising questions on some of the issues noted in the Strategy, the subcommittee reaffirmed that the Strategy concentrates first and foremost on identifying current and future major facility needs.

Given that there is no discretionary capital facilities budget, the subcommittee discussed making capital provision for the Strategy. However, it is difficult to programme funding over a number of years because timing of funding is dependant on a range of factors, e.g. prospective partners such as sports

associations being in a position to commit themselves. The option of budgeting a regular capital sum without a specific link to a facility was briefly considered before being rejected. It was suggested that one way forward would be for budgeting for feasibility work for some of the Strategy's facility issues.

The subcommittee came to the conclusion that the Strategy should be used to note current, and as a means of assessing any future, major facility issues that the Council may be requested to consider supporting, particularly during the annual plan process.

CONCLUSION

The Strategy aims to give an indicative priority for the city's major sporting facility needs. It also provides a means (through the use of a prioritisation process) of considering how future issues can be assessed and compared to existing ones.

It will be apparent that some of the facility issues noted in the Strategy are being dealt with through the Council's existing commitments and maintenance programmes. In this regard, the Strategy should be seen as a framework to provide direction for identified current and future capital expenditure, as well as providing a framework to assess existing and future major facility needs. One way to utilise the Strategy would be for the Annual Plan Subcommittee to use it as a reference tool.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the priorities listed in Table One be used as an input to future Council decisions on proposed recreation and sports facilities.
 2. That the prioritisation process be used to assess any new facility proposals, as a basis for establishing their priority relative to the facility needs already identified.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.