

25. METROPOLITAN SPORTS FACILITIES PLAN - CONSULTATION

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Council approve the draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan (attached) for public consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan was requested by the Council in the 2006 LTCCP process to allow the Council to prioritise potential metropolitan sports facility developments over the next 20 years, for consideration in the 2009 LTCCP process.
3. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan concept was shaped by the Creating Strong Communities Portfolio Group in September 2006, April 2007 and July 2007, and at a Council seminar in July 2007. The Council approved a project brief and criteria for prioritising any identified facility developments in August 2007. A summary of the project research and provisional findings was presented at a Council workshop in February 2008 and a copy of the information was circulated to Councillors who could not attend. All Councillor feedback has been incorporated into the draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan attached to this report.
4. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan scope is restricted to metropolitan sports facilities that provide benefits or services at a city-wide, national or international level. It includes facilities owned by others. It specifically excludes local facilities, aquatic facilities, marine facilities, natural grass surfaces (unless part of a metropolitan facility eg QEII Park) and the upgrade of AMI Stadium. However any issues uncovered by the project that do not require a metropolitan facility solution have been recorded along with a suggested pathway for resolution.
5. An extensive research and consultation exercise has informed the development of the plan. This included:
 - Councillor feedback.
 - A review of Council policy, strategy and strategic direction in relation to sport.
 - Extensive consultation with sporting codes and other stakeholders such as sporting media personnel, government agencies, funding agencies and V Base.
 - A review of current and future societal trends affecting sport.
 - A review of the nature, condition and functionality of existing assets.
6. Key issues were identified through research and consultation. These include a need to:
 - Increase large-area indoor sports facility provision.
 - Secure the ongoing operation of motor sport at Ruapuna.
 - Retire existing facilities that no longer meet current and projected needs.
 - Enhance or maintain existing facilities to keep meeting current and projected needs.
 - Investigate the provision of additional artificial/all weather surfaces.
 - Continue to investigate the provision of a flat water facility.
 - Continue the reconfiguration of QEII Park in line with the QEII Concept Plan 2005 ideally accommodating Canterbury Cricket and providing a viable test venue.
7. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan process has analysed potential solutions to the abovementioned issues against the Council's criteria to identify priorities for metropolitan sport facility developments. The plan does not propose the Council as the sole provider with many of the identified solutions only being viable with significant contributions to capital costs and operational costs coming from others. Potential solutions identified in the plan are summarised below:

Higher Priority

- Develop a mid sized indoor sports arena (3,000 seats at least 8 courts) at Addington.
- Upgrade Cowles Stadium to accommodate 1,500 seats.
- Secure the ongoing operation of motor sport at Ruapuna.
- Retire Rugby League Park.
- Retire Denton Park.

Medium Priority

- Continue to investigate the development of a flatwater facility at Henderson's Basin.
- Develop up to 40 outdoor multi purpose courts at Addington.
- Develop an ICC compliant test cricket ground and supporting infrastructure at QEII Park Village Green.
- Improve Kerrs Reach, weed and silt removal.
- Investigate the increased provision of artificial/all weather surfaces.
- Repair and improve the grass playing surface at English Park.
- Reconfigure QEII main stadium to provide better facilities for rectangular field sports.
- Investigate the opportunity to provide indoor sports facilities in the Wigram Hangars.
- Upgrade Cuthbert's Green softball facilities.

Lower Priority

- Investigate site locations for an alternative outdoor cycling track.

8. The Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan also recommends that:

- All other Council owned metropolitan sports facilities are maintained to provide current levels of service.
- Council proactively review the lease agreements over facilities, ensuring consistency of terms, best practice and bringing asset management responsibilities under the Council (as owner) in return for an appropriate rent or transparent subsidy.

9. The project research, consultation, identified issues and potential solutions have been collated into a draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan (attached). This report seeks Council approval to release this plan for public and stakeholder consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no direct financial implications. This plan is a draft document for consultation purposes only. Any metropolitan sports facility developments prioritised by Council under this plan will be included in the 2009 LTCCP process for consideration against all other priorities. Financial implications will only arise from the LTCCP process.

11. There is a risk inherent with any planning exercise of this nature that expectations will be established that can not be met.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

12. There is provision in the 2006 LTCCP on page 129 for a metropolitan sports facility planning process. The plan is a draft for consultation purposes only and has no impact on the 2006-16 LTCCP budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

13. None

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

14. None

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

15. This plan aligns to the Recreation and Leisure component of the LTCCP on page 129 as it aims to allow the Council to define its contribution to the provision of sporting facilities.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

16. The recommendations of this report support a level of service detailed on page 132 of the 2006-16 LTCCP to provide a range of sporting facilities and stadia supported by the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

17. This plan is aligned with the Council's Recreation and Sport Policy 1996, Physical Recreation and Sport Strategy 2002 and Sports Facilities Strategy 2003. This relationship is detailed in section 4.1 of the attached plan.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

18. The recommendation of this report is that the draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan is released for consultation. The contents of the draft plan contain options for sports facility developments. All options have been scrutinised in section 9 of the plan for alignment with Council strategy.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

19. The development of the draft plan has involved extensive consultation with sporting codes and other stakeholders such as sporting media personnel, government agencies, funding agencies and V-Base. The results of which are summarised in sections 6 and 7 of the plan and detailed in the appendix.
20. The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Council approve the draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan (attached) for public and stakeholder consultation over April and May 2008. This will involve:
 - Appropriate publicity and promotion of the draft plan.
 - Meeting and discussion with all internal CCC stakeholders.
 - Public and stakeholder meetings.
 - One-on-one discussions with key stakeholders and anyone else who requests a meeting.
 - A interactive presentation to the combined meeting of Community Board chairs.
21. The results of this consultation will be analysed and reflected in a further draft of the plan that will be discussed by the Council at a workshop in July 2008. A final plan will be available for Council consideration in August 2008.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Approve the draft Metropolitan Sports Facilities Plan attached to this report for public and stakeholder consultation in April and May 2008.
- (b) Note that the results of any consultation will be analysed and reflected in a further draft to be presented to the Council at a workshop in July 2008, with a final plan due for Council consideration in August 2008.