1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek members' views on the draft Sports Facilities Strategy and approve the draft prior to consultation.

2. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The generally accepted definition of sport, which is the one adopted by Sport England is ‘all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels’.

2.2 In 2009 Kettering Borough Council adopted criteria for supporting sports clubs. These include the key benefits the Council expects residents to receive from the provision of sporting activity.

2.3 The core purpose of the Sports Facilities Strategy is to understand the need and ensure that the borough has or is planning to have the appropriate quality and quantity of indoor sports facilities in the most appropriate locations to encourage more people to be more active more often. The strategy will form part of the evidence base for providing indoor sports facilities, in order to

   a) feed local information into the development of Area Action Plans and Local Development Documents
   b) provide evidence of need to support partners and sports groups to secure funding from sources within sport as well as other sources such as trusts and charities
   c) secure developer and partner contributions

2.4 More specifically, the sports facilities strategy will provide a framework for the prioritisation, provision and improvement of sports facilities in the Borough. It will ensure that a structured approach is taken to facility planning and development and that investment decisions affecting the local sports infrastructure of the borough are co-ordinated and planned by the Council and its partners. The justification and feasibility for an individual project will be assessed on a facility-by-facility basis, as required.
2.5 It is important that the recent trend in the quality and quantity of housing and business development within the borough is reflected in the leisure facilities provided.

2.6 It is anticipated that the current trend will continue and therefore the future requirements for indoor sports facilities have been reassessed in order to identify gaps in provision and identify potential funding sources to build additional facilities, replace existing facilities where required and to improve the access to and quality of existing facilities.

2.7 The adopted criteria for supporting sports clubs (Support for Sport) will be used whenever an approach for funding of sports facilities is made to the Council.

2.8 The scope of this strategy is limited to indoor sports provision for amateur sports people and Community Amateur Sports Clubs. Outdoor sports facilities have been included where the provision of associated indoor facilities is crucial to participation. In order to qualify as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) the club must be properly constituted as a not-for-profit organisation, with no provision for payment to members during the life of the club or upon dissolution. It can be either unincorporated (i.e. an association of members with unlimited liability) or incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (not shares).

2.9 Private members’ clubs must operate an open membership policy that allows anyone, within reason, to join and use its facilities in order to increase participation in sport, thereby improving physical health and fitness.

2.10 Kettering Borough Council has adopted the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document, which covers open spaces, playing pitches, and formal play facilities such as multi use games areas and skateparks. Sports development, club development and volunteer development will have their own action plans.

2.11 A recent report by “Sector” recommended that the Council develops its evidence base when seeking developer contributions. Following further consultation this strategy will form part of that evidence base.

2.12 Working with National Governing Bodies of Sport, the Northamptonshire Sports Partnership (NSport) and Kettering Community Sports Network is key to making sure that we optimise the impact of sports facilities. This is especially important in areas where participation is low, or where club development work could achieve significant outcomes in addition to those typically associated with participation in sport. Working with other funding partners such as the Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust to resource these services is increasingly important against a background of financial constraints.
2.13 In 2009 Kettering Borough Council won the National Municipal Journal “More People More Active More Often” Award. Suitable sports facilities are considered to be crucial to maintain our position as “the most active borough in North Northamptonshire”.

3. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

3.1 Consultation was considered to be fundamental to the validity of the strategy. Details of the consultees can be found in the appendix to the strategy but included over 1000 individuals, Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, Local Sports Clubs, Facility Operators, NSport, the County Council and the Northamptonshire NHS.

3.2 Once this draft is approved it will be placed on Kettering Borough Council’s consultation portal for six weeks. The draft strategy will also be circulated to Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, local sports clubs, individuals, facility operators, the disability sports providers and associations, the Northamptonshire Sports Partnership and others for further comments.

3.3 A comprehensive audit of provision in the Borough was conducted with relevant facility managers during November and December 2008. It provided a snapshot of the situation at that time and was based on a proforma to standardise data collection and ensure sites were considered on a like for like basis on their ability to provide for any increase in participation.

3.5 Comments received during the consultation period will inform the next draft which will be submitted to Kettering Borough Council’s Research and Development Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership board for further comments prior to the final draft being written.

4. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 We recognise that a significant proportion of external funding will need to be attracted towards the delivery of the action plan in the strategy. Some potential funding sources have been identified in the action plan but it is not an exhaustive list.

4.2 The Council will seek to attract funding itself and will also direct other organisations to appropriate sources of funding.

4.3 Developer contributions are recognised as being a key source of funding for the development of indoor sports facilities. This strategy and evidence base are an important starting point for future negotiations with developers, however it must be stressed that any negotiations must be flexible and taken on a case by case basis.
4.4 The standards for developer contributions have been produced to inform a developer of the minimum expected planning obligations. Sport England’s Facility Calculator is a tool to help estimate the facilities needed to meet the needs of a given population, whether it be for the total population of a local authority, or for a single housing development.

4.5 Developers will be expected to consult with Kettering Borough Council in order to agree the nature, scope and mix of the facility provision. The first point of reference will usually be the action plan set out in this document followed by consultation with Kettering Borough Council.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This strategy sits alongside the Borough Council’s open space supplementary planning document and PPG17 open space needs assessment.

5.2 Applications to Kettering Borough Council for funding towards sports facilities will be considered against the criteria agreed for support for sport at the Council’s Executive Committee in September 2009.

5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed on the final document.

5.4 The aims of this strategy reflect the Northamptonshire Physical Activity Strategy, Sustainable Community Strategy for Kettering and Kettering Borough Community Services Service Unit Plan.

6. RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Committee is recommended to:

(i) Consider the action plan contained within the draft strategy

(ii) Approve the draft strategy prior to further consultation

Background documents

The Support for Sport criteria adopted by Kettering Borough Council’s Executive Committee in September 2009.

Kettering Borough Council Planning Obligations Healthcheck, prepared by Sector in December 2009