



**REPORT TO: SPECIAL EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S AND LEISURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 14 DECEMBER 2022**

SUBJECT: MORAY SPORT AND LEISURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of progress in relation to the development of a Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan for Moray.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (13) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the exercise of the Council's statutory functions to provide facilities and support activities relating to the development of recreation, sport, culture and social activities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:-

- (i) **Notes the work completed to assess the current condition and suitability of the Moray Sport and Leisure Estate, and the investment required to maintain the facilities in the short, medium and longer term.**
- (ii) **Notes the planned Sport and Leisure development work currently included in the indicative capital plan, based on current priorities.**
- (iii) **Acknowledges the financial implications of the Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan and notes that further work will be required to establish the level of funding available as the Council reviews its indicative 10 year capital plan, and that this will impact on how maintenance and development work is prioritised.**
- (iv) **Acknowledges the interdependencies between the Sport and Leisure Capital Plan and the Learning Estate programme, with decisions regarding the learning estate impacting on the prioritisation of works within the Sport and Leisure Estate.**

- (v) **Agrees that no capital projects to support Council run facilities are prioritised for investment and that all planned work is put on hold until the the Council capital plan is reviewed in early 2023, and that a paper is brought back to Committee to agree priorities for capital spend on Council run sport and leisure facilities (for inclusion in the Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan) when further information is available regarding the available capital funding envelope.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of Education, Communities and Organisational Development Committee on 18 November 2020, Committee approved the new Business Plan for the Sport and Leisure Service (para 22 of the minute refers).
- 3.2 Within the Sport and Leisure Business Plan under the 'Develop facilities to align with customer service needs' objective there is a commitment to develop a Capital Investment Plan for sport and leisure to ensure facilities remain fit for purpose and that investment is planned in a strategic way.
- 3.3 At the meeting of Education, Children's and Leisure Services Committee on 9 March 2022, Committee were provided with an information report outlining the progress made in relation to the creation of a Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan.
- 3.4 The draft Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan (**Appendix 1**) provides an assessment of the current condition and suitability of our Sport and Leisure estate, and an estimate of the level of investment required to maintain all existing facilities to an acceptable operational standard. The 'Plan' also includes currently planned and potential future development work to support the provision of high quality sport and leisure assets for Moray.
- 3.5 Key points to note from the 'Plan' are as follows;
- Our vision is to provide high quality sport and leisure facilities for the 21st century. The future configuration of our sport and leisure assets to meet this ambition is still to be determined and will be the subject of a future report to this Committee.
 - Any future investment in our sport and leisure estate will need to align with the ambition of our Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030.
 - Sport and Leisure projects within the indicative Council Capital Plan need to be kept under regular review, and prioritised taking account of a number of factors, including the condition of our assets, council and service priorities and affordability.
 - The condition of a number of our Sport and Leisure assets is concerning. Condition survey reports have rated Moray Leisure Centre as D (bad) and Buckie Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre, and Keith and Speyside Sports and Community Centres as C (poor).

- The current estimated costs (£13.48 million) for maintenance, repairs and currently identified improvements to sport and leisure facilities over the next 10 years are significantly higher than indicative funding within the Moray Council indicative 10 year Capital Plan (£9.07 million).
- The 'Plan' must be kept under regular review, with prioritisation of maintenance work and development projects dependent on a number of factors, including learning estate decisions, the availability of capital funding, new investment opportunities, and decisions regarding the delivery of Sport and Leisure services in the future.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

In relation to the LOIP, this report supports all four of the main priority areas which are developing a diverse, inclusive and sustainable economy, building a better future for our children and young people in Moray, empowering and connecting communities and improving the wellbeing of our population.

In relation to the Corporate Plan, this report contributes to all four of the main priority areas which are providing opportunities for people to be the best they can be throughout their lives with a strong and sustained focus on those individuals and groups in our society who experience the most disadvantage and discrimination, empower and support communities to build capacity, driving economic development to create a vibrant economy for the future and creating a sustainable council that provides valued services to our communities.

(b) Policy and Legal

Local Authorities have a legal duty to ensure adequate provision of facilities for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities. Improving the health and wellbeing of the Moray community through sport, leisure and recreation is not only an integral part of the local vision, but it is also a national priority. In particular, the report aims to fulfil the aspirations of everyone having access to a network of quality places where you can get involved in sport, as identified as a key objective in sportscotland's Corporate Strategy "Sport for Life". The report also links to the Scottish Government's Active Scotland Outcomes Framework, which aims to improve our active infrastructure – people and places.

(c) Financial implications

The report is proposing that any capital projects to improve or maintain Council run Sport and Leisure facilities are paused until the outcome of the review of the indicative Moray Council 10 year Capital Plan is known, however the report and associated appendix highlights the potential 10 year capital spend requirements to support the provision of sport and leisure assets that are fit for the 21st Century. A future paper to this Committee will consider prioritisation of capital investment within an agreed capital investment envelope.

The potential capital spend (£13.48 million) highlighted in this paper does not include any spend relating to the proposed Moray Leisure Centre expansion project.

A number of our Sport and Leisure facilities, including Moray Leisure Centre, are in a poor condition and we continue to experience asset breakdowns/failures that require urgent spend to keep the facilities open. A significant breakdown could close a facility for a number of weeks/months and a decision may be required in the future regarding the level of investment the Council wishes to allocate to reopen a facility.

The financial implications highlighted in this report should be taken into account when considering the recommendations within the Moray Leisure Centre Expansion Proposal report (also included on this meeting agenda).

(d) Risk Implications

The Sport and Leisure Capital Investment plan has been developed to support a planned approach to capital spend on our Sport and Leisure assets. The current financial context means that prioritisation of spend cannot proceed until we have a better understanding of the financial envelope available for investment. Any spend on the Sport and Leisure estate therefore continues to be reactive, with the ongoing risk of significant failure of an asset leading to closure.

If there is a failure requiring closure officers will ensure works that do not exceed £5,000 are completed as soon as practicable, however any spend above that threshold will require a report a Committee for a decision on the level of spend Members wish to allocate. In the meantime officers will ensure immediate action is taken to secure the facility to mitigate any health and safety concerns.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report.

(f) Property

The Housing and Property Service and the Learning Estate team are aware of this developing plan and will be involved in any project development as and when required to ensure alignment with other projects.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report, but may be a requirement as projects are developed and prioritised.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

This developing Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan will align with the Council's Climate Strategy 2020-2030 by incorporating zero or low carbon into the design and construction phases and any new developments will ensure the use of renewable energy, waste reduction and efficiencies where possible. It should be noted that large sports facilities use significant amounts of energy posing particular financial, technical and environmental challenges to achieving heat

decarbonisation, the impact of which will be considered on a case by case basis as projects are developed.

(i) Consultations

In preparing this report, consultations have been undertaken with the Head of Education Resources and Communities, Chief Financial Officer, George Gunn, Climate Change Strategy Officer, Equalities Officer, Head of Housing and Property, sportscotland, and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer and their comments have been incorporated in the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Council notes the content of the developing Moray Sport and Leisure Capital Investment Plan, and agrees that the proposed priority areas for capital investment will be the subject of a future report to this Committee.

Author of Report:	Kim Slater, Sport and Culture Service Manager
Background Papers:	
Ref:	SPMAN-9425411-93 SPMAN-9425411-105