

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**POST SCRUTINY –CABINET RESPONSE**

In respect of:

**The Overview and Scrutiny Leisure Services Task and Finish Group Report – March 2007**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor  
 Contact Officer:  
 Date: 2 July 2007

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Response</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Action By (Date)</b>
The Task and Finish Group asks the Cabinet to implement the following recommendations:-				
<p><b>Leisure Services Strategy</b></p> <p>A three-year Leisure Services Strategy for Northampton will be devised by December 2007, making reference to longer-term issues such as the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and the Growth Agenda.</p>				
The role of Leisure Services in delivering Healthier Communities outcomes will be described in the Strategy.				
It is recognised within the Strategy that the Council's role is to identify the needs for leisure within Northampton and facilitate provision of relevant services.				

<p>Northampton Borough Council engages with key partners, including Planning and Regeneration within the Council, WNDG and Northamptonshire County Council, in the development of the Leisure Strategy.</p> <p><b>Vision for Leisure Services</b></p> <p>A clear vision for the improvement and development for Leisure Services in Northampton will be established.</p>				
<p><b>Aims for Leisure Services</b></p> <p>The aims of Leisure Services are adopted as follows: -</p> <p>Leisure Services and Programmes should, wherever possible, address the following key areas: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve Health</li> <li>• Enhance Social Inclusion</li> <li>• Promote access and participation</li> <li>• Enhance community development</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Assessment of Needs and Appraisal of Options</b></p> <p>It ensures that the aims and objectives for Leisure Services will be supported by a clear monitoring and evaluation process.</p>				

<p>A needs assessment of the leisure provision will be undertaken, particularly addressing the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Growth Agenda</li> <li>• The implications of the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics</li> <li>• Planning and Regeneration Policy process</li> <li>• Health Agenda</li> </ul>				
<p>The value for money of Northampton Borough Council's major leisure facilities will be assessed and recommendations provided before any future decision on the provision of Leisure Services is made.</p>				
<p>A thorough Options Appraisal process will be carried out before a decision on future provision is made.</p>				
<p>A copy of the Task and Finish Group's final report will be forwarded to the relevant Corporate Managers (Planning, Regeneration and Leisure) for these areas to ensure that action is taken on the recommendations.</p>				
<p>A copy of the Task and Finish Group's final report will be forwarded to the Chief Executive of the PCT and the Chair of Northamptonshire County Council's Healthier Communities Scrutiny Committee for consideration.</p>				

<p><b>Planning Policy</b></p> <p>It ensures that the vision of Leisure Services will be included in the Local Development Planning Framework.</p>				
<p><b>Leisure Services Survey</b></p> <p>The Leisure Survey, as attached at Appendix C to the report, will be used as a template for future Leisure Service questionnaires</p>				