

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

### EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of the Sport and Activity Working Group held in Committee Room No 1, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Wednesday 13 August 2008 at 10.00 am.

#### PRESENT

Mr A M Millar  
Ms J Douglas

Mr W Fernie  
Mrs E McAllister

#### Officials in attendance:

Mr G Watson, Community Development Manager, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mr A Clark, Active Schools Manager, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mr A Hoseason, Coaching Development Officer, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Mr J Warde, Principal Facilities Manager, Education, Culture and Sport Service  
Miss J MacIannan, Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Office

#### BUSINESS

##### 1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr B Gormley.

##### 2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee **AGREED**, having been duly proposed and seconded, that Mr A M Millar, as Vice Chairmen of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee, be appointed Chairman of the Sport and Activity Working Group.

##### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Group held on 25 June 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were **NOTED**.

##### 4. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION PROCESS AND RESULTS

There had been circulated Report No SA10/08 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport informing Members on the consultation process for the physical activity strategy and which gave the results of the consultation with members of the public and with young people.

In discussion, Members made the following comments:-

- the lack of public transport and the rise in fuel costs were often barriers to those wishing to participate in physical activity, particularly in the rural areas;
- better use could be made of school mini-buses, especially in school holidays, by

- communities and local sports clubs;
- in recognising the regulations governing who could teach physical education, physical activity itself could be enhanced by sport club coaches participating in projects in Primary Schools coordinated by the Active School Coordinators;
- additional facilities could be achieved by providing basic facilities, such as Sports Barns, or mobile resources that could be transported around the Council area, as required;
- in the Council's review of village halls it was important not to lose any halls that were used by schools; and
- the possibility of using church halls be investigated.

The Working Group **AGREED** to request that the Integrated Transport Strategy Group investigate how the lack of rural transport provision, acting as a barrier to young people participating in physical activities, might be addressed and otherwise **NOTED**:

- the consultation process and the next steps in the completion of the physical activity strategy; and
- the results of the consultation.

## 5. HIGHLAND SPORTS STRATEGY PROGRESS

There had been circulated Report No SA11/08 by the Director of Education, Culture and Sport updating Members on the progress to date in the creation of the second Highland Sports Strategy and which sought Members comments on the key issues identified.

In particular, reference was made to the first meeting of the multi-agency officers group held in July where issues derived from the Area Consultations were discussed and actions proposed. Some agencies had not been represented at this meeting and although the timing of the meeting during the summer could have been a contributory factor, it might also have been because these organisations felt that their interests were being addressed elsewhere. However, the Working Group's view was that these organisations should be encouraged to participate, recognising that it would provide additional resources.

The issue as to the future of Sport Councils was also explored and how best they might promote sport. Some were particularly proactive while others saw their role as solely providing grants and the use of minibuses. It was accepted that a uniform approach might not work and that Sport Councils needed to adapt to each area's requirements and a report with officers' views on possible options was requested for the next meeting.

Amongst the other points raised in discussion where the following:-

- promotion of sport information could be made via Parent Councils and the Council's website;
- ideally parent volunteering in sport activities could be carried forward from Primary Schools into Secondary Schools;
- the proposal that all Highland school pupils be given the opportunity to visit the 2014 Commonwealth Games be investigated;
- instruction commence in those sports which pupils might have the opportunity to

- be spectators at the 2014 Games;
- corporate sponsorship of sport be investigated, Marine Harvest's support of shinty being cited as an example;
  - although the numbers taking part in the consultation had been fairly low there had been ample opportunity to participate and work would therefore continue using the data that had been gathered;
  - Highland representation at Glasgow 2014 had been a low priority for those taking part in the consultation but it was felt this was because local athletes who might compete were still unknown and work should therefore commence in raising their profile.

The Working Group otherwise **NOTED** the contents of the report.

## **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Working Group **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Working Group scheduled for Wednesday 24 September 2008 required to be postponed and Members would be notified of a revised date in due course.

The meeting ended at 11.25 am.