When the Minister for Tourism and Leisure, the Hon. David Creney, MHK introduced the new Isle of Man Sport & Recreation Strategy at the December 2002 sitting of Tynwald, he made it very clear that, whilst the Strategy nominally covered a period of ten years, the rate at which it could be delivered would inevitably depend upon the resources, both financial and human, which would be available. Indeed, the ten year term of the Strategy was always accepted as ambitious and inspirational.

In the event, during the first three years of the period the resources available have been less than the optimistic levels sought in the Strategy. Nonetheless, the Department and the Sports Council have made good progress and details of the excellent work undertaken are summarised below.

It is important with any Strategy, particularly one covering a decade or more, to regularly review its relevance. A Strategy is produced at a particular moment in time and is influenced not only by the environment at that time, but also by perceptions of the environment that will develop. This document also identifies how the Strategy has evolved over the first three years.
AGENDA FOR ACTION 1.1
To establish a Sporting Schools Partnership between the Department of Tourism & Leisure, the Department of Education and the Sports Council to oversee the planning and implementation of the Sporting Schools initiative.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 1.2
That the Department of Education in partnership with the Department of Tourism & Leisure agree the feasibility and funding for the creation of School Sports Co-ordinators in each of the Islands Secondary Schools.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 2.1
Specific funding should be provided to ensure school sports facilities are brought up to standard and kept in good repair commensurate with their function and level of use.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 2.2
That the Department of Tourism & Leisure should have design input into all school sports facilities and facilities used for sport in order to maximise their potential for community use.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 4.1
To provide a Regional facilities structure that includes the following minimum level of provision for a range of mainstream sports in each of the Island’s four towns, and that any shortfall in this standard e.g. a swimming pool in Peel are addressed as a short term priority:

• A multi-activity community sports hall (minimum 4 badminton court size)
• An indoor swimming pool
• Floodlit all-weather playing areas
• A golf course
• Bowls facilities (indoor and outdoor)
• Tennis courts
• Health and fitness facilities
• Grass pitches (summer and winter)

AGENDA FOR ACTION 4.2
1. A new 25 metre swimming pool was opened in Peel in 2004 to service the West of the Island.
2. Finance has been allocated to replace the Northern Swimming Pool in Ramsey in 2008.
3. New artificial pitches have been provided at St. John’s Football Club, King Williams College and there are proposals for another in Laxey.
4. A new 18 hole golf course has been developed in the North of the Island at Glen Toose.

The Sporting Schools Partnership was formed in 2003 to be the lead body in delivering the Sporting Schools Initiative. In 2005 the partnership was extended to include the Department of Health & Social Security to reflect the need to promote a healthier lifestyle and increased levels of physical activity amongst children and young people. This recognises the important role that physical activity will play in dealing with one of the largest threats to public health status on the Island, overweight/obese adults and children. The partnership has now been re-titled as the Sporting and Healthy Schools Partnership.
AGENDA FOR ACTION 4.3
As a priority a new pitch development takes place to incorporate 4 to 6 vertex pitches and 2 to 3 cricket pitches in the Douglas/Onchan/Braddan area. To assess the provision of grass pitches (outside the Eastern area) both quality and quantity and consider access to existing playing fields.

A project has been approved to create four new rugby/football pitches and cricket facilities at Ballafletcher, Braddan, with appropriate changing and social facilities. Work is due to commence in 2007/08.

This scheme has led to the creation of an Eastern Pitches Plan in partnership with Douglas Corporation, which will result in the improved utilisation of other pitches including the development of a Junior Soccer Centre in Victoria Park, Douglas. The plan also identifies the need to upgrade the Bowls Stadium, Douglas. The plan also identifies the need to upgrade the Bowls Stadium, Douglas.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 5.1
The Isle of Man Government, through agreement between the Department of Tourism & Leisure and the Department of Local Government & the Environment, undertakes an assessment to establish the need for sports and recreation facilities. The assessment will form the basis for policies to protect and advance existing facilities; to plan to meet existing deficiencies and future requirements; and secure proper provision of formal sport and informal recreational open space. The policies should be incorporated into the all Island Strategic Plan and Area Plans.

The Department of Tourism & Leisure has made a strong case for the inclusion of specific minimum standards of leisure provision within National Planning Policy. Detailed requirements will then cascade into area and local plans.

The facility for informal recreation space is crucial as this allows for participation in non-competitive physical activity, whilst also making provision for formal sporting activities.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 6.1
a) Agreed criteria are established for the community use, programming and priorities of the Regional Pools facilities, including school facilities.

b) Responsibility for the funding and management of the Regional Pools; Southern (Castletown), Northern (Ramsey) and the new Eastern Pool at Peel, should be vested in the Isle of Man Government, through agreement between the Department of Tourism & Leisure and the Department of Local Government & the Environment.

The Isle of Man Government, through agreement between the Department of Tourism & Leisure, the Department of Local Government & the Environment, the Department of Education, it was agreed that an 8 court sports hall would be provided at the new High School at Bemahague, Onchan, which would be available for community use, including 3-side soccer. The new school is scheduled to open in 2010.

In 2005 the indoor sports provision in the East of the Island was reduced further with the closure of the privately operated Mount Murray Sports Hall. Following discussions with the Department of Education, it was agreed to re-open Mount Murray Sports Hall.

The designation of Castle Rushen High School as a Regional Sports Centre will involve a review of the current budget pricing and programming which can be extended to all pools.

A series of meetings took place in 2002 between DT&L, Sports Council and the Regional Pools following which it was agreed that the pools should remain under their control and management.

Government has made capital provision to provide a new pool in Ramsey in 2008 and refurbish the pool in Castletown in 2006/07.

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The facility for informal recreation space is crucial as this allows for participation in non-competitive physical activity, whilst also making provision for formal sporting activities.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 7.1
In consultation with the Governing Bodies of Sport, the Department of Tourism & Leisure and the Sports Council, the Isle of Man Sports Council, the key community sports are identified together with the potential funding sources for the sports development officers, and that the Development Groups are established.

The formation of a Coaches Database has commenced (June 2005) with 130 coaches details currently held. These are coaches who are employed by the Sports Development Unit. This will be extended to include all Manx Youth Games Coaches in 2004, which will approximately double the size of the database.

Over 300 coaches have attended UK Sport Child Protection Workshops over the past three years. In 2005 six people were qualified as accredited tutors to deliver a series of Sports Coach UK workshops. This will be an on-going training programme, with additional workshops being delivered after an initial pilot scheme. Workshops will include:

• How to Coach Children in Sport, How to coach sports effectively / safely, coaching disabled people in sport.

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• How to Coach Children in Sport, How to coach sports effectively / safely, coaching disabled people in sport.

It is proposed to form an IDMS Coaches Association in 2007/08 following completion of the database and the Sports Coach UK programme.
The level of funding provided to the Sports Council is substantially increased to enable it to meet its future obligations and responsibilities to ensure the implementation of this Strategy.

The Government has allocated additional monies to the Sports Council from the betting duty on sales of UK Lottery tickets in the Island which has resulted in approximately £100k per annum since 2001.

Whilst the main Sports Council budget has remained reasonably static a total of £100k – £125k per annum additional revenue funding has been allocated within the Leisure Division of the Department of Tourism & Leisure for initiatives pursuant to the implementation of this strategy.

Government has also allocated additional monies for the new posts which have been provided to date to enable the implementation of this strategy to proceed.

An agreed and committed percentage of Betting Tax on Lottery Sales is allocated by the Government for the funding of sport and its distribution mechanisms agreed in line with the proposed recommendations above. Currently the Island and its sports organisations cannot access Lottery funding from UK Sport or Sport England. Consideration should also be given to renegotiating the agreement with the UK Treasury to enable the Island access to such funding.

A post of Sports Development Manager should be appointed within MSF in addition to the two posts of Sports Development Officer, together with additional administrative support.

A Disability Sports Development Officer was appointed in September 2005 whose work programme will include the formation of a cross-organisational sports forum.

Following discussions between the Sports Council and the Public Lottery Trust it was decided that the existing criteria for grant aiding organisations would remain in place. Council placed on record its recognition that the Trust is the major local sponsor of sports projects on the Island and thanked them for their contribution.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.1

AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.2

AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.3

AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.4
AGENDA FOR ACTION 11.1

a) Formal mechanisms are established to develop and implement cross-departmental programmes on issues such as health improvement, prevention of drug and alcohol misuse and community safety.

b) Department of Tourism & Leisure (MSR) should contribute to and support the work being carried out by the Chief Minister’s Children and Young People’s Strategy Working Group.

The expansion of the Sporting Schools Partnership to encompass health represents a key contribution to this objective.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 11.2

The Isle of Man establishes formal links with the National Coaching Foundation (Sports Coach UK); Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), the UK Institute for Sport and its network, and SPRITO (the national training body for sport and recreation)

1. Manx Sports and Recreation has extended its links with Sports Coach UK (See Agenda for Action 7.2)
2. Sports Council has developed an excellent working partnership with the Sports Institute for Northern Ireland which has resulted in the appointment of a Performance Co-ordinator. This person facilitates a number of support services for the Island’s top athletes and to date eleven of these competitors have been accepted onto the UK World Class Programmes. Plans are now being formulated by Council to establish a Sports Institute for the Island.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 10.1

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1. Manx Sports and Recreation has extended its links with Sports Coach UK (See Agenda for Action 7.2)
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AGENDA FOR ACTION 10.2

Funding for elite competitors and the supporting structures through Sports Aid Foundation should be substantially increased.

Sports Council has been able to utilise some of the additional monies that have been made available from Government (through the UK Lottery) to provide more support and services to the Island’s top athletes.