



**Isle of Man
Government**
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Isle of Man Sport & Recreation Strategy Review 2006

The Department of Tourism and Leisure
and Isle of Man Sports Council

A SPORTING VISION AN ERA OF PARTNERSHIP

AGENDA FOR ACTION

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When the Minister for Tourism and Leisure, the Hon. David Cretney, 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.



Sporting Schools Initiative



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.

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 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.

The first School Sports Co-ordinator was appointed to service the South of the Island in January 2005. This initiative is a pilot scheme, which will be fully evaluated in 2006 when it is hoped that resources will be identified to make similar appointments in the rest of the Island.



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.

Provisional discussions have been undertaken with the Department of Education. It is hoped to identify a separate budget for the improvement of school sports facilities and equipment to enable improved physical education for school children and enable a full programme of community 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.

The Department of Education has agreed to involve Department of Tourism & Leisure in all future plans to provide new and refurbish existing school sports facilities. DT&L have been included in the Client Team for the proposed new High School in Onchan which will become a model dual-use facility for the Island.

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)



Sporting Communities



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 Truan

- a) The sports facilities at Castle Rushen High School, Ramsey Grammar School and Queen Elizabeth II High School in Peel are developed as Regional Sports Centres and plans are drawn up for each location to ensure that the facilities can fulfil this function and offer the necessary quality of provision for community use.
- b) It is also important to recognise the important roles that the two secondary schools in Douglas (Ballakermeen and St Ninian's) play in providing sports facilities for community use in the East of the Island. It is essential that these schools (together with the proposed new Secondary School in Onchan) are also included in future plans to ensure that their facilities are of the same quality.

The Sporting & Healthy Schools Partnership has designated Castle Rushen High School as a pilot Regional Sports Centre and preliminary discussions have been held regarding programming and pricing.





AGENDA FOR ACTION 4.3

As a priority a new pitch development takes place to incorporate 4 to 6 winter 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 on site 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 Noble's Park, Douglas. The plan also identifies the need to upgrade the Bowls Stadium, Douglas, including the provision of floodlights.



AGENDA FOR ACTION 4.4

A new low cost multi-purpose hall suitable for 5-1-side soccer is developed to accommodate the displaced demand that will follow the closure of Summerland.

Following discussions with 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 5-a-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.



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 would form the basis for policies to protect and advance existing facilities; 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 pricing of all government funded sports facilities, including school facilities.
- b) Responsibility for the funding and management of the Regional Pools; Southern (Castletown), Northern (Ramsey) and the new Western Pool at Peel, should be vested in the Department of Tourism & Leisure
- c) Government should make capital provision for the comprehensive refurbishment of the pools at Ramsey and Castletown.

- The designation of Castle Rushen High School as a Regional Sports Centre will involve a pilot scheme to review pricing and programming which can be extended to all schools.
- A series of meetings took place in 2002 between DT&L, Sports Council and the Regional Pool Boards following which the Boards decided 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.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 7.1

In consultation with the Governing Bodies of Sport, the Department of Tourism & Leisure (Manx Sports & Recreation), 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.

Six Community Key Sports were designated by Sports Council in 2004; Athletics Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Swimming and Tennis. Badminton and Rugby were added to the programme in December 2005.

Council has offered part-funding towards the appointment of Sports Specific Development Officers and the first appointment for Badminton/Hockey was made in July 2006.

Plans are also in place to appoint a Girls and Women's Football Development Officer in 2007.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 7.2

1. Manx Sport & Recreation should carry out a coaching audit using the Sports Coach UK framework to establish a database and profile of coaches on the Island.
2. MSR should develop its partnerships with GBS to identify opportunities to extend the coaching base and develop existing coaches through a formal coach education programme.

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 2006, 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 methods and communication, Coaching disabled people in sport.

It is proposed to form an IOM Coaches Association in 2007/08 following completion of the database and the Sports Coach UK programme.



AGENDA FOR ACTION 7.3

That priority funding should be given to the Sports which are included in the Island Games, TOPS programme and Youth Games in view of their importance nationally and internationally, i.e. Archery; Athletics; Badminton; Basketball; Cricket; Cycling; Football; Golf; Gymnastics; Hockey; Netball; Rugby; Sailing; Shooting; Squash; Swimming; Table Tennis; Tennis; Triathlon and Volleyball. Motor Sports would also need to be included recognising their importance and profile on the Island.

Sports Council has reviewed how it allocates finance to the Governing Bodies of Sport to reflect the Community Key Sports Initiative and the designated priority sports. Owing to the additional monies being made available to Council from Government (from the UK Lottery) this has not resulted in a reduction of funding to the "other" sports.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 8.1

- a) A cross organisational sports forum to co-ordinate a strategic development of sport for disabled people be established.
- b) The Department of Tourism & Leisure should provide for a period of three years a Sports Development Officer post with specific responsibility for the development of disability sport.
- c) Adequate funding to develop the initiative should be provided

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

AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.1

The Isle of Man Sports Council be responsible for all grant aid to sports that fall within its 40 recognised sports, and that the Public Lottery Trust be responsible for processing grant aid applications from those sporting or leisure activities that are not currently recognised by the Sports Council.

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 9.2

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.



AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.3

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.

The Treasury is currently negotiating with the appropriate UK Government departments to access additional Lottery funding. It is possible that additional funding may become available in the 2007-08 year whereupon the Sports Council will be able to make a case to the Government for a share of any additional funding received from this source.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 9.4

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

A Sports Development Manager was appointed in October 2005 together with a part-time administrator.





AGENDA FOR ACTION 10.1

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 10.2

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.

AGENDA FOR ACTION 10.3

- a) The fund to cover support to teams such as: National Representative Teams Teams qualifying for UK/International competition Manx teams in regional or national leagues be increased.
- b) A substantial increase in funding to Sports Aid Foundation to include a fund to enable a small number of elite competitors who have genuine international potential to concentrate "full time" on their sport.



- a) Sports Council has been able to assist a number of teams to compete off-Island in high level competition through the "Island Representative Team Support" fund.
- b) Council has also been able to increase the grants given to the Island Games Association of Mann and the Isle of Man Commonwealth Games Association to assist athletes and support staff competing in the Island and Commonwealth Games.
- c) Following a full review of the services provided the Sports Aid Foundation has decided to prioritise its funding to enable competitors to access the UK World Class Schemes and to provide additional services through the Performance Co-ordinator.

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.

The Department of Tourism & Leisure has contributed to the Children and Young Persons Strategy which was approved by Tynwald in 2005. It has been acknowledged in the Strategy that Sport can make a significant contribution through preventative action to enable vulnerable children to be socially included in the centre of the Island's Community. Joint Action Plans are now being established through Sports, Arts, Youth & Community Services and the Voluntary Sector.

