ABSTRACT: The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the SFA study trip taking place in Finland from 9th to 16th May 2011 and the inclusion of an Angus Council Officer in the travelling party for this trip.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Neighbourhood Services Committee:-

(i) Approve the participation of an Officer from Angus Council’s Neighbourhood Services who has been invited to attend this study trip;

(ii) Approve that this Officer be given their absence from work as paid leave.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Angus Council, along with many other Local Authorities across the country are working in partnership with sportscotland to establish a network of Community Sport Hubs*.

* Community Sport Hubs are based in local facilities such as sport centres, community centres, club pavilions, the natural environment and/or schools and will bring local people together and provide a home for local clubs and sports organisations.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 Angus Council are aware of the positive contribution that sport and physical activity can make towards the health and well-being of people within our local communities. In partnership with sportscotland, there is a desire to establish a network of Community Sport Hubs in Angus and the Council are currently considering the most effective way forward for such proposals in the county.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 The study trip will involve the group visiting best practice models in Finland and comparing these to the Scottish sporting context. The visit will examine systems that exist within Finland because it is a country that is advanced, with well organised systems of club sport and of very similar size and population to Scotland.

4.2 Angus Council have an Officer travelling as part of this study trip and two local boys’ football clubs have also been invited to send representation.

4.3 Most sports clubs in Finland are multi-sport in their set up and are key parts of community life. The study trip gives the opportunity to investigate this further and explore their systems, methods and ethos of club and community developments to take this back to Scotland with the development of Community Sport Hubs underway through links with sportscotland.

4.4 On return it is anticipated that where possible the group will apply the ideas, principles and concepts generated from these models to both their own clubs and more generally, a Scottish sporting context and will be used to generate future ideas and proposals that will benefit the development of Community Sport Hubs in Angus.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
5.1 The granting of paid leave to the Officer will not generate additional costs to the Department’s budget. The costs of the study trip including travel and accommodation are fully covered by the SFA through the Leonardo da Vinci fund.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The issues dealt with within this report have been the subject of consideration from the equalities perspective (as required by the legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT (only if required)

8.1 The content of the study trip links to the following Local Outcomes within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement:

- Achieving: Children and young people in Angus will have access to positive learning environments and opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and self-esteem to the fullest potential;
- The health of the Angus population is improved;
- Healthy: Children and young people in Angus will enjoy the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, with access to suitable healthcare and support for safe and healthy lifestyle choices;
- Active: Children and young people in Angus will be active with opportunities and encouragement to participate in play and recreation, including sport;
- Communities in Angus are safe, secure and vibrant;
- People in Angus can access amenities and services through a variety of affordable and sustainable means;
- All in Angus enjoy a good quality of life.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 This report advises the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the SFA study trip taking place in Finland from 9th to 16th May 2011 and the inclusion of an Angus Council Officer in the travelling party for this trip.

RON ASHTON
DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.