ABSTRACT:
This report is to inform the Sub-Committee on the findings of the audit on Physical Recreation Services in Local Government carried out by Audit Scotland during 2010, published on 21 October 2010

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

(i) Note that the full audit report, Appendix 1 can be downloaded from the link below www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/docs/local/2010/nr_101021_physical_recreation_councils.pdf

(ii) Note that Audit Scotland, subject to availability, are prepared to offer a short presentation to assist with familiarisation to the appropriate committee or group of officers

(iii) Note the 6 Key Recommendations contained on page 4 of the audit report.

(iv) Approve the Action Plan, attached as Appendix 2, to address the key recommendations.

(v) Agree that regular reports will be presented to future sub-committees to monitor progress and review the evidence.

2. BACKGROUND

The report gathered information, based on financial year 2008/2009, from across all 32 council areas on how the council organised their physical recreation services, how much is spent and the performance and impact of the services.

The report contains a number of recommendations aimed at helping councils to improve.

Audit Scotland also recommend that councils consider the findings and recommendations at the most appropriate council committee meeting prepare an action plan to address areas for improvement, and monitor and report progress regularly.

3. CURRENT POSITION

The key messages from the report are:

- Councils and arms-length and external organisations (ALEOs) spent around £656 million on physical recreation services. However the current financial outlook for public spending will make it difficult to find the investment that is needed in local facilities and to sustain service levels and quality over the longer-term.

- Councils have broadened their emphasis from a traditional focus on sport to also encouraging more people to take regular exercise through a range of activities, such as walking or cycling. However there are weaknesses in strategic planning and
strategies often lack clearly defined target groups, baseline information and specific measurable targets.

- There is generally widespread availability of facilities, attendance has been increasing and customer satisfaction is high. However, councils and ALEOs lack information about the people who are not using services and the reasons why, and have limited evidence of the impact their services make on the number of people getting enough exercise.

4. PROPOSALS

The proposals to address the key recommendations are contained within the action plan at Appendix 2.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications directly associated with the content of this report. Any financial implications which would arise from taking forward the planned actions will be the subject of separate reports to Committee.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications directly associated with this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

8. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

The improvements contained within the Action Plan link to the following Local Outcomes within the Angus Single Outcome Agreement.

- Growth in tourism in Angus is achieved.
- 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

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
The services provided through Leisure Services are constantly under review and programmes and activities are altered to meet the demands of our users and many different client groups.

Activities and classes are monitored, evaluated and form part of the Performance Management regime adopted within Leisure where Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are used to inform managers as well as providing evidence on the impact and cost associated with service provision.

Much of the success lies with the ownership, of the programmes, taken by Leisure Services staff as well as the many partnerships to deliver services as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Examples of these partnerships include Angus College at the Saltire Leisure Centre, NHS Tayside on Referral to Exercise, Long Term Conditions, Seated Exercise for the Elderly, Angus Carers, Education and Social Work and Health departments on many initiatives including LMART and Active Schools and sportscotland with the Regional Sports partnership and Sports Hubs.

These types of initiatives as well as our core activities have seen a year on year increase on our memberships and numbers attending our facilities which we hope will continue into future years allowing for the potential dip with the current developments in the Montrose area.

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.
## APPENDIX 2

### ACTION PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECOMMENDATION</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</th>
<th>IMPROVEMENT ACTION</th>
<th>TIMESCALE</th>
<th>REVIEW DATE</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Councils should ensure physical recreation strategies contain specific, measurable targets. Performance management arrangements should monitor outcomes and provide reports on the impact services are having on strategic objectives, such as improving the physical and mental health of target groups by helping them get more exercise</td>
<td>Senior Service Manager - Leisure Services (SSM)</td>
<td>Complete the brief and conclude the improvement action within the Leisure Angus Improvement Model (AIM) to produce an overarching strategy ‘20/20 Vision for an Active Angus’</td>
<td>To be completed by 31 March 2012</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Brief being finalised with sportscotland to allow a funding bid to be considered to assist the process.</td>
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<td>2. Councils should review arrangements to support elected members serving on ALEO boards and ensure councillors are briefed on their roles and responsibilities and how to manage any potential conflict of interest that might arise</td>
<td>SSM</td>
<td>Not applicable at this time as Angus Council deliver their services directly with no ALEO input. This is the subject of a service review in 2011/12</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>Review of sports provision to be carried out during 2011 - 2012</td>
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<td>3. Councils should closely monitor the impact of reductions in public spending on plans for investing in leisure facilities and ensure long term capital investment strategies take account of “whole-life costs” such as maintenance, refurbishment and the cost of upgrading facilities</td>
<td>SSM</td>
<td>Investment in leisure provision will consider ‘whole life costs’ and further develop the use of funds generated above target for re-investment into the improvement, upgrading and delivery of additional facilities in to future years. Improvements and upgrading are annual plans and the major capital project at Montrose to replace the Swimming Pool will be complete by October 2012</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Rolling 5 year plan of improvements established and design brief for new facilities will consider ‘whole life costs’ and future proofing to ensure best value for money spent</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> Councils should ensure that pricing structures and concessionary schemes are regularly reviewed, and their affordability and impact on participation is considered as part of strategic planning.</td>
<td>SSM</td>
<td>Gather more information on customer perceptions of the services delivered to assist in informing the council on future pricing reviews (ref AIM)</td>
<td>Current review will be considered by Angus Council on 10 February 2011</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>Awaiting council approval as part of the budget setting process</td>
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<td><strong>5.</strong> Councils should ensure performance information is used to compare the cost and quality of physical recreation services with other council areas, to help identify efficiency savings and to help understand the impact of reduced spending on services where this is required.</td>
<td>SSM</td>
<td>Performance information is discussed with partners and benchmarking group to help identify other potential service delivery models (ref AIM)</td>
<td>Ongoing work</td>
<td>Under review</td>
<td>Currently considering the range of KPIs to be reported next year, 2011 - 2012</td>
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<td><strong>6.</strong> Councils should improve their understanding of which people do not use services and the reasons why. Councils should use this information to set priorities, help develop effective pricing policies, and to target priority groups.</td>
<td>SSM</td>
<td>Utilise council resources to help gather non-user information – People Panel and street workers from Community Learning and Development (ref AIM)</td>
<td>Work will commence in April 2011 with initial conclusions informing 2012 -2013 budget and beyond</td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>Start date April 2011</td>
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