
THE ESSEX ACTIVE SPORT PARTNERSHIP (Min 222/99)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the Essex Active Sport Partnership (EASP) and seeks a commitment to the partnership for a period of seven years.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Community Services Committee on 8th June 1999, the former Head of Leisure and Client services reported to Members on the EASP. Members were advised of the new national sports development programme which would be funded via exchequer funding from Sport England, the National Lottery Sports Fund and partnership funding from each local authority. Members were asked to commit to the partnership for a five year period.
- 2.2 Essex Sport, which has Officer and Member representatives from all 15 local authorities within Essex, is the operating body of the EASP.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 An Active Sport Manager was appointed by Essex Sport in the autumn of 1999 and his first task was to prepare and submit the lottery bid to fund the programme. This was submitted towards the end of last year and in December the EASP was advised of the bids success.
- 3.2 The lottery award has been awarded to the EASP for a seven year period and the amount awarded each year will be determined by the previous year's income and expenditure, the annual plan, the number of sports and partnership services applied for and the availability of match funding. The award will be used to implement a programme of activities to help develop and retain the interest of young people in 9 different sports over the next seven years.
- 3.3 The award for year one amounts to £130,000 and will be used to develop basketball, rugby, netball and hockey. The focus will be on young people aged 10 –15 who have already experienced the sport and wish to continue their involvement. The Active Sport Programme will give opportunities for expert coaching and links to local clubs. Some of the money will also go towards developing coaches and assisting local sports clubs to attract and retain more young people and volunteers.
- 3.4 For the programme to be successful, each partner local authority will be asked to sign an amended Memorandum of Understanding which

outlines their commitment to the EASP for a seven year period; an extension of two years on the original agreement. In addition to input from the Sports Development Officer, Rochford's commitment amounts to an annual contribution of £1,000 for which provision has been made within the core budget.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Provision of sporting pursuits has been proven to reduce instances of youth crime and anti social behaviour.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As previously mentioned in the report, the financial contribution towards the partnership is £1,000 per year for which provision has been made within the core budget. In addition, the Sports Development Officer will play an active role in assisting with those activities to be held within the Rochford District.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

If Members are minded to continue to support the programme through signing the revised Memorandum of Understanding, the Council will extend its commitment to the Essex Active Sport Partnership from five to seven years terminating in 2007.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Active Sport activities will benefit the whole District.

8 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That Rochford District Council's commitment to the Essex Active Sport Partnership be extended for an additional two years. (CD(F&ES)).

R Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

Copy of letter from Sport England Lottery Fund dated 13 December 2000

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