

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education Committee	Subject: New Opportunities for PE and Sports Programme
From: Director of Education	
Date: 27 th April 2005	
Ref: MO/JL/NR	

Purpose of Report

To inform members about the progress of the project supported by Big Lottery Fund, sportscotland and the Scottish Executive to extend facilities at the three North Lanarkshire Sports Comprehensives, to outline revisions made to the original plans in respect of Braidhurst HS, and to update members on the progress of both facilities and activities strands of the New Opportunities for PE & Sports (NOPES) Programme.

Recommendations

The education committee is asked to;

1. note the commencement of building programmes to enhance sports facilities at St Margaret's and St Maurice's Sports Comprehensives, and the revised building plans for Braidhurst Sports Comprehensive,
2. note the official opening of the extension to Kilbowie Outdoor Centre on 8th October 2004 by the Minister for Education and Young People,
3. instruct the Director of Education to return to Committee in due course with further reports on how the sports facilities, community management arrangements and activities are progressing, and
4. refer the paper to Community Services and Social Work Committees for information.

Members wishing further information regarding the attached report should contact:
Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on OA236 812336

Michael O'Neill

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PE & SPORTS PROGRAMME

Report by Director of Education

1 Background

1.1 Members will recall previous reports to Committee (August 2002 and May 2003) seeking approval for plans to submit bids to the New Opportunities Fund under the New Opportunities for PE and Sports Programme, and subsequently advising of the success of the initial bids (September 2004). Two separate papers have also been brought to Committee seeking approval to pilot three Sports Comprehensives and subsequently advising of progress (April 2002 and May 2003).

1.2 There were two main strands to the bid: the Facilities Strand (capital), and the Activities Strand (revenue), both grant aided by the Big Lottery Fund. Plans approved by Committee in respect of the former included a 16 bed extension to Kilbowie Residential Outdoor Centre, and substantial enhancement of existing sports facilities at three North Lanarkshire Schools already designated as 'Sports Comprehensives: Braidhurst High School, St Margaret's High School and St Maurice's High School.

2 Progress made on the Facilities Strand of the NOPES Programme

2.1 Since the last report to Committee, the funding package for the Facilities Strand of the NOPES allocation has been revised to allow building work to progress at St Maurice's and St Margaret's High Schools. Because of potential difficulties with deadlines related to commencement of construction at Braidhurst, the revised funding package now commits the Big Lottery Fund allocation to the two projects at St Maurice's and St Margaret's whilst the sportscotland allocation is now allocated solely to Braidhurst. This does not affect the total amount allocated to any individual project, only the proportion from each partner allocated to specific projects.

2.2 As previously notified to Committee, building commenced at St Maurice's HS and St Margaret's HS in October 2004. Because of continuing difficulties with ground conditions at Braidhurst HS, plans have again required to be revised for this project in consultation with the school and sportscotland. The amended plans for Braidhurst HS will now include improving the existing sports barn by upgrading the floor, lighting and the heating system of the sports barn. The existing changing facilities in the sports barn will be refurbished, and an access ramp will be created to comply with disability legislation. In addition, a synthetic playing area will be created replacing one of the existing grass fields. This playing area will be suitable for multi sports activities including football, hockey, rugby league and tennis. The second grass field will be retained. A pavilion with 4 changing areas will be built which will service both the outdoor basketball courts and the multi sports playing areas. Much needed storage space will be constructed adjacent to the school gymnasium to free up working areas for both school and community use. This project is now being re-submitted to sportscotland for formal approval after initial consultation with them approved the design specifications. It is unlikely that work will now commence at Braidhurst until July 2005, with completion approximately 10 months thereafter.

- 2.3 At St Margaret's High School building work is currently at 42% completion. It is estimated that building will finish on time in August 2005. There may be a short delay because of interim examination arrangements but this should not affect the completion date.
- 2.4 At St Maurice's High School there is currently 35% completion of the building programme. It is estimated that there will be completion in November 2005 which will be a 6-8 weeks delay in the original completion date. This was due to problems with gas venting in the ground and the integration of the new traffic management system.
- 2.5 Meetings have taken place between representatives of the Sports Comprehensives, the Education Department and Community Services to explore on a preliminary basis some of the issues surrounding the proposed new management arrangements for the programming of the 3 sports comprehensives. Discussion has been positive and a joint operational policy is being discussed based on the principles notified in the last committee paper.
- 2.6 The extension at Kilbowie Residential Outdoor Education Centre funded by the NOPES programme was officially opened by the Minister for Education and Young People on 8th October 2004.
- 2.7 Project Cost and Funding Streams

The table below highlights the costs of each facility and funding arrangements:

Facility	Project Cost (£)
Kilbowie OC	948,714
ST Margaret's HS	1,867,238
St Maurice's HS	2,452,875
Braidhurst HS	1,245,450
Total Cost	6,514,277
Funding Package	(£)
New Opportunities Fund	3,401,000
sportscotland	700,000
Scottish Executive	200,000
Education Capital Programme*	1,590,000
NLC External Funding Group	100,000
Education Revenue Contribution	523,277
Total Funding	6,514,277

*Includes a contribution of £200,000 from 2006/07 capital programme that will require formal council approval.

3 Progress made on the Activities Strand of the NOPES Programme

3.1 The Sports College

3.1.1 An introductory programme for nursery and primary 1-4 students has been developed which will link with the Service Level Agreements which deliver curriculum support to schools. These programmes will deliver multi-skills

content which will address the Long term Athlete Development strategies being promoted by sportscotland and National Governing Bodies.

- 3.1.2 For students from primary 5-7 sport specific after school programmes continue to develop based in primary schools across the authority. A common philosophy across sports and a standardised award scheme is being developed which will allow students to measure their progress. These programmes also have citizenship elements built in as integral parts of the course.
- 3.1.3 In secondary schools the Sports College programme has now moved activities on from an introductory level to local development centres. These centres have been established in Basketball, Girls Football, Rugby League, Netball and Athletics. Development Co-ordinators employed on a sessional basis have been introduced for Girls Football and Rugby League.

3.2 Kilbowie Outdoor Centre

- 3.2.1 The extension to Kilbowie has now allowed the authority to develop a structure which will permit schools to send students to the centre on an annual basis. A working party has been established to consider applications on a cluster basis, which will mean that transitional programmes can be incorporated into the experience. The working group are also developing materials to bring students together prior to their Kilbowie residential for a pre-visit induction and then a post Kilbowie developmental programme to enable students to put into practice in their own environment those outdoor activity skills they have gained at Kilbowie.
- 3.2.2 Of the 5 additional posts to be funded by NOPES, 4 posts have now been filled, one on a job share basis. The outstanding post has been advertised, with interviews to be held in May for appointment by June 2005.
- 3.2.3 The centre is now approaching full capacity in terms of daily operation, however, some work is still required to maximise the potential usage by SEN students. Work continues on the outdoor facilities to bring them up to full compliance for SEN visits. A contractor is being sought to complete the disabled access to water based activities.

3.3 Next Steps

- 3.3.1 Courses for the year 2005 commenced during the Easter vacation with another successful multi activity based course which was fully subscribed. Other courses planned for this session include introductory level courses in kayaking, sailing, and rock climbing which will lead to basic level qualifications where appropriate.
- 3.3.2 A student resource pack has been completed by Outward Bound Metro which provides information on all outdoor activity opportunities within the authority and neighbouring areas. This pack will provide useful contacts and information for those students wishing to continue their participation in outdoor activities and will be made available to North Lanarkshire facilities for distribution.
- 3.3.3 A new facet to the Next Steps programme will be the development of a mentoring programme. Again working in partnership with Outward Bound a course is being constructed to allow students who have displayed an aptitude for leadership to develop those skills. These will then be used to mentor

students from associated primary schools as they make their transition to secondary school.

3.4. Active Steps

- 3.4.1 This programme targets young people aged 5-16 years who are truanting, excluded and at risk of offending. Young people are referred via Community Learning and Development, Social Work and Education staff, and individually via the voluntary sector and streetwork programmes. Activity programmes are built round their particular needs and interests, and participants are encouraged to become involved in the North Lanarkshire Challenge and Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- 3.4.2 Over the last year, 2,164 young people have participated in the general programme with a further 1,777 taking part in the summer programme. Activities have ranged widely from horse riding to mountain biking to dance. Training opportunities have been provided to extend staff qualifications in climbing, mountain-biking and water-sports, as well as in aspects of health and safety, and more specialist equipment has been purchased to extend the range of activities on offer.
- 3.4.3 Participants have been encouraged to gain qualifications wherever possible. Five young people currently placed within Social Work Services have achieved a modular certificate for their skills achieved within the Active Steps Mountain Bike course. Eleven participants have achieved their Category Two Hill Walking qualification and a further eight achieved their British Association of Ski Patrollers first aid certificate.
- 3.4.4 It should be noted that despite the greater than expected number of young people taking part in Active Steps, the emphasis continues to be on ensuring that those who do take part are supported in gaining qualifications and sustaining their involvement in order to maximise the impact of the programme

3.5 Evaluation

- 3.5.1 Loughborough University have made their second visit to the authority to undertake evaluation of the NOPES project on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund. The evaluation team met with representatives of Active Steps, Strathclyde Park, Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, and Sport and Arts section of the Education Department along with parents, headteachers and delivery agencies from the various programmes.
- 3.5.2 The first report of the evaluation team, covering the period from the start of the project until June 2004 is available on request, or can be downloaded from <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/sses/institutes/iys/nof/downloads/SECTION%20FIVE%20Fast%20Track%20Case%20Studies.doc> . The report is very positive about the initial stages of the project and has made a number of useful recommendations which have been taken on board by our project managers.

4 **Recommendations**

- 4.1 The education committee is asked to;

- (i) note the commencement of building programmes to enhance sports facilities at St Margaret's and St Maurice's Sports Comprehensives, and the revised building plans for Braidhurst Sports Comprehensive,
- (ii) note the official opening of the extension to Kilbowie Outdoor Centre on 8th October 2004 by the Minister for Education and Young People,
- (iii) *instruct the Director of Education to return to Committee in due course with further reports on how the sports facilities, community management arrangements and activities are progressing, and*
- (iv) refer the paper to Community Services and Social Work Committees for information.

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