

Memo

9 May 2017

To: Members of the Environment and Community Committee

From: Mace Ward, General Manager Parks, Sport and Recreation Committee

Subject: Update on Community and School Partnership project

Purpose

1. Update on the Community and School Partnership project which aims to facilitate sharing and investment in community and school facilities for wider community benefit and the five pilot partnership opportunities being explored.

Executive summary

2. The Ministry of Education (ministry), Sport New Zealand, Aktive and council are working collaboratively to “improve access for Aucklanders to sport and recreation facilities by fostering opportunities for investment and greater sharing of school and community assets”.
3. In August 2016, the Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee (PAR/2016/64) endorsed the Community and School Partnership project and the investigation of five pilot partnerships. The committee supported in principle council investment in community and school partnerships to realise the significant benefits and better value achieved from combined investment and collaborative provision of sport and recreation facilities. The committee noted a further report will be provided in 2017 on funding the pilot opportunities.
4. The project responds to the following issues and challenges:
 - Increased pressure on sport facilities and gaps in provision as the city grows
 - Expected increase of 107,000 school aged children over the next 30 years
 - Shortage of land and limited resources for new sport and recreation facilities
 - Perceptions of under-utilised sport facilities in schools.
5. There are significant benefits derived from a partnership approach including:
 - Maximise the return of combined investment in sport and recreation facilities
 - Provide better quality facilities through joint investment
 - Maximise the use of facilities leading to improved operational sustainability
 - Share our knowledge, expertise and learnings to provide better facilities.
6. The project is progressing well with the following achievements since the last report:
 - Completed a stocktake of 105 secondary schools in the Auckland Region. The results provide a clear picture of existing sport facilities and available capacity. A number of opportunities have been identified for potential community access to school facilities and these are being explored in partnership with regional sports trusts.
 - Development of a draft framework to outline the steps for investigating an investment or sharing partnership to meet ministry, board of trustee and council requirements.
 - Development of resources to support sharing or investment partnerships such as standard hire agreement template.
 - Investigation of five pilot partnerships with Western Springs College (Westmere), Kingsway School (Silverdale), Takapuna Grammar/Belmont Intermediate, Ormiston College and Birkdale Primary School.

Overview of the Community and School Partnership project

7. Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan - Initiative 8.1 seeks to “work with the Ministry of Education and schools to form better partnerships to improve access and sharing of facilities and align future planning”.
8. Previously community and school partnerships and sharing occurred on a case-by-case basis. The absence of an overarching framework or principles for shared use and partnerships led to missed opportunities for true collaboration, sharing of knowledge and a best practice approach. In some cases it led to duplication of investment/facilities and poor decisions in the design and operation of facilities.
9. The Community and School Partnership project aims to improve access for Aucklanders to sport and recreation facilities, by fostering opportunities for investment and greater sharing of school and community assets.
10. The project goals are:
 - Establish partnerships and agreements with a network of schools in Auckland who are willing and open to sharing their sport and recreation facilities with the community.
 - Improve schools’ access to Auckland’s network of community sport and recreation facilities.
11. There are five components to the project:
 - a) Undertake a stocktake of existing school sport facilities and current community use, capacity, opportunities and limitations. Stocktake of school use of community facilities.
 - b) Confirm gaps in the sport facility network using current research and strategic plans to align planning for sports fields, swimming pools, indoor courts and outdoor courts.
 - c) Develop a framework to guide partnerships for sharing of existing facilities and for investment in new facilities.
 - d) Develop tools and resources to support planning and implementing partnerships.
 - e) Investigation partnership pilots to test the framework, tools and resources.
12. The benefits of the project and a region-wide approach include:
 - Align planning for the provision of schools and provision of sport and recreation.
 - Maximise the combined resources of partners.
 - Maximise utilisation of sport and recreation facilities.
 - Contribute towards addressing shortage of sport and recreation facility provision.
 - Avoid duplication of investment in the same or similar facilities.
 - Share the knowledge, expertise and lessons learnt from previous partnerships to increase partner capability and capacity.
 - Improve the quality of sporting facilities for students and local community.
 - Contribute to the removing barriers to sport and recreation participation by provision of more local facilities and opportunities.
 - Positive benefits from participation in sport and recreation for school students such as; positive correlations with academic achievement, heightened self-esteem, improved cognitive and physical health.
 - Making it easier to establish community and school partnerships.

Stocktake of Secondary School sport facilities

13. A stocktake of all secondary school has been completed. The stocktake provides a clear picture of existing facilities, available capacity and opportunities for partnership. One hundred schools completed the stocktake out of a possible 105.

14. The results show there is a high level of existing community use of school sport facilities with 74% of all secondary schools providing community access to at least one type of sport facility. Interestingly 85% of all secondary schools also access council-owned, club or private sport facilities to support their school sport programme. This shows partnerships between community and schools are already happening.

Table one – Proportion of schools that make their sport facilities available for community use

	North 22 schools	West 13 schools	Central 27 schools	South 38 schools	Overall 100 schools
Sport fields	59% (13/22)	46% (6/13)	59% (16/27)	51% (18/35)	55% (53/97)
Outdoor courts	45% (10/22)	45% (5/11)	46% (9/19)	32% (12/38)	40% (36/90)
Indoor courts	77% (17/22)	83% (10/12)	64% (16/25)	59% (19/32)	68% (62/91)
Swimming pools	29% (2/7)	33% (2/6)	36% (4/11)	30% (3/10)	32% (11/34)
Any sport facility – overall community access	95% (21/22)	77% (10/13)	67% (12/18)	63% (24/38)	74% (67/91)
Proportion of schools that access council-owned, club or private sport facilities	91% (20/22)	77% (10/13)	93% (25/27)	79% (30/38)	85% (85/100)

15. There is also willingness to consider community use of school facilities, with:
- 27% of schools open to making their sport facilities more available for community use.
 - 34% of schools do not want any more community use as they either do not have capacity or believe it will have a negative impact on the condition of their facilities, equipment or student access.
 - 32% of schools do not lock their school grounds (or lock them after 10pm – allowing significant casual community use).
16. The main challenges or barriers for community use are:
- Low quality of the facilities not suitable for community use.
 - No hire agreements, policies or booking systems in place
 - Increased maintenance and earlier replacement costs due to increased use
 - Staff cost and administration burden from managing after-hours use
 - Health and safety concerns of community use and unknown insurance cost or responsibilities to the school board of trustees
 - Limited parking
 - Historical graffiti issues from community use.
17. From the stocktake, a number of opportunities have been identified for potential community access to existing school facilities or investment which could lead to community access. These opportunities are being explored in partnership with regional sports trusts.
18. The next stage of the stocktake is to focus on intermediate and primary schools.

Draft framework and resources

19. The purpose of developing a framework is to outline the steps to investigate and develop a partnership with a school that meets the ministry, board of trustee and council requirements.
20. The draft framework contemplates two types of partnerships:
- Investment partnership involving capital investment and development of new or refurbished facilities.

- Sharing partnership involving no or limited capital investment and focuses on the use of existing facilities.

21. The draft framework involves six basic phases as described in table two. The phases are less onerous for sharing partnership but still require consideration of fundamental questions for both the school and the partner.

Table two – draft framework for exploring community and school partnership

Initiation	•Explore the concept and decide whether to investigate
Feasibility	•Test the feasibility to determine whether to commit
Planning	•Develop the detailed plan and prepare business case for approval
Legal Agreement & Design	•Sign legal agreement and complete detailed design
Implementation	•Construction
Operating & review	•Implement operations and identify learnings

22. A range of resources are being developed to support the implementation of the framework such as standard hire agreement templates and electronic booking systems.

Investigation of Pilot Partnerships

23. Pilot projects have been selected using three criteria:

- Alignment – common agreement on the desired outcomes and need for facility.
- Willingness – a willing partner who is keen to discuss the opportunity.
- Achievability – timely results can be achieved to inform learnings for the project.

24. Western Springs College – the ministry are undertaking an extensive \$79 million rebuild of the school and there is potential to add an additional four courts to one ministry funded court.

25. Kingsway School – the school is working with Netball Northern to look at opportunities for community use of the school's indoor and outdoor courts. Arrangements have also been made for school to use the adjacent sport fields at Metro Park East. Council's investigation of the artificial turf of the school ground has been found to be unfeasible.

26. Orminston Campus – The Howick Local Board provided a grant to develop cricket nets on the Orminston Junior College site to enable community access after school hours. The Orminston Senior College is working with Auckland Hockey Association on the development of a feasibility study for a hockey/multi-sport turf on the senior college site.

27. Takapuna Grammar/Belmont Intermediate – there is potential for council to invest in two multi-sport sport turfs on the co-located sites to help meet a shortage in sport field capacity in the Takapuna/Devonport area. This opportunity is still under investigation.

28. Birkdale Primary School – Kaipatiki Local Board provided a grant to upgrade the school's existing outdoor courts to enable community access after school hours.