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**REPORT TO:** Council

**DATE:** 1 March 2006

**REPORTING MEMBER:** Cabinet Member (Planning)  
(Councillor R Cooper)

**SUBJECT:** **Local Sports Clubs and the Local Development Framework**

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**FORWARD PLAN REF:** N/A

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 At the Council meeting on 7 December 2005 Councillor Pat Marsh proposed the following Notice of Motion, which was seconded by Councillor Trevor Chapman:

*“After the recent sporting successes of some of our local sports clubs, this Council should take a pro-active role by working with those clubs to allocate land, in the Local Development Framework, for Multi Sport use.”*

- 1.2 **The Notice of Motion was referred to me as Cabinet Member (Planning) and I subsequently met with Councillors Marsh and Chapman on 1 February 2006.**

## **2.0 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION**

- 2.1 I am more than happy to support this Notice of Motion and can assure the Council that the preparatory work on the Local Development Framework is already carefully considering what can be done to assist local sports clubs make the most of their potential.
- 2.2 As Members will be aware, the Council has embarked on the preparation of the Core Strategy of the new style Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF rolls forward and supersedes the Harrogate District Local Plan and will set out the planning policy and guidelines for the future development and conservation of the District up to 2021. The Core Strategy will provide the strategic direction for future planning policy with subsequent planning documents providing more detail on things like major land allocations and development control policies.

2.3 Between September and December 2005, a major public consultation took place on the 'Issues and Options' for the LDF Core Strategy. Under the theme of 'Residents and Communities' the consultation made reference to the need for more junior sports pitches and the situation of two major sports clubs in Harrogate town (Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club & Harrogate Town Football Club). Indeed, the consultation sought specific comments on the following option:

*"National planning policy, combined with the lack of suitable sites to provide for the needs of several major sports facilities suggest that a single multi-purpose (e.g. football and rugby) sports facility in an accessible location is the only way forward."*

2.4 Officers are currently analysing the responses to this question and will be reporting them to me, along with all the other responses to the LDF Core Strategy consultation, on 13 April 2006. At this meeting, I will agree a package of preferred options including how best to move forward in addressing the needs of the local sports clubs. To assist me in making this decision, I have asked the officers to consult with the District Development Committee and the District Development Sub-Committee at a joint meeting on 4 April.

2.5 Throughout this process we are of course working closely with the main sports clubs involved so that we have a full understanding of their needs and aspirations.

### 3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 The need to assist the local sports clubs to fulfil their potential for the benefit of community sports provision has already been identified as a key issue to be addressed in preparing future planning policy. I therefore support the notice of motion and look forward to developing positive measures to secure an appropriate land use framework.

### Background Papers – None

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact Mr D C Allenby, Chief Planner (Forward Planning), if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at the Department of Development Services, Knapping Mount, West Grove Road, Harrogate, HG1 2AE, by telephone on 01423-556576 or by e-mail – [dave.allenby@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:dave.allenby@harrogate.gov.uk).

### SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT/CRIME AND DISORDER

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy		✓	

B	Environment	✓	
C	Social Equity		
i)	General		✓
ii)	Customer Care/People with Disabilities		✓
iii)	Health Implications		✓
D	Crime and Disorder		✓

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable