**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Cumnock Area Leisure Hub Proposals**

**FAQs**

1. **Will the sports facilities at the Barony Campus form part of the new Leisure Hub?**

Yes, the Barony Campus includes a Sports Village incorporating extensive community facilities including indoor sports halls, a dance studio, national standard rugby pitches, synthetic grass and grass pitches and a 4 lane athletics track.

1. **Will Visions Leisure Centre form part of the new Leisure Hub?**

Yes, Visions Leisure Centre would retain its unique identity but be an integral part of the Barony Sports Village and the Leisure Hub, providing a high quality pool and gym to enhance the overall offer, as well as improved membership and visitor facilities. The swim academy and lesson programme would continue to be operated and developed at Visions Leisure Centre.

1. **Who will manage the Leisure Hub?**

East Ayrshire Leisure Trust will manage the new Hub, in partnership with key community stakeholders and bookings will be made through the existing EALT booking system.

This approach will ensure all of the publicly funded leisure facilities in the area are well coordinated and efficiently managed.

1. **Will memberships be available at the new Leisure Hub?**

Yes, a package of memberships will be developed for the Hub. This would allow members access to the whole suite of facilities in the Hub as well as other East Ayrshire Leisure venues across the local authority area.

1. **Is there scope for non-sport related events and activities to take place in the new Leisure Hub?**

Yes, there are excellent opportunities to include a number of existing venues as part of the Hob, including Auchinleck Boswell Centre and Library, the Baird Institute, Cumnock Town Hall and Cumnock Library, as we aim to enhance the cultural profile of the area provided by East Ayrshire Leisure, The Cumnock Tryst, Boswell Book Festival, Centrestage and East Ayrshire Council Instrumental Music Service.

The Barony Hall within the Barony Campus provides state-of-the-art facilities and there is an opportunity to work collaboratively on an annual programme of community events as part of the local, regional and national events calendar to establish the Cumnock area as a key location for cultural events and tourism.

There will also be opportunities for a range of community activities out with school hours, such as pottery, art and cookery classes.

1. **What’s happening to Auchinleck Leisure Centre?**

Auchinleck Leisure Centre is part of Auchinleck Academy, which has been replaced by The Robert Burns Academy within the new Barony Campus. The existing school building in Auchinleck is scheduled for demolition in 2020/21.

We are currently exploring future options with community groups and stakeholders, and a full public consultation will be carried out to identify the community’s priorities for Leisure provision within the area.

One of the options being considered is the closure and demolition of the Auchinleck Leisure Centre.

The standalone synthetic grass pitch facility in Auchinleck would be retained, with new, upgraded changing facilities.

It would be possible to retain the leisure facilities on site as a standalone building at an estimated cost of £2.9m and additional annual running costs of £0.080m, but there is currently no provision in the Capital Investment Plan for this level of expenditure. Community consultation will provide opportunity for exploring these options further.

1. **What are the opportunities for football development?**

We would like to establish a School of Football, in partnership Cumnock Juniors Enterprise Trust (CJCE). The School of Football will provide sports coaching for young people as well as lifestyle skills sessions and workshops including diet and nutrition, leadership skills and motivational techniques for schoolchildren. It is currently funded through a Scottish Football Association “Cashback” programme, and delivered through a Community Partnership between CJCE and Ayr United Football Academy.

We also plan to work with Auchinleck Talbot to offer a Football Pathway programme at the synthetic grass pitches in Auchinleck.

1. **What are the opportunities for rugby development?**

The Barony Sports Village offers high quality rugby pitches which support the School

of Rugby operated by Cumnock Rugby Club and supported by Scottish Rugby.

As part of the ongoing development of rugby, the Council, through The Robert Burns

Academy and Cumnock Rugby Football Club offer the “School of Rugby”, which will

give pupils the opportunity to improve their physical literacy and rugby skills as part

of their school curriculum and to enjoy the many benefits that rugby offers.

Out with school hours, East Ayrshire Leisure and East Ayrshire Council will work with Cumnock Rugby Club to agree fixtures at the start of each season and an action plan for community engagement in rugby activities.

1. **What are the opportunities for athletics development?**

A pathway for athletics has been developed in recent years through a partnership

between East Ayrshire Leisure and Kilmarnock Harriers. This includes a Run, Jump

and Throw programme operated by East Ayrshire Leisure, aimed at children between

3 and 11 years. This programme dovetails into the activities offered through

Kilmarnock Harriers’ Club programme at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena.

We plan to expand this Pathway into the Cumnock Area Leisure Hub in partnership with Kilmarnock Harriers. East Ayrshire Leisure will operate a Run, Jump and Throw coaching programme and the Harriers will look to establish a satellite club.

1. **What are the opportunities for swimming development?**

In 2019, East Ayrshire Leisure formed a partnership with Scottish Swimming to

introduce a high quality, accredited swimming programme from birth to adulthood

across its wet side leisure centres. We will review the existing programme at Visions

Leisure Centre alongside the programme at Auchinleck Leisure Centre to develop a

comprehensive programme for group and individual lessons.

We would like to integrate swimming into the curriculum from an early age using the model adopted at Doon Valley Leisure Centre. Currently all primary school children from Dalmellington benefit from a programme of swimming lessons delivered by trained members of the school staff or East Ayrshire Leisure swimming instructors.

We will carry out an options appraisal to determine the exact model for school swimming and the 3 possible options are:

* School staff trained to teach swimming lessons and access Visions Leisure Centre as an extension to the school campus free of charge
* East Ayrshire Leisure swimming instructors provide swimming lessons with a charge to the individual schools or parents to cover the costs of the instructor
* Active Schools and East Ayrshire Leisure work with senior students from Robert Burns Academy to train as lifeguards and swim teachers and to deliver the swimming programme as part of their citizenship and leadership development .

1. **What are the opportunities for gymnastics development?**

As part of our Coaching Development Plan, we will review the existing gymnastics

programme to establish a Pathway to Gymnastics which focuses on balance and

movement in younger children, which will feed into the established gymnastics clubs

in East Ayrshire.

1. **What are the opportunities for inclusive sports?**

The facilities at the new Barony Campus have been designed to ensure full inclusion

in a wide range of activities. East Ayrshire Leisure will work with East Ayrshire

Council and Sportsability Ayrshire to implement a programme of activities aimed at

people with disabilities. This may include, but will not be limited to, all ability bike

coaching, swimming and athletics.

1. **How can I have my say in these proposals?**

In developing these proposals, we’ve alreadyconsulted extensively with Council officers working closely with East Ayrshire Leisure, Cumnock and District Leisure Trust, Barony Campus staff and Cumnock Juniors Community Enterprise.

Further engagement will take place specifically aimed at developing the programme and activity within the site and will involve a range of community stakeholders including Cumnock Rugby Club and Kilmarnock Harriers.

We will also be engaging with customers and groups who use Auchinleck Leisure Centre to explore all options for the future of the leisure centre and the activities that take place within it.

It is our intention to continue this consultation and engagement programme with a Virtual Roadshow throughout 2020/21.