



Angus Sports Plan



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1 Definition of Sport

'Sport means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels'. (Council of Europe, European Sports Charter).

2 A Vision for Sport in Angus

'Angus as an area where groups and individuals are encouraged to be active and participate in leisure and sporting opportunities. To provide a quality service in partnership with the voluntary sports sector and the local communities which enables all residents to aspire to their full potential.'

3 Why Have a Plan for Sport?

A starting point for sport is play, enjoyment, active living, physical activity, health, competition and achievement. It takes place in or by the home, in the countryside and wild places, in the school and wider community and the workplace. To some it is a passive spectator interest, to others an active interest, whilst others use it to earn their livelihood.

Further, sport:

- Is a quality of life issue
- Is a way of generating economic benefit
- Is a way of promoting tourism
- Is a way of raising self esteem, fostering skills development and capacity within individuals and communities

- Helps to maximise enjoyment and promote physical, social and mental health
- Contributes to sustainable development

There is a wide diversity of people, groups and organisations involved in organising and participating in sport across scattered rural areas and in larger communities in towns. Co-ordination of all that effort is not only a worthy goal but also one which could show real local social and health benefits.

4 Objectives

The Angus Sports Plan seeks to:

- Improve the quality of life through Leisure and Sport
- Provide equality of opportunity for Angus residents and visitors to participate in Leisure and Sports activities.
- Strengthen partnerships for co-operation in sport to maximise the resources available and reduce duplication of effort
- Promote and encourage Leisure and Sports contribution to the Angus economy.
- Provide a clear reference point against which to identify gaps and measure developments.
- Further develop the network of quality sports facilities across Angus
- Create an environment to attract external funding.
- Promote inclusion in sport across Angus



5 The Context for Sport in Scotland

Sport at all levels is governed, or at least influenced, by what is happening in a wider context.

5.1 National Context

A National Strategy - Sport 21 - 'Nothing Left to Chance'

'Our mission is to make lasting improvements to the quality of life in Scotland by bringing sport and physical recreation, in all its forms, into the lives of everyone living in Scotland.'

Graeme Simmers, Chairman of the Scottish Sports Council

The Strategy identifies four key challenges:

- **Local planning for sport** - every Local Authority area in Scotland needs to have published a strategic plan for sport and recreation drawing on the resources of all local and national strategic sports organisations.
- **A National Physical Activity Taskforce** - Formed by Central Government and implemented locally by multi agency agreement of a shared agenda to develop Scotland as a nation of participants pursuing active lifestyles.
- **The Scottish Institute of Sport** - Scotland needs a dynamic Scottish Institute of Sport which will provide

high level services to elite athletes and coaches across Scotland through a network of Area Institutes.

- **Governing Bodies of Sport Giving a lead** - Scotland's national governing bodies need to adopt a more professional approach to provide for the needs of their sports.

Sport 21 2003-2007 'Time to Speak Up'

This was the consultation document on the formal review of Sport 21 and recommended the direction for Scottish sport 2003-2007.

'I welcome the opportunity to recognise sport's valuable contribution to improving the quality of life for everyone in Scotland. I want to highlight the important work that is underway to update Sport 21, our national strategy for sport, to inform and guide the way forward in developing sport in Scotland.'

Mike Watson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, June 2002

The Sport 21 2003-2007 revised strategy was launched as The National Strategy for Sport - 'Shaping Scotland's Future' on 25 March 2003 by the Deputy Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Dr Elaine Murray MSP.



A Vision For Scotland

A country where sport is more widely available to all

A country where sporting talent is recognised and nurtured

A country achieving and sustaining world class performances in sport

All that is contained in the new strategy is founded in these three visions. These should not be seen as separate objectives, but as three equal parts of a single vision for Scotland. Everyone who works to achieve any part of the Sport 21 strategy is ultimately contributing to all three elements of this vision.

The strategy has been informed throughout by the following principles:

- Participation in sport can improve the quality of life of individuals and communities, promote social inclusion, improve health, counter anti social behaviour, raise individual self-esteem and confidence, and widen horizons
- Age, gender, disability, faith and ethnic origin should be no barrier to access to sport
- National and local sports organisations need to work in partnership with the community from which their participants come
- Scotland's increasing cultural diversity should be acknowledged and celebrated
- Decisions about public funding of sport should be informed by valid and reliable evidence and based upon clearly understood criteria

A set of eleven targets have been set against this new strategy with local authorities having a role to lead and or contribute in all eleven.

5.2 Governing Bodies of Sport

In a number of areas in Scotland new structures have emerged with the establishment of co-ordinated Sports Development programmes which link National Plans with local delivery.

The SportTayside Regional Partnership has provided a vehicle for a number of agreed priority sports throughout Tayside whereby local, regional and national priorities have been set within a more planned and strategic framework. A number of regional sports specific development officers have been appointed that provide support and direction within Angus and ensures more effective integration with the national governing bodies of sport.

Models of how governing bodies have risen to the challenge of adopting a more professional approach can be found within Swimming and Hockey.

5.3 Youth Sport Strategy for Scotland

This was published in May 1996 (by the Scottish Sports Council) introducing, for the first time, a National Framework for the development of Youth Sport. The key issues identified in the Youth Sport Strategy are schools; strengthening the position of school sport; equality; promoting equality of opportunity for all young people; physical activity; raising the physical activity levels of young people; clubs; developing more accessible, progressive and appropriate provision for young people within sports clubs and establishing stronger links with schools; coaching and supporting the recruitment, development and deployment of coaches.

Angus published its' Youth Sports Strategy in December 1996 and subsequent Implementation Plan in February 1997.



Current sportscotland investment for young people in sport is being provided through School Sports Co-ordinators and Active Schools Co-ordinators. Support is also provided through New Opportunities Funding for PE and School Sport which is developing facilities and officers to lead on Club development and Physical Activity development.

5.4 The National Lottery

Angus will continue to work towards projects that may attract lottery funding. Projects to date have attracted Sports Lottery Funding for both capital and revenue projects. The sixth good cause (the New Opportunities Fund) which provides funding to initiatives and projects in the areas of Education, the Environment and Health will also be accessed to deliver to the Leisure and Sports agenda.

5.5 Partnership for Scotland Document

The Scottish Parliament in the 'Partnership for Scotland' document has endorsed Sport 21 as the national planning strategy for sport.

5.6 Towards a Healthier Scotland

The 1999 White Paper - 'Towards a Healthier Scotland' demonstrates the Governments commitment to tackling health holistically whilst recognising the importance of

initiatives to develop sport and in particular Physical Activity. Initiatives to reverse the decline in school sport including the introduction of School Sport Co-ordinators and Active Primary Schools Co-ordinators are welcomed. These require to be further developed to ensure sustainability.

5.7 Physical Activity

The recently published 'let's make scotland more active' the National strategy for physical activity from the Physical Activity Task Force (February 2003).

The strategy's vision is that:

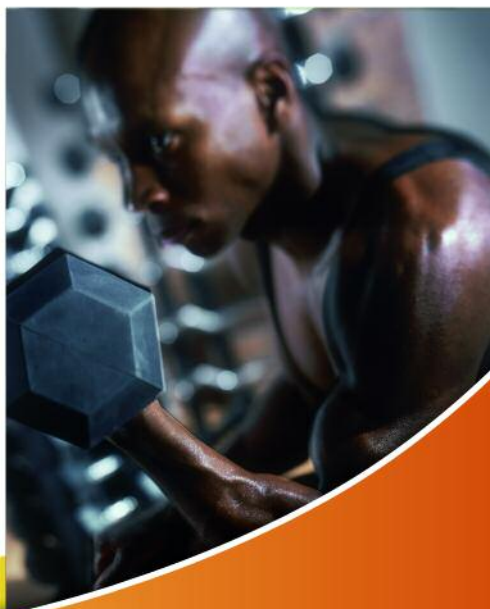
'People in Scotland will enjoy the benefits of having a physically active life'

and it's goal is:

'To increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland'

5.8 Social Inclusion

The Scottish Office report 'Social Inclusion: Opening the Door to a Better Scotland' (1999) underlines the role which Leisure and Sports activities can play in encouraging social inclusion. They can:



- Build individuals' self confidence
- Generate community spirit
- Give young people an alternative to anti-social behaviour that is both rewarding and enjoyable

5.9 Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 is an internationally recognised initiative supported by the UK, to promote sustainable development. Local authorities may lead this process, but any group or individual taking steps to meet economic, social and environmental needs in an integrated way and adopting a long-term, as well as an immediate view, contributes to LA21. The Sports Strategy is a partnership document which promotes the wise use of financial, human and natural resources, and takes an integrated approach which involves the full breadth of stakeholders in both policy preparation and in delivery. As such it can be seen as making a positive contribution to sustainable development within the Angus area.

5.10 Healthy Living Centres (HLC)

Also a Government initiative, Healthy Living Centres are funded from the National Lottery. New Opportunities Fund (£34 million over 3 years in Scotland). Particular emphasis is placed on improving the health and well being of people suffering the greatest burden of poor health, including those in pockets of deprivation and rural areas which may not be readily identified as deprived.

5.11 Other Influences

There are other potential influences which will impact upon the sports scene. These are the Scottish Parliament, and central Government's initiatives on social inclusion, community planning, countryside access legislation, lifelong learning and sustainability.

6 The Context for Sport in Angus

6.1 Facilities

There are 9 leisure centres, 7 swimming pools and six community halls across the Angus area which are used for sporting activity.

Of the 7 swimming pools only two are to the Governing Body's regulation size i.e. 25metres short course. One of these is of 6 lane width and the other 5 lane. The remaining 5 pools are a mixture of 20 metres length and 4/5 lane width'. The Scottish Education policy is when providing a swimming pool at a school to provide a 20 metre, 4 lane facility which ostensibly is for teaching purposes.

All sports pitch provision in Angus comprises of mostly natural sports surfaces with 1 synthetic surface available through the Ministry of Defence at a site outside Arbroath.

Sports pitches total 157 across the various burgh areas.

Three formal country park areas within Angus which provide opportunities for outdoor sports and activities as well as hosting major sporting events.

Monikie Country Park is a nationally recognised watersports centre for teaching windsurfing, sailing and power/safety boat handling. It is the only Royal Yachting Association teaching centre within Angus for hire or instruction. Canoeing/kayaking are also available for hire and instruction by qualified British/Scottish canoe association instructors. The centre conforms to the high standards set by AALA (Adventure Activities Licence Authority).

The Angus Glens, Montrose Basin, extensive woodland areas, and unspoilt coastlines, open expanses of moor and marshlands and a rich diversity of wildlife and plant-life



combine to provide world-class opportunities for leisure activities.

Formal education provision is supplied by 61 primary and 8 secondary schools, which in addition to their sporting curriculum and after school activities provide opportunities for community use.

The distribution of sports facilities is not even. This leaves some areas poorly served as there are few opportunities to access formal leisure provision.

Future developments include projects funded through the New Opportunities Fund to provide synthetic pitch provision in Arbroath and Carnoustie, grass pitch provision with additional changing in Montrose, additional changing provision in Monifieth, and further outdoor activity provision in Monikie Country Park.

Further aspirations would be to develop all weather athletics facilities within Angus as well as greater investment in synthetic pitches, multi-purpose courts, wheeled sports areas and continuing investment in the maintenance of the existing stock of facilities.

Refurbishment of existing sports and community facilities and the development of any new such facilities should take into account the following issues:

- Access - ensure that all facilities are accessible to people with a disability at all levels.
- Programming - ensure that programming for such facilities takes into account the needs of people with a disability.

Further developments associated with facilities will be addressed through an identified Sports Facilities Plan for Angus. This strategy will be supported by resources from sportscotland.

6.2 Sports Development

Angus Council has two generic development officers, two sports specific development officers, and a large number of facility based sports qualified staff who deliver sporting and educational opportunities.

The two generic development officers, as part of their remit, have a number of sports which they target including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Golf, Gymnastics, Hockey, Swimming and Tennis.

The development officers also support individual athletes and coaches through Council led initiatives as well as supporting club structures through the local Angus Sports Council.



The two sports specific officers are targeting football development and sports and recreation for people with disabilities.

Football development covers all areas and categories of user including coach and referee development and education.

The disability sports officer covers all aspects of sport and recreation for physically disabled as well as those with learning difficulties. The officer also supports the work of Angus Disability Sports, who are a charitable organisation working with clubs and individuals in the Angus area. There is also support for the work of Tayside Special Olympics through this officer and other Angus Council officers.

Developments through New Opportunities Funding include the appointment of new officers to cover areas of Club Development, Physical Activity Development and work associated with social education and development through sport.

This increase in full time employment of development staff is beginning to make a difference to the sporting public and further opportunities will be taken where resources are made available.

6.3 Sports Partnerships

Angus Council works in partnership with sportscotland, the Scottish Institute of Sport and neighbouring Local Authorities to develop sport through the SportTayside partnership and the Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport partnership

6.4 Sports Bodies and Associations

Angus Council contributes to and works with a number of the professional associations including VOCAL - The

Voice of Chief Officers of Cultural, Community and Leisure Services in Scotland, ILAM - The Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management, ISRM - The Institute of Sports and Recreation Management, APSE - Association for Public Service Excellence, SALSC - Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils, and SDS - Scottish Disability Sports

6.5 Local Government in Scotland Act 2003

Part 1 Best Value and Accountability

Local Authorities' duty to secure Best Value.

Best Value is continuous improvement in the performance of the authority's functions.

Maintaining a balance on:

Quality of performance

Cost to the authority of that performance

Cost to the persons of services provided

Part 2 Community Planning

Duty of Local Authority to initiate and, having done so, to maintain and facilitate community planning.

As part of this process Angus will be consulting on and publishing a Cultural Strategy for Angus the component parts being, a Sports Plan, an Arts Plan, a Heritage Plan, a Play Plan and a Parks and Open Spaces Plan, as well as this Physical Activity Plan.

Part 4 Power to Advance Well-Being

A Local Authority has power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and persons within that area.

6.6 Volunteering in Sport

Sports clubs are generally self-supporting and an integral part of their local community. Clubs predominantly look



to their own affairs, becoming involved in the wider scene with the Local Angus Sports Council. Sporting liaison and co-ordination is recognised as being well structured with the potential to act as a good practice model for the voluntary effort. Scope exists for helping clubs to be more aware of opportunities for financial assistance and to become more professional in the way they are run and developed.

As well as the Local Sports Council there is a similar voluntary body (Angus Disability Sport) with a specific remit for disability sport which provides opportunities for participation, education and support services.

6.7 The Area Institute of Sport

The establishment of the partnership of the Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport aims to ensure that the top National and International athletes living in the Angus area will be offered access to a range of services. This partnership includes the Scottish Institute of Sport, the University of Dundee, Angus, Dundee City, Fife, and Perth and Kinross Councils, Perth Leisure and Scottish Enterprise Tayside.

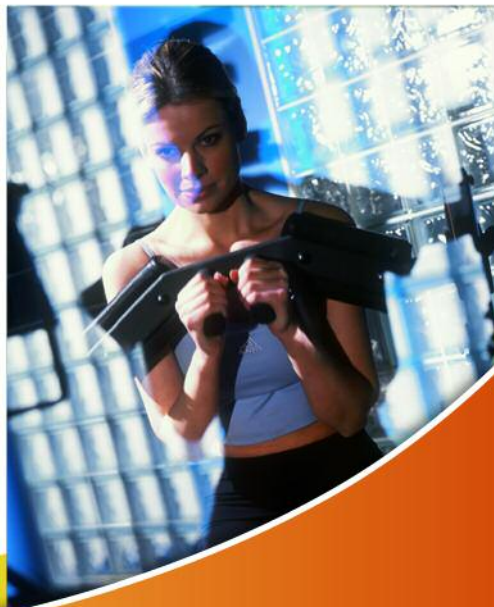
6.8 SportTayside Regional Partnership

SportTayside is the new trading name and brand for what was previously Tayside Sports Development Group (TSDG). SportTayside is being piloted by sportscotland as a

Regional Sports Partnership and consist of the following organisations: Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross Councils, Perth and Kinross Leisure and the three local sports councils throughout Tayside. SportTayside aims to co-ordinate the accelerated development of sport through Tayside by sharing best practice and sharing resources to maximise and enhance existing local structures. The partnerships have nine priority sports and works in partnership with key stakeholders and service providers to develop initiative that focus on the improvement of coaching and provide a co-ordinated player development pathway at a local and regional level across a number of priority sports. Future priorities include developing policies and programmes to Integrated Sports Specific Development, Coach and Club Development, Education and Training, Active Schools and Facilities.

6.9 Angus Challenge

Given the context areas at both National and Local level Angus is now challenged to set it's agenda to meet the way ahead for sport. Working with the partners as identified earlier and customising initiatives, resources and facilities to the needs of the Angus population. It is worth noting that the challenges presented below have been brought to the attention of Leisure Services by outside groups as well as through internal discussion, agreement and prioritisation.



The challenges include:

Developing Facilities

- All weather (tartan) athletics track
- Synthetic pitch facilities
- Upgrading of current outdoor facilities (i.e. Football Pitches)
- Upgrading of sports halls (flooring, lighting, seating)
- Development/expansion of swimming pools (poss. of 50m pool)
- Development of a local sports academy
- Upgraded gymnastics facilities
- Sports Science and Sports Medicine facilities
- Strength and Conditioning facilities

Developing Resources

- Integration of all staff resources
- Increased range of sports equipment
- Compatible office and storage space
- Meeting and Educational space
- New technologies provision
- Specific sports development facility usage
- Wider base of sports specific development officer
- Provision of portable goals for outdoor facilities

7 Roles and Responsibilities of Key Agencies

7.1 Angus Council Leisure Services

- Ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities... for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities (Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994)

- promote integration and inclusion
- facility provision/operation
- staff training and awareness
- event promotion
- sports development staff/introduction and participation of programmes
- grant aid schemes
- financial support to independent facilities
- assistance and advice to sports clubs and organisations

7.2 Angus Council Education and Community Education Services

- large stock of facilities
- school curricular sport/pathways to clubs
- introduction - participation
- promote integration and inclusion

7.3 Other Angus Council Services

- Other services have inputs into aspects of delivery of sport - Social Work (through staff vetting) Roads, Planning and Transport (e.g. Community Transport Schemes, 'Planning gain' opportunities, consideration for new commercial ventures), Property and Architects (e.g. maintenance of properties)

7.4 Angus Sports Council

- Focal point of local sports clubs/organisations
- Promote integration and inclusion
- Grant awarding body, via the Angus Council Grants Policy and/or Local Enterprise Companies
- Unique position locally to advise on suitability of developments and consult on Sports Development programmes.



- Potential for close links and mutual support between Sports Councils and Sports Development Officers
- Introduction - Participation - Excellence

7.5 Angus Disability Sport

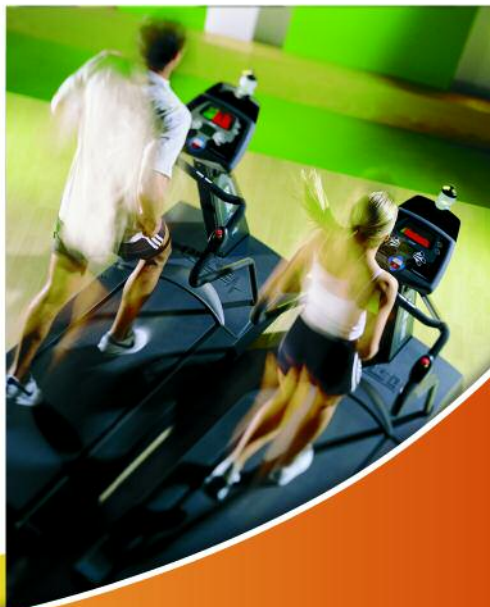
- Promote, foster and develop sport, physical recreation and leisure activities for people with a disability
- Promote the integration of people with a disability with able-bodied Clubs and Organisations
- Promote and develop support systems, which encourage non-participatory enjoyment of sport particularly as spectators and helpers at sports events
- Function as a branch of the Association of Scottish Disability Sport

7.6 Clubs

- Strong Angus-wide base generally aimed at participation - need to develop clear pathways from participation to excellence.
- Need to involve National Governing Bodies of Sport more locally
- Potential for further involvement in Local Sports Council to ensure their voice is heard.
- Opportunities to link with schools, e.g BT Top Sport

7.7 SportTayside

- To promote best practice and foster co-operation and collaboration.
- To develop strategic policy and programmes as agreed with partners to further enhance the infrastructure of sport at a regional level.
- To lead Sports Specific Development within priority sports to ensure local to regional to national integration of policies, programmes and resources.
- To promote integration and inclusion in sport
- Assist with the management of a player development programme that provides an integrated pathway for talented youngsters at local and regional level.
- Support the Active Schools programme and ensure the effective integration of the target sport within it.
- Education and Training - to lead the co-ordination and work with partners to implement a Coaching/Volunteers Strategy and develop a training programme for professional officers involved within sports development.
- Facilities - Develop a forum to consider future facility issues and support a wider audit of facilities within Angus to align future programming and cost to agree priorities within target sports, clubs and performance squads.
- Club Development Strategy for Tayside.
- Advocacy and Promotion Good Practice.



7.8 Tayside and Fife Institute of Sport

- Provide an environment and ambience to enable local sporting talent to be identified, selected and developed.
- To develop strategic policy and programmes with partners to further enhance the infrastructure of performance sport at a regional level.
- Provide comprehensive, coach-led quality training programmes that will lead to discernible success against international competitive standards.
- Provide facilities and support to local athletes and coaches through an area network, as an integral part of the Scottish Institute of Sport.
- Provide a local focus for Scottish achievement in sport at the highest level.
- To produce athletes who can progress to the Scottish Institute and ultimately succeed on the world stage.

7.9 sportscotland

- Providing the National Perspective
- Co-ordinating the implementation of Sport 21 - the National Strategy for Sport
- Undertaking research and evaluation programmes
- Provision of financial support for joint partnerships in line with Sport 21
- Management/administration of sportscotland's Lottery Sports Fund

7.10 Governing Bodies

- Providing a National lead to the development of specific sports
- Supporting Local Sports Specific Programme
- Delivering Local Coaching/Coach Development Courses

7.11 Health Board

- Research and evaluation
- Assistance for local agencies in auditing their policies for their impact on health
- Co-ordination of targeted campaigns on lifestyle issues
- Support for development of projects
- Training
- Support for the development of health promoting settings and related initiatives such as Scotland's Health at Work (SHAW) and The Health Promoting School
- Brings together local agencies, whether in a lead or support role, for health gain

7.12 Angus & Dundee Tourist Board

- Facilitator for a broad range of information points throughout area
- Wide distribution network
- Offers potential for marketing /advertising and publicity. Able to assist in marketing of events, especially when of significant visitor element.

7.13 Enterprise Network

- Strategic overview of Angus Area offering assistance to Pan-Angus significant activities/events.
- Local Enterprise Company offer assistance to local projects
- Financial assistance possible but has to have significant Pan-Angus dimension.
- Facilitator/enabler but not provider
- Possible partner in major projects -participation-excellence

8 Implementation

The implementation process is two-fold:

Firstly, all of the agencies involved can, from the common starting point of the Plan, begin to develop the key issues to address those falling within their sphere of interest.

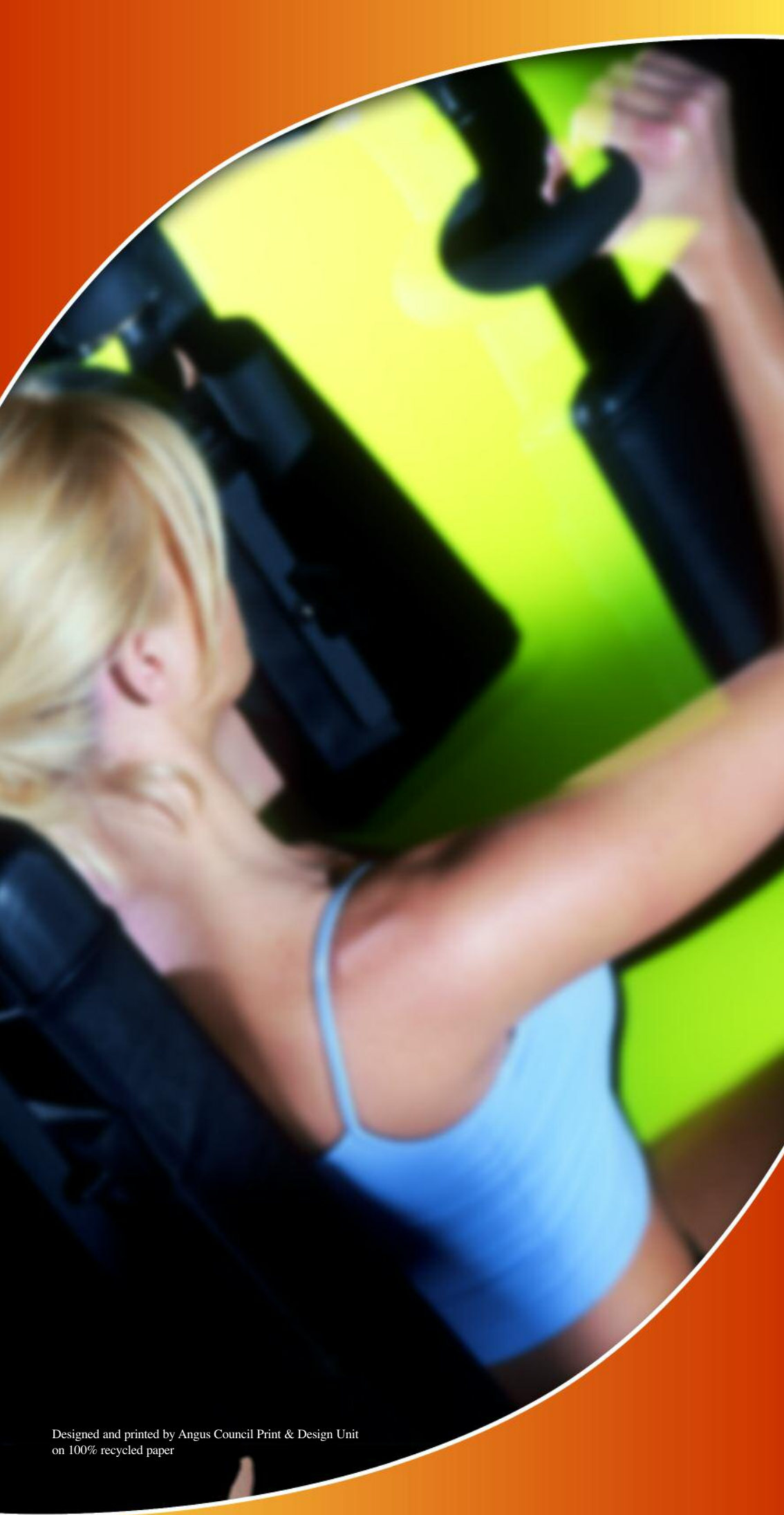
Secondly, given the size of the Angus area, structures which already exist should be utilised in order to help the delivery of the Sports Plan at a local level. The agencies involved in devising the Plan mostly have local representatives within the administrative boundaries laid out for the Angus Council. Area Groups will be encouraged to take forward the agreed tasks which arise from the agency policies to ensure that they are relevant to the particular area. This will lead to the agreed key tasks being written up in a common format into the local action plans of the partner bodies.

9 Review and Evaluation Process

Given the Angus-wide and local level groupings of participating bodies, the review process can fit into a similar mode:

On an annual basis, the Angus-wide grouping of agencies will conduct a review of the Plan as a whole and in particular progress being made towards the issues identified in this Plan being included in agency policies and other Angus-wide key tasks. The Angus-wide group will also review the progress being made at Area level, ensuring opportunities for sharing best practice and problem solving.

On a local basis, the local grouping of participating bodies will similarly meet on an annual basis to review the process of including agreed tasks into relevant area action plans. These reviews will form the basis of a reporting back mechanism to the Angus-wide group to ensure that recommended targets for the following year take into account local progress and circumstances.



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