

Criteria for Northland Sports Facility Plan Project Prioritisation

Using some of the key principles from the Northland Sports Facilities Plan as a starting point, the following criteria is currently used to further prioritise the actions from the plan:

- Social Return on Investment/Impact: The community social return on an investment needs to be considered carefully as each investment comes with an opportunity cost. As capital funding is limited an investment in one project will likely mean others do not proceed. It is important that the community / social sporting return on the funded project delivers as much or more than the project it may displace. Priority will be given to those projects that have high impact (and therefore a high return on investment) to the district where they are located – impact includes consideration of the following:
 - Location/Access: what is the catchment population that the facility could draw on, and is access to the proposed facility not considered a barrier?
 - Proposed User Numbers: what are the proposed user numbers of the facility?
 - Multi-use: how many different sports are involved?
 - The various forms of use: ie. a hydrotherapy pool would imply health and wellness use, whereas a sport only facility will be limited in this kind of use
 - Community Support/Demand: has this been determined and what support/demand is there for the proposed facility?
 - Community Development: increased sporting facilities means better social cohesion and youth engagement opportunities

- Economic Return on Investment: Sports facilities can assist in the economic vibrancy of a community directly with the jobs that are created by a new facility, construction and maintenance costs etc. Consideration should also be given to the indirect economic impacts of any new development. For example the attraction of visitors to sporting events and the spend that creates through accommodation and services related to an event; the integrated nature of the development (to increase the complementarity and overall offering of a community/region) and the ability to increase usage; ancillary business opportunities and the economic impact in the wider business community. It is important however to be conservative in estimating economic benefits in the absence of a formal economic impact analysis. Therefore a simple scaling of benefits would be sufficient as part of a wider criteria analysis as follows:
 - Number of direct jobs in the facility
 - Construction and maintenance costs (including creating opportunities for local contractors)
 - Estimated number and scale of additional events/usage that would attract visitation from outside the community

- Capability of Governance Group: Capability of Governance Group: The organisation driving the project (not the construction contractors, but the governance group that has developed the concept and will likely own the facility) should possess a minimum standard of capability to be able to develop the facility effectively. Priority will be given to those projects where this capability exists. To score well in this section the organisation must have a board that has a good practice recruitment process detailed in its constitution or trust deed – this should ideally consist of a balance of elected and appointed board members (with an Appointments Panel set-up specifically to recruit the appointed members based on the skill requirements of the board).

- Sustainability: Our network of facilities and the individual facilities themselves need to be sustainable (financially and in terms of use levels) in order to maximise community benefits. Priority will be given to those projects that have completed feasibility studies which show financial sustainability and those that have signed use agreements for the proposed facility.
- Partnerships: Working together with partners to develop and operate sports facilities will become increasingly important in order to optimise our network and maintain its sustainability. Priority will be given to those projects where partnerships have been established with key organisations, especially those that have signed agreements
- Adaptability / Functionality: Sports trends and our demographics are changing. What we need from a facility today is not necessarily what we will need in the future. Given that the lifespan of our sports facilities is at least fifty years it is important that they be as adaptable and functional as possible. Priority will be given to those projects which are designed with adaptability and functionality in mind.
- Good Practice Planning: For projects to have the best chance of success, Sport Northland has identified 10 critical steps that should be completed (attached Appendix 1). Priority will be given to those projects that have completed the first six steps, with further priority given to those that have completed step seven.

A weighted attribute equation will be used to determine the top six projects, as follows:

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| • Social Return on Investment/Impact | 30% |
| • Economic Return on Investment | 10% |
| • Capability of Governance Group | 10% |
| • Sustainability | 10% |
| • Partnerships | 10% |
| • Adaptability/Functionality | 10% |
| • Good Practice Planning | <u>20%</u> |
| • Total | 100% |