

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 28th April 2017

Subject: Portsmouth City Council Sports Facilities Strategy 2017-2027

Report by: Director of Culture and City Development

Wards affected: All

Key decision: Yes

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the strategy for future provision of sports facilities in the city over the next decade.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the attached Sports Facilities Strategy 2017-2027 is adopted as the key document to guide future planning and decision-making around sports facilities.
- 2.2 That the 10-point strategic recommendations and underpinning action plan are agreed as the basis for work on sports facilities in the short to medium term.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2015, Portsmouth City Council identified a need to consider the future of its leisure stock. It was agreed that in order to inform any discussions and decisions both internally and externally, there was a need to develop a detailed and robust Facility Strategy. A number of other stakeholders in the city, such as the University, were also considering their options for facility provision and the authority was keen to ensure that all potential issues and opportunities for partnership working are considered. There was a strong commitment from members to explore the options for enhancing the facilities available to the local community across the city, and the opportunity to link the findings of the work on leisure facilities to the refresh of the Portsmouth Plan. Work was also underway to determine the value for money provided by the leisure operating contract in place at that time.
- 3.2 Initial impressions were that there was a good level of facility provision across the city from a quantity perspective, but that there were some gaps in certain key areas that should be reviewed and analysed. For example, Eastney Swimming Pool was built in 1904 and was identified as an ageing facility that,

despite investment into the site over the years, does not meet the demands from our community for a modern attractive facility that offers a range of opportunities.

- 3.3 It was also estimated that in the next few years, our facilities will require further significant Council investment, and it was felt that there was a need to carry out work to ensure that informed strategic decisions could be taken about the options for our facilities, including consideration being given to the refurbishment of current centres, potential rationalisation and the development of new modern facilities. There was also a need to understand where opportunities could exist for partnership with other key stakeholders in the city.
- 3.4 It was agreed that undertaking a detailed facilities study would provide the Council with a robust evidence base, needs case and clear recommendations. Sport England were supportive of this process, and awarded £10,000 to Portsmouth City Council to fund a detailed study into existing facilities, that will identify recommendations. This was matched by the city council. External consultancy support was engaged from Strategic Leisure Limited to carry out this process, which took full account of Sport England's "*Assessing Needs and Opportunities*" guidance. At the same time, work was also commissioned on a Playing Pitch Strategy (again with some Sport England support) and an Open Space Strategy to complement the indoor facilities work, ensuring that we have a complete evidence base for our work in this area.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The Strategy has been developed using the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG), published in 2014. The scope of the work has included analysis of provision in the city for:
- Sports Halls
 - Swimming Pools
 - Health and Fitness
 - Indoor Tennis
 - Squash
 - Table Tennis
 - Gymnastics
 - Indoor Bowls
- 4.2 In addition to purpose built facilities, consideration is given to the role in meeting local need of community assets (including community halls) and education facilities. The development of the strategy has been informed and influenced by a number of other key national and local strategies and policies.
- 4.3 The current level and nature of facility provision in Portsmouth has been assessed, and compared with information held in other sources, including the Active Places database, the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) and

the local sports profile data provided by Sport England. This includes consideration of:

- Quantity - how many of each type of facility are there?
- Quality - the age and condition of facilities
- Accessibility - who owns and operates the facilities, facility location and catchment areas
- Availability - whether the facilities are available to all residents, and whether there is pay and play access.

4.4 Quality audits, comprising an independent visual assessment of the quality and condition of facilities were undertaken in accordance with a methodology developed by Sport England. Consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to identify their views on the need for sports hall provision in Portsmouth, and sports clubs active in the city. Supply and demand analysis (including projected future demand) has been undertaken, using methodologies appropriate to the nature of facility in question.

4.5 The key conclusions arising from this work are set out in detail in the full Sports Facilities Document, but the key findings are:

- In relation to sports halls, the main issues that need to be addressed are accessibility (both in terms of location and times of availability) and facility quality.
- There is an undersupply of water space available for pay and play usage
- There is an undersupply of pay and play health and fitness facilities
- There is good provision for a range of other indoor facilities, but a need to invest - or support investment - in some provision to ensure at least the current level of provision can be maintained.

4.5 In terms of developing a strategy for future provision, there are two overarching principles that should guide this:

- Ensure all residents in all areas of Portsmouth have pay and play access to good quality local accessible and affordable provision
- Ensure that public money is invested strategically to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.

4.6 This will be achieved through:

- Ensuring that existing, and any new, sports facilities on education sites provide a balance of opportunities for community access - both pay and play and club use
- Replacing and refurbishing ageing facilities where updated provision is required - and all new and refurbished provision should be designed and developed based on Sport England and NGB guidance and be fully inclusive.
- Considering opportunities to rationalise provision where new, fit for purpose facilities can replace or improve existing buildings (but maintain at least current levels of provision in areas of undersupply).
- Making better use of existing facilities

- Investing strategically in existing provision to improve quality
- Where possible, making facilities available closer to where people live, with a focus on improving access to multi-purpose halls.

4.7 These principles have guided the formulation of recommendations to respond to the findings of site audits, consultation and policy analysis. This strategy will be supported by additional strategies in relation to sport and physical activity in the city, including the Playing Pitch Strategy due for completion later in 2017. A detailed action plan is in place setting out how the recommendations can be implemented. The implementation of the strategy will be monitored on a regular basis, and the strategy will be reviewed and refreshed at five-yearly intervals.

5. Equality impact assessment

5.1 A preliminary EIA was completed for the document and concluded that there will be no negative impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the strategy. Any individual projects arising from the strategy will be subject to impact assessments in their own right. The preliminary EIA is attached as Appendix 2.

6. Legal implications

6.1 The strategy articulates how the local authority will deploy its resources and structure its working in support of achieving a range of objectives related to sports facilities. This is not a statutory function of the authority.

6.2 The Cabinet Member has the authority to approve the recommendations proposed.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 Any proposals that are going to be taken forward as a result of the consideration of this strategy will be assessed from an operational and financial perspective. Any proposals that have financial implications will be appraised and any required funding will need to be identified. Currently there is no dedicated funding set aside for the implementation of proposals contained within the sports facilities strategy.

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Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture and City Development

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Sports Facilities Strategy Executive Summary

Appendix 2 - Preliminary EIA

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport