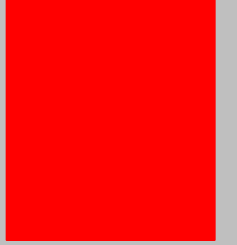




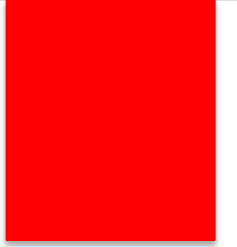
Portsmouth  
CITY COUNCIL



# Portsmouth City Council

Indoor Facilities Strategy

April 2017



# Background to the Study

The purpose in developing the Sports Facility Strategy is to inform, provide evidence for and make recommendations in relation to :

- ▶ **Planning policies**
- ▶ **Allocation of money collected through financial contributions from developers towards provision of open space and facilities**
- ▶ **Applications for external funding for improvements to existing facilities and new projects; and**
- ▶ **A strategy and prioritised action plan, including a vision, objectives and recommendations on future provision, funding and management of sports and recreation facilities in the city**

# Methodology and Scope

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



# Key Local Drivers for a Sports Facility Strategy (1)

The key local drivers prompting Portsmouth City Council to produce a Sports Facility Strategy for the City are as follows:

- ▶ The need for an evidence base to aid planning and decision-making, in the light of future projected population growth
- ▶ The changing role of the local authority in relation to the Public Health agenda
- ▶ The need to be more competitive and commercial as the leisure industry changes and given PCC's revenue position
- ▶ To ensure value for money in provision of city council leisure services
- ▶ Describing a vision for the future of aging facilities, such as the Pyramids and Eastney swimming facilities
- ▶ The need to grow opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity in inner city areas, taking account of low income levels
- ▶ Identifying the future role of education sites in providing sport and leisure facilities



# Key Factors in the City

- ▶ Portsmouth is a densely-populated city
- ▶ There is a higher proportion of young people in the city than the national average (as a consequence of the university) and a growing number of older people (aged 65 and above).
- ▶ There are significant health inequalities by area and gender; with particular need concentrated in the north-west and centre of the city
- ▶ Sport participation rates in the city - including in clubs, tuition and coaching - are below national averages amongst adults, and female participation has declined
- ▶ Satisfaction with local sports provision has declines, and is consistently below regional and national averages





# Summary of Facility Analysis

**Sports Halls**

**Swimming Pools**

**Health & Fitness**

**Other Sports Provision**

# Sports Halls

- ▶ There are 39 sport and activity halls in the city, over 26 sites. 24 of these are "strategic sized" halls (i.e. 3 courts or more). However, only 12 of these provide for pay and play access; and areas in the north and north east of the city are outside a 20-minute drive time of a pay and play, community accessible facility.
- ▶ Geographically, strategic size sports halls are distributed across the city, with the majority on education sites with limited daytime access. There is one formal dual-use arrangement in place. There are 16 activity halls, of which 7 offer pay and play access; 9 offer community access, but tend to be used by clubs and organisations. There are also a number of community centres in the City which are used for a wide range of cultural, leisure and social uses.
- ▶ The FPM model identifies a very slight undersupply of badminton courts in the city (-0.38), but when factors such as community access are taken into account this undersupply increases to -14.26 courts for the current population.
- ▶ 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.



# Swimming Pools (1)

- ▶ There are 20 pools in the city, over 14 sites (main pools, learner pools, leisure pools and lidos). 7 of these are strategic sized (160 sqm+). The majority of the city's residents have pay and play access to these sites within a 20-minute drive-time, with the exception of residents in the extreme north and north east. Of the 20 pools, a number of these are operated by BH Live on behalf of Portsmouth City Council.
- ▶ Two of these facilities - Eastney Swimming Pool and the Pyramids - are ageing. Eastney was built in 1904 - at 112 years old, this will need extensive refurbishment or replacement in the short to medium term. The Pyramids is now 28 years old and needs consideration given its age and condition. Pools on education sites are also ageing, although there is potential to further improve the recently refurbished St Edmund's site.





## Swimming Pools (2)

- ▶ The FPM model identifies an over-supply of water space in the city, of around +232.27 sqm (equivalent to just over one 25m pool with four lanes). However, if the water space available only for sports clubs/community associations use, and that provided commercially (e.g. membership only pools) is excluded, then the amount of community accessible water space reduces significantly to below what the current population demands, and what will be demanded in the future (by around three 25m pools with 4 lanes). This is significant given the profile of the local community, where many residents may find it difficult to sustain a membership of a private organisation.
- ▶ NGBs and local clubs raise a number of operational issues - mainly that despite existing levels of water space in the city, clubs want more time and need more time if they are to increase their membership. This is identified as a key issue for water polo, swimming clubs and synchronised swimming. However, there is limited potential to increase capacity at existing pools, given the existing levels of usage. This might be helped by some investment in changing rooms on some sites to improve community facilities, and consideration of programming at existing sites.



# Health & Fitness

- ▶ There are 441 pay and play community accessible fitness stations in Portsmouth, which represents an undersupply for the current population of -166 stations. However, given the increased level of relatively low-cost pay and play commercial provision in the city, the current undersupply is likely to be less than this figure; although without ensuring there are more affordable pay and play community accessible fitness stations in the city, the under-supply will increase as the population grows.
- ▶ There are 33 studios in the city, the majority of which are provided as part of a health and fitness offer within other facilities. 33% of these are provided by commercial operators also operating commercial fitness suites, and a number are on non-community accessible education sites.
- ▶ NGB feedback demonstrated that there is a need to continue to grow and develop existing boxing clubs in the city, given their potential to address inactivity in some of the more deprived areas of Portsmouth; and also, a need to ensure that martial arts clubs have access to good quality studios/small hall facilities, appropriate for the sport and its future development in the city.



# Other Provision (1)

- ▶ There are 25 squash courts over 9 sites in the Portsmouth. The quality of existing courts is generally of a reasonable to good standard, although all courts are now ageing. There are no squash clubs with their own facilities in the city, and the only pay and play community accessible glass-back courts are at the Mountbatten Centre and Spinnaker Sports Centre (although these are likely to be replaced as part of the redevelopment of new sports facilities for the University). The NGB would like to see an increase in provision, as they believe there is significant potential to grow the sport in the city. The NGB would like to have a stronger partnership with the authority to achieve this.
- ▶ Portsmouth is very well-served by indoor tennis facilities, which are in good condition. The facilities are available for pay and play bookings, as well as lessons, coaching, league and club use. Demand for usage is high, but the Lawn Tennis Association has not identified the need for any additional courts.



## Other Provision (2)

- ▶ There is one main and dedicated indoor bowling facility at the Victory Indoor Bowling Centre, which has six indoor rinks. The facilities are well-used by a local club which has the potential to grow and develop further. However, the facility is ageing, and needs investment to improve the quality and address some issues with plant. It is an important sport to encourage, given the potential to reach older people in the population, both as physical activity and to counter social isolation. The NGB identifies that as long as current levels of provision are maintained, this should meet current and future demand.
- ▶ There is one main athletics track in the city - adjacent to the Mountbatten centre. It is an ageing facility, and although there is sufficient provision to meet demand, the quality of the track is becoming an issue.



## Other Provision (3)

- ▶ **Gymnastics is a very active sport in the city, with several clubs, some of which also incorporate trampolining. The Portsmouth Gymnastics Centre is an excellent facility providing for club use, coaching, and lessons, as well as competitions. Other non-purpose built facilities are used across the city, given the high demand for the sport. There is a specific demand for additional gymnastics and trampolining facilities in the city.**
- ▶ **There are no dedicated table tennis facilities in Portsmouth, but the sport is played competitively at a number of venues across the city. Table Tennis England has not identified a need for additional facilities in the city, but does identify the need to retain existing facilities, given the significant local participation in the sport (which is notably growing at junior level).**



# Principles for Future Provision (1)

- ▶ 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



# Principles for Future Provision (2)

► 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.
- ✓ These principles have guided the formulation of recommendations to respond to the findings of site audits, consultation and policy analysis



# Recommendations

## Recommendation 1

PCC and partners to prioritise provision and access to sports halls to address identified need for provision - this should include extending pay and play access to existing sports halls on education sites. The needs of clubs e.g. netball should also be considered.

Sports Halls

## Recommendation 2

PCC and partners work to develop and implement Community Use Agreements (including with local authority maintained schools and other education providers) to ensure a better balance of pay and play use and club use.

## Recommendation 3

PCC and partners address the projected undersupply of swimming pool provision in the city through a package of measures including considering options for replacement of older facilities; extension of community use agreements; widening pay and play access to commercial sites; and considering programming of current capacity to ensure it is used most effectively and with regard to needs of clubs.

Swimming Pools

## Recommendation 4

PCC and partners to facilitate increased access to pay and play fitness and studio facilities/space where studio activities can take place e.g. community halls.

Health & Fitness





# Recommendations

**Recommendation 5** Ensure existing level of squash courts are retained and ageing provision is invested in.

**Recommendation 6** Work with gymnastics clubs and NGB over future provision of dedicated gymnastics and trampolining facilities, with a focus on additional sports hall time and space for both gymnastics and trampolining.

**Recommendation 7** Work with NGB and Victory Indoor Bowling Club to further develop the Club and facilitate investment in indoor bowling facilities.

**Recommendation 8** Work to retain and improve water sports centre provision in the City.

Other Sports Provision



# Recommendations

**Recommendation 9** Work with boxing clubs to develop appropriate leasing arrangements for facilities.



**Recommendation 10** Work with martial arts clubs to develop improved access to available hall space.



**Recommendation 11** PCC and its partners seek to secure CIL/S106 contributions towards the development of additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.



**Recommendation 12** PCC and its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate the various sources available for capital funding. CIL/S106 could be major contributors.

Other Sports Provision

Generic Recommendations



# Recommendations

## Recommendation 13

PCC and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high quality community sports facilities, in partnership with Public Health and other local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.

## Recommendation 14

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

## Generic Recommendations

