

Policy Development and Review Committee		Agenda Item: X
Meeting Date	18 November 2015	
Report Title	Draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2015 - 2025	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism, Sport, Culture and Heritage	
SMT Lead	Kathryn Carr, Director Regeneration	
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins, Head of Economy and Communities	
Lead Officer	Emma Wiggins, Head of Economy and Communities	
Recommendations	1. To provide feedback and input to the draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy for 2015 - 2025	

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out work that has been undertaken to take forward the review carried out by consultants 4Global and RPT Consulting to assess the need and demand for indoor sports facilities. A draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy has since been developed (Appendix I). The assessment and findings of the consultant's review are contained within their technical review (Appendix II).

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council adopted a Sport and Physical Activity Framework 2012 – 2017 (SPAF) in July 2012, and has since used the framework to act as an enabler to various sports activities and initiatives in the Borough with the aim of increasing participation and addressing the high levels of inactivity.
- 2.2 The SPAF comes to an end in 2017, and Swale Council's contract with Swale Community Leisure Limited (SCLL) and Serco Leisure Ltd for the management and upkeep of the Swallows and Sheppey Leisure Centres comes to an end in 2019. It is therefore timely to review our strategy and priorities for sport and physical activity, and set out a future direction for the provision of facilities.
- 2.3 The purpose of the Indoor Facilities Strategy is to determine what swimming pool and indoor sports facilities are required post-2019 to help meet the aspirations of the residents of Swale, and the Council's existing and developing core policies and objectives.
- 2.4 The Council has spent significant amounts of money in recent years on supporting swimming pools and indoor sports facilities in the Borough. Currently, Swale Council spends £659,515 per annum.

- 2.5 There is likely to be less money available to local government to spend on directly providing sports facilities in the future, and so the Council will need to consider how it uses the available scarce resources to enable the provision required to meet its aspirations and residents' demands for services.
- 2.6 Sport facility provision is a discretionary service provided by the Council, and not one that successive governments have chosen to make mandatory.
- 2.7 The development of future indoor sport facility provision should be evidence-based. To this end, work has been undertaken to review indoor sports facilities in Swale, and the aspirations of stakeholders.
- 2.8 This work has been used to inform and develop the draft strategy contained in Appendix I. The technical report is attached at Appendix II.
- 2.9 In order to develop this Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy a four stage process is being undertaken:
- 2.9.1 Determining the needs and evidence base for provision now and in the future which has been done through the technical appraisal (Appendix II);
 - 2.9.2 Consulting on this strategy and asking what people want in terms of provision;
 - 2.9.3 Using any feedback to develop an action plan; and
 - 2.9.4 Delivering that action plan.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 This report invites the Committee to consider the draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy. The Council recognises its limited resources moving forward, and that it has an opportunity to better manage its revenue and capital spend on leisure centres and indoor sports facilities post-2019, whilst still achieving its desired outcomes for our residents and communities.
- 3.2 Feedback from the Committee is specifically sought on the following issues:
- the key messages from the Technical Appraisal of existing facilities and current and future needs of the residents in Swale as shown at Appendix II;
 - what the provision should be in Swale now and in the future to meet the need of our population;
 - are the priorities in the strategy the right ones?
 - are the outcomes in the strategy the right ones?
 - any potential unintended negative consequences to groups with protected characteristics from implementing this strategy; and
 - any other general comments?

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not to agree to consult and adopt a new strategy. This is not recommended as the Council's strategic priorities from 2017 are not currently clear, and there is a need to target resources in the right way in order to improve health outcomes. This Indoor Sports Facility Strategy for Swale 2015 – 2025 will help to determine the way forward.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 To help inform the draft strategy, consultation with local stakeholders, parish councils, local sports clubs/ community groups, and schools was undertaken.
- 5.2 Sport England has been involved in its development as a critical friend, and will also comment formally on the draft strategy.
- 5.3 The draft strategy has then been circulated for an eight week consultation with interested parties.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The Strategy supports A Borough To Be Proud Of through its potential to improve sports facilities in the Borough, and contributes to Making Swale A Better Place To Live and to A Community to be Proud Of through increasing participation in SPA and leading to healthier communities.
Financial, Resource and Property	The Council faces a significant funding gap in the medium term and this may be increased by the Comprehensive Spending Review 2015. The Council will need to make reductions in revenue expenditure and funds for capital investment are limited. The Council has many statutory duties and these will take a priority over discretionary services in allocating reduced funds available. Developing a new strategy needs to reflect these resource constraints. Achieving improvements in service provision are therefore going to depend upon working in partnership with third parties.
Legal and Statutory	Contract management and appropriate procurement following EU/UK law and Council Contract Standing Orders and related procedures will be required for any new leisure contract. The Council may need to dispose of its leisure stock or enter into long term leases in order to deliver the aspirations of the Strategy. Legal support will be required for any leases that may be offered.
Crime and Disorder	Having the right provision and facilities makes activities accessible that interest young people, and so can act as diversionary activities from

	crime and disorder.
Sustainability	Any new facilities would be required to follow BREAM conditions and find ways of encouraging energy efficiency.
Health and Wellbeing	The right facilities in the right places with the right programmes will encourage more people to become active. This will help to improve/ reduce health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and mental health issues.
Risk Management and Health & Safety	None identified in this report, but depending on the projects taken forward, specific health and safety risk assessments may be required.
Equality and Diversity	An initial CIA will be carried on the final strategy after consultation. The right facilities ensuring accessibility, in the right places with the right programmes, will ensure that groups with protected characteristics are not discriminated against.

7 Appendices

5.1 Appendix I: DRAFT Indoor Sports Facility Strategy for Swale 2015 – 2025

5.2 Appendix II: Technical report

8 Background Papers

8.1 Sport and Physical Activity Framework for Swale 2012 - 2017