

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

### **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO CABINET**

**1 DECEMBER 2016**

### **REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **CABINET DECISION**

**Arts Leisure and Culture Lead Member – Councillor Norma Wilburn**

### **INDOOR, BUILT AND SPECIALIST LEISURE FACILITIES ASSESSMENT (IBSLFA)**

1. Summary

In order to ensure effective forward planning for the provision of leisure facilities, including opportunities for rationalisation, it is essential to have an up to date catalogue of facilities mapped against known or predicted demand. Where such an assessment of need is required as a basis for funding applications it should conform to frameworks prescribed by relevant funders. Sport England require the preparation of an Indoor, Built and Specialist Leisure Facilities Assessment (IBSLFA) as the basis for facility planning. This report presents a summary of the Stockton IBSLFA, prepared in accordance with the Sport England framework, and seeks endorsement of the Assessment as a basis for future facility planning and development.

Across Stockton-on-Tees the picture with regards to the provision of leisure facilities is largely positive. There are however pockets of under provision or minor concern which have been identified through the IBSLFA and for which plans will be developed.

The draft IBSLFA has been used in support of the Sport England Strategic Facilities Fund bid for the Ingleby Barwick Leisure Facility and an approved IBSLFA will be required for the Stage-2 application stage.

2. Recommendation

To approve and adopt the Indoor, Built and Specialist Leisure Facilities Assessment.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation

To ensure the Council has an approved evidence base for leisure facility planning and funding applications.

#### 4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

#### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**SUMMARY**

In order to ensure effective forward planning for the provision of leisure facilities, including opportunities for rationalisation, it is essential to have an up to date catalogue of facilities mapped against known or predicted demand. Where such an assessment of need is required as a basis for funding applications it should conform to frameworks prescribed by relevant funders. Sport England require the preparation of an Indoor, Built and Specialist Leisure Facilities Assessment (IBSLFA) as the basis for facility planning. This report presents a summary of the Stockton IBSLFA, prepared in accordance with the Sport England framework, and seeks endorsement of the Assessment as a basis for future facility planning and development.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

To approve and adopt the Indoor, Built and Specialist Leisure Facilities Assessment.

**DETAIL**

1. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) is looking to maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in sport and active leisure as part of a healthy lifestyle. This desire to increase health through leisure is set against significant resource pressures and a trend of reducing subsidy to leisure facilities. The Indoor, Built and Specialist Facilities Assessment assists us in defining a long term approach to the provision of facilities in Stockton.
2. Sport England's (SE) Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (2013) has been adopted to ensure a robust assessment of quality, quantity, accessibility, availability, supply and demand for key facility types. SE's Active Places database found 142 facilities across 93 sites, including sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness suites, dance/aerobic studios, indoor bowls, indoor tennis, squash courts, an ice rink and water sports and high ropes at the Tees Barrage.

3. This IBSLFA covers existing provision, population growth, increasing participation rates and the future need to produce a series of principles that can be used to inform how to meet existing and future demand, and the resources that will be needed to achieve these objectives. The key drivers are:
  - ◀ The need for an evidence base to aid related strategic decisions and prioritisation in respect of sport and leisure facilities for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC).
  - ◀ The Council's changing role in respect of the public health agenda and a requirement to deliver healthier lifestyles and achieve positive health outcomes.
  - ◀ To ensure that planning for leisure facilities is supported by robust Local Plan compliant assessment and appropriate policy.
  - ◀ The need to ensure that facilities are efficient and effective while remaining (or becoming) more competitive and commercially oriented, as might be expected in the prevailing economic, financial and political climate.
  - ◀ To ensure value for money in the provision of sport and leisure services.
  - ◀ To develop a context that can assist SBC, Tees Active Leisure (TAL) and other relevant organisations to secure external funding.
  - ◀ To provide a financially realistic framework upon which to engage with local people around plans for future provision.

### **Key Findings**

4. As part of the Sport England methodology they focus on a narrow range of fairly traditional facility types. In addition to these we have included additional specialist facility types e.g. climbing facilities for which we know there is both a demand and the potential for a viable business case.
5. **Sports Halls** - Of the 51 sports halls in the borough majority of sports halls and changing facilities are above average in terms of quality and 96% of the boroughs population live within a 30-minute walk of a sports hall. Stockton has a higher number of courts per 10,000 people than both the England and North East averages.
6. **Swimming Pools** - There are 13 swimming pools across eight sites in Stockton; nine of these are small/learner pools. Three (of the four larger pools) are above average or good while one is below average and half of the changing rooms are considered good. 50% of the population are able to walk to a pool within 30 minutes of their home. Stockton currently has a lower sq m of water per 1,000 population than both the England and North East average. However this will be addressed through the development of the new Ingleby Barwick Leisure Facility.
7. **Health and fitness suites and dance/exercise studios** - There are 23 health and fitness suites containing 1,786 stations in Stockton. Current and future demand (to 2037) is more than adequately catered for relative to UK access
8. **Indoor bowls (flat green)** - The one indoor bowls facility (Thornaby Pavilion) has been assessed as good quality. In line with the fall in use, it has reduced from eight to six lanes and the space that has been released is now used for health and fitness provision. Membership has dipped in recent years and it is reported that people aged over 60 are choosing to frequent the gym rather than play bowls.

9. **Indoor tennis** - There is one indoor tennis facility, at the David Lloyd Centre. It has been assessed as excellent and comprises seven indoor and seven outdoor courts plus health and fitness and studio facilities. This facility however is not available on a pay and play basis.
10. **Squash** - There are 17 squash courts across seven venues with all being either good or above average standard.
11. **Indoor climbing** – TAL have recently converted a four court sports hall at Billingham Forum into a two court hall plus a climbing facility. The surrounding area is well catered for in terms of indoor climbing with a facility at Stockton Riverside College (SRC), 'Clip n' Climb' (Portrack Business Park) and three further facilities in Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Newton Aycliffe.
12. **Water sports and high ropes: Tees Barrage** - This TAL managed facility is one of an increasing (but limited) number of centres to utilise the environment to provide alternative sporting, experiential, fun and skills training activities. Its mix offers a highly flexible and potentially commercially lucrative proposition. It provides high class facilities for water sports, has appropriate storage, changing facilities, a café, shop and associated car parking, recently (late 2015) added the country's highest outdoor high ropes course (18m). The site also generates its own electricity for the white water activities and feeds surplus into the national grid thereby generating income/reducing costs for the centre as a whole.
13. **Ice rink** - The ice rink at Billingham Forum was built in 1966, refurbished in 2011 and incorporates a fast freeze facility. It has as a 'playing area' of 1,456 sq m; although it is slightly undersized for national league ice hockey it is, nevertheless, home to three ice hockey teams. It also boasts a seating gallery for c.600 and attracts a footfall of around 180,000 visits p.a.
14. **Key Projects** - The key leisure project being undertaken currently in Stockton-on-Tees is the development of the Ingleby Barwick Leisure Facility. The IBSLFA has supported the Council to make the case to Sport England for funding and we have been invited to submit a stage-2 application to the Strategic Facilities Fund for circa. £1.5m. An approved Stockton IBSLFA is critical to the successful completion of this funding process.

The full report and accompanying profile documents are large and technical documents. It is not practical to append them to this report but they are available to view on Egenda.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no community impact implications arising from the assessment of current facility provision.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The development of the IBSLFA does not add a financial burden to the Council, it does support efforts to secure additional investment through a strong evidence base providing a mandate for legitimately requesting contributions through the planning process and grants from funding bodies.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

The report impacts upon the Policy Principles and Priorities in the Council Plan

Policy Principles:

- Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention
- Developing strong and healthy communities

Priorities:

- Environment and Housing
- Community Safety
- Children and Young People
- Health and Wellbeing
- Stronger Communities
- Adults
- Arts, Leisure & Culture
- Organisational and Operational Effectiveness

## **CONSULTATION**

Consultation with key stakeholders, i.e. facility providers has taken place in the development of this assessment which is an evidence gathering exercise.

In the development of project proposals that emerge from the assessment (e.g. the Ingleby Barwick Leisure Facility), extensive consultation will be undertaken.

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