

Adoption of the South Somerset Leisure Facility Strategy

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Purpose of the Report

1. This reports seeks members' approval to adopt the new South Somerset Leisure Facility Strategy and associated action plan. This report does not require Members to make a commitment to allocate funding to specific projects at this time.

Forward Plan

2. This report appeared on the District Executive Forward Plan with an anticipated Committee date of 7 March 2019.

Public Interest

3. The Council aspires to help residents to live well by enabling quality leisure, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities within the district. The Council therefore recently commissioned a study to review leisure facilities in line with National Planning Policy and Sport England guidance. An initial examination of supply and demand for leisure facilities in South Somerset identified a number of gaps and issues relating to leisure facility provision in South Somerset. This assessment of need was used to help shape the production of the new South Somerset Leisure facility Strategy. The final Strategy sets out what the Council can reasonably deliver, enable or support to remedy gaps in leisure facility provision up until 2036.

Recommendations

4. That the District Executive formally adopts the new South Somerset Leisure Facility Strategy 2018 – 2036.

Background

5. The Council's appointed consultants, KKP, commenced work on a new leisure facility needs assessment and strategy in July 2018. The purpose of this work was to update the Council's planning policy evidence base and to establish future funding priorities
6. The leisure facilities included within the scope of the study were:
 - Swimming Pools
 - Sports Halls
 - Community Halls
 - Health and Fitness facilities –20 stations and above
 - Indoor Courts (tennis, squash, netball, basketball, multiuse)
 - Outdoor sports facilities (athletics tracks, tennis courts, bowling greens, cycling)
7. Playing pitches, including artificial grass pitches, were not included within the scope of the study as formal pitch provision is covered within the Council Playing Pitch Strategy adopted in July 2018.

8. The Needs Assessment involved extensive consultation with clubs, national governing bodies of sport and Sport England to establish the quality and quantity of leisure facilities across South Somerset.
9. The final draft of Leisure Facility Needs Assessment was presented to District Executive for comment on 10th January 2019 and members were encouraged to participate in a follow up workshop.

Report Detail

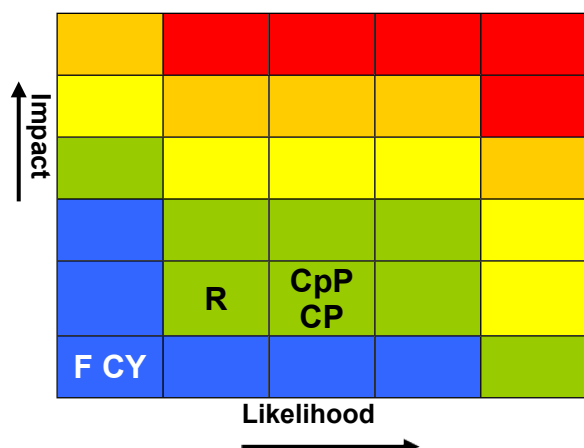
10. The strategic recommendations emerging from the Needs Assessment were presented and discussed at a members' workshop (attended by 16 members) held on 23rd January 2019. At this workshop members helped to determine what new or improved leisure facility provision the Council could reasonably deliver, enable or support others to deliver. The output from this workshop was used to draft the final South Somerset Leisure Facility Strategy being presented to District Executive Committee.
11. The priorities for delivery are summarised within the Action Plan within Part 4 of the Strategy Document.
12. Priorities identified for future direct delivery by South Somerset District Council include a new swimming pool (including health and fitness facilities) for Chard, improvement of the plant within Goldenstones and Wincanton pools, ongoing investment in the maintenance of the Bill Wistlecroft Athletics Arena in Yeovil, and enhancement of community tennis provision at Yeovil Recreation Centre.
13. The strategy identifies the following areas as being of high priority; supporting schools to deliver community access to sports hall facilities, supporting the provision of outdoor community tennis facilities and robust planning policy to secure the improvement of cycle links within the district.
14. With specific regard to cycling, the Council will be working with transport officers at Somerset County Council later this year to develop a new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in Yeovil (initially). This piece of work will form part of the overall Town Centre Access strategy being developed as part of the Yeovil Refresh.
15. A copy of the full leisure facility Needs Assessment and Strategy and action plan can both be found on the Council's website by following this link:
<https://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-plan-and-strategies/planning-for-open-space-sport-and-recreation/>

Financial Implications

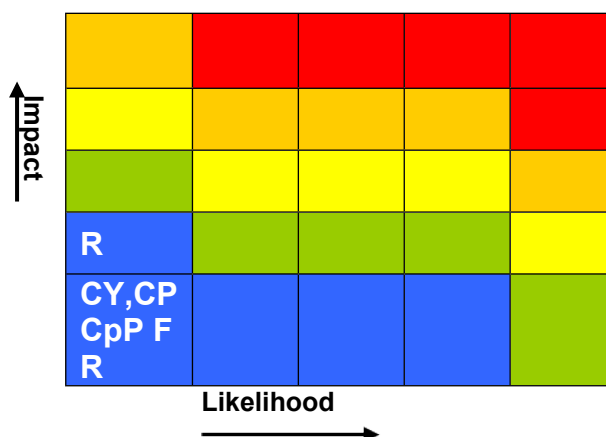
16. No new implications at present. Looking ahead, any investment projects arising from the strategy/action plan will be presented separately with appropriate business cases.

Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



Key

Categories		Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)	
R	= Reputation	Red	= High impact and high probability
CpP	= Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange	= Major impact and major probability
CP	= Community Priorities	Yellow	= Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY	= Capacity	Green	= Minor impact and minor probability
F	= Financial	Blue	= Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

Council Plan Implications

17. The leisure facility needs assessment and strategy will contribute to Council Plan aim to “improve health and reduce health inequalities” and to help the Council “to build healthy, self-reliant, active communities” by
 - a. Targeting support to areas of need
 - b. Helping people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

18. None

Equality and Diversity Implications

19. An EA has been completed for the development of a new strategy for built leisure facilities.

Privacy Impact Assessment

20. The way in which the KKP handle/hold personal data during the development of a new strategy has been discussed and agreed with the Case Team Leader for Support Services.

Background Papers

21. None