

TITLE	Reviewing whether Sports & Leisure facilities meet the needs of local residents
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 th October 21.
WARD	None specific
LEAD OFFICER	Leisure Service Manager – Beverley Thompson

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

A question has been raised to provide the committee with information on whether Sports & Leisure facilities meet the needs of local residents.

This report will provide a summary along with a PowerPoint presentation that will be delivered at the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the report and action plan and offers comment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the sport and leisure team we are responsible for indoor and outdoor sports facilities, there are also wider teams within WBC that look after our other leisure pursuits, including:

- Country Parks (California and Dinton Country Park).
- Nature Reserves and suitable alternative natural greenspaces (SANGS) all with attractive green and blue spaces.
- Play Areas.
- Allotments.
- Extensive network of footpaths and cycle routes.

As per recently published data we have been recognised as the healthiest place in the country, according to the first official national health index (2021).

According to recent Public Health England Profiles (2019/20):

- Percentage of physically active children and young people – 44.9% (England) **47.5% (South East of England)**
- Percentage of physically active adults – 66.4% (England) **75.1% (Wokingham)**

These show that as a Borough we are exceeding the national average for adults and part of a collective for the above average southeast of England target.

We have invested heavily in our services across the leisure area within the Borough, recent projects include **(Totalling £52.9m)**:

- Bulmershe Leisure Centre - **£14.5m**
- Emmbrook 3G Football Pitch - **£800k**
- Ryiesh Green & Arborfield Leisure Facilities - **£4.9m**
- Parking and toilet facilities at California Country Park - **£2.1m**
- Network of “Greenways” inc attractive walking and cycling routes - **£320k (Cantley)**
- Loddon valley leisure centre refurbishment - **£2.2m**
- Cantley Park enhancement including play-area - **£2.2m**
- Arborfield primary school 3G football pitch - **£800k**
- Carnival Pool leisure centre (Aug 22) - **£23m**
- New activity centre building at Dinton Pastures – **£1.8m**
- New outdoor play facilities at California Country Park - **£300k**

Our services and programmes cover a wide range of activities and demographic, contributing to the needs of the residents in the Borough, these can be categorised into:

- Leisure centre facilities:
 - Gym, swim, group exercises
 - Racket sports
 - Swimming lessons
 - Outdoor facilities
 - Hire facilities for our sporting clubs such as martial arts, netball, gymnastics
 - Softplay
 - Dual use schools around the borough
 - Free swim sessions for those on free school meals
 - Family, junior and senior membership options
 - Free memberships for our Care Leavers, Children in Care, Foster Families and Young Offenders
 - Free use for those up and coming athletes in our Sports Sponsorship scheme, financial support (provided by WBC) we also provide free leisure centre use to help with training requirements.
- BoxFit Studio – (opening autumn 21 in peach place)
- Parks and Open Spaces
 - Tennis
 - 3G and grass pitches
 - Cricket, netball, hockey and archery
 - Greenways
 - Walking for health
 - Outdoor play areas and parks
- Prevention programmes (for those with health conditions)
 - Long term health condition gyms
 - Cardiac rehab
 - Falls prevention including 1:1 visits with under Moving with Confidence scheme
 - Exercise referral
 - Mindful health and wellbeing

- Escape Pain
- Active ageing and dementia friendly sessions
- Specialised Programmes
 - Over 60's programme (SHINE)
 - Wokingham active holiday camps for children including sport specific and free places for our housing tenant children.
 - Children and adults with additional needs.
 - Workplace health for WBC employees.

Current usage on some of our key programmes:

- 1.3m Fitness Attendances (Gym, group exercise, racket sports and outdoor facilities)
- 157k attending swimming lessons
- 24k SHINE attendances
- Over 7000 attendances on our health prevention programmes
- Over 4000 participants on our holiday clubs
- 1700 attendances for our walking for health
- Over 200 attendances for our dementia and active ageing sessions

*data from 2020

Equalities & Anti-Poverty

- Leisure contract
- Subsidies
- Prevention programmes
- Ageing Active
- Pupil Premium
- Tenant Services – Wokingham Active Kids
- Over 60s Free Swimming
- Free School Meals
- Young Offenders
- DDA compliant facilities
- All programmes open to all demographics
- Health & Wellbeing Partnership
- GBA Bid/Funding
- Mum Zone

We have revised our leisure strategy (2021 – 2025) and produced a draft, as well as input from ourselves we have worked with all areas across the council to ensure our strategy ties in with their own council priorities.

We conducted a consultation not only with face-to-face sessions with our residents in our Leisure Centres and town centres but also with our Sporting Clubs, existing users of all our facilities, Health and Wellbeing subgroup, Sports Council, Football Foundation, Get Berkshire Active, Volunteer groups and Town and Parish Councils.

We received 526 responses ranging from ages under 16's to 75+, we were able to gather feedback on our existing facilities but also any new areas.

The key results looked at the facilities residents visited, areas to encourage more activity, and key themes, which can be categorised as:

- Reduction in costs
- More outdoor options
- More cycle routes
- More bins and better parking
- Variety of classes
- More options for young people

To incorporate the feedback we propose to:

- Work with key teams to feedback improvements highlighted within their areas (My Journey, Carparks, Cleaner and Greener).
- Review pricing across all services.
- Review and introduce new programmes for young people and working with key services such as the youth council and community support.
- Introduce outdoor gym facilities.
- Review strategy against consultation results to ensure they are aligned to one another.
- Further consultations with young population.

A three-year action plan has been created aligning our seven priorities within the draft strategy, incorporating the actions raised within the consultation results and actions not only within the sport and leisure team but those key areas who also feed into the strategy priorities and actions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1) 2020/21	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other Financial Information
n/a

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