

# Public Document Pack



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## **CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE: MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2009**  
**TIME: 10.00 AM**  
**PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, NEXT TO THE CIVIC CENTRE**

### **TO FOLLOW**

**Please find attached additional information for your consideration under agenda item number 5.**

BARRY KEEL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## **CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

### **5. PLYMOUTH SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY (TO FOLLOW) (Pages 1 - 12)**

The Panel will consider the Plymouth Sports Facility Strategy.

# ***Plymouth Sports Facility Strategy***

## ***Consultation Leaflet***



Department for Culture, Sport and Leisure  
Plymouth City Council

**We would like your comments on our Draft Sports Facility Strategy for Plymouth. This leaflet, which summarises the main points, is being made available to sports clubs, schools, governing body and league representatives, sports facility managers and others with an interest in the development of opportunities for sport and fitness in Plymouth.**

## **We welcome your comments – in particular on...**

- ◆ key principles and aspirations of the strategy (see page 3)
- ◆ what the strategy analysis has found (see page 6)
- ◆ what the strategy suggests may happen next (see page 7)

There is space for you to write your comments at the end of this leaflet, together with details of others ways in which you can respond.

## **Why do we need a strategy?**

The purpose of the Sports Facility Strategy will be to lay the foundations for improving and developing the range and quality of sporting facilities and opportunities in Plymouth with the overall objective of increasing participation in sport – to whatever level people want to take part – by all the city's residents, visitors and students, and competitors from the south west and further afield.

According to recent surveys, over half of Plymouth residents do not participate in any type of fitness or sporting activity and – despite recently recorded increases – only just under one quarter take part on a regular and sustained basis (at least three times a week for 30 minutes). There is

also wide variation in participation rates and opportunities to take part in sport and fitness across the city. Involvement in sport and fitness is usually regarded as a matter of personal preference, but many people may be discouraged because of lack of opportunities or barriers to taking part and those who do start to get fit or learn a new sport may not continue to realise their full potential.

## **The strategy will also:**

- ◆ set out where the facility deficiencies are in Plymouth and show where provision is most needed for a variety of sports and target groups
- ◆ provide a framework for facility improvements and new developments for the next 10 to 15 years and justify the inclusion or exclusion of facilities in the short, medium and long term
- ◆ inform the development of sports facilities on school sites through the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme
- ◆ identify potential funding sources and provide robust evidence to support bids for funding and obtaining developer contributions through the planning process
- ◆ lead to a clear and widely supported strategic view on priorities across the city and a good understanding of how opportunities presented through education, sport or health partnerships, for example, can meet identified needs.

The Sports Facility Strategy will link with other recent Plymouth City Council documents, including the Playing Pitch Strategy (2007), the Swimming Facility Strategy (2006) and the Green Space Strategy (2009).

## A number of key principles underpin the strategy...

- ◆ Ensuring every facility is accessible and easy for everyone to get to
- ◆ developing a network of sporting ‘hubs’ and ‘satellite centres’ for the delivery of sport to the highest standards (‘world class delivery’) throughout the city
- ◆ investing in priority areas to address major facility deficiencies and encourage people with low participation rates to take part more
- ◆ developing multi-sport and multi-activity facilities, with indoor and outdoor facilities located together, wherever possible
- ◆ seeking to maintain and protect existing levels of provision and resources
- ◆ fully realising the potential of Plymouth’s superb waterfront setting and nearby natural environments
- ◆ locating sports facilities in combination with other ‘essential community facilities’, for example, on school sites but also retail and employment locations, to maximise efficiency
- ◆ involving community, commercial, educational, voluntary and national governing body sectors, as appropriate, from earliest planning and design stages
- ◆ focussing on partnership working, across the City Council itself and with key partners and stakeholders, to deliver well co-ordinated sport and physical activity services and opportunities and promote common, cross-cutting agendas, such as a focus on fitness and health and crime reduction.

One of Plymouth City Council’s corporate priorities is to ‘provide more and better culture and leisure activities’ and the Sports Facility Strategy will both help to inform this and to embed sport within the

‘Vision for Plymouth’ of a vibrant waterfront city for the 21st century. Taking part in sport and physical activity – which includes ‘everyday’ walking or cycling and non-competitive active recreation (such as working out in the gym) as well as organised and competitive sport – contributes massively to each of the agendas of ‘Healthy’, ‘Wealthy’, ‘Safe and Strong’ and ‘Wise’.

## The aspirations of the strategy are to:

**Widen opportunities for everyone to take part** – at a local, neighbourhood and city wide level. This will include improving accessibility to sport and fitness opportunities, making it easier for talented performers to progress in their sport and improving customer service.

**Bring the city together through sport** - We want to ‘narrow the gaps’ in rates of participation which currently exist in Plymouth – between different ethnic groups, age ranges, areas of the city, active and non active communities and healthy and not-so-healthy communities. We want to build on the sense of pride and shared interests through sport already being felt through the success of our talented competitors in the run up to the 2012 Olympics and our professional clubs.

**Make the best use of existing facilities and resources** – which includes personnel and expertise, as well as buildings and the natural environment – and the new opportunities which are presenting themselves, in particular:

- ◆ **The Life Centre**, planned to be one of the best leisure centres of its kind in the country and a leading centre of aquatic excellence. But first and foremost it will be a facility for Plymouth, and the strategy identifies it as the central ‘hub’ of sporting activity within the city for local residents of all ages and abilities.

- ◆ The **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)** programme, which represents the other most important opportunity for improving the stock of sports facilities in Plymouth for the foreseeable future. As well as meeting the sports needs of the city's young people, it will have the potential to establish a new network of city-wide leisure facilities for the local community, linked to the new central 'hub' facility at the Life Centre.
- ◆ **Other rebuilding within Plymouth** during the life of the strategy, including improvements at UCP Marjon, YMCA Kitto, Plymouth City College and the University of Plymouth. The MoD is currently undertaking a review of its sites within Plymouth, which may result in opportunities for access to new sites for sport, particularly in the south west of the city.
- ◆ **New funding opportunities** which may be available through the increased revenue funding given to national governing bodies of sport by Sport England for the co-commissioning of new facilities on education sites through BSF.
- ◆ **The lead up to the forthcoming London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.** Plymouth is already involved, with seven sports venues available as training camps. There will be further opportunities to

promote sporting activity as the Olympics approach and to benefit from the legacy afterwards

## A world class sporting destination?

With a current population approaching 255,000, Plymouth is the largest settlement on the English south coast and a regional centre for the south west. It is already a centre for sporting excellence, with professional football, rugby and basketball clubs, and competitors and coaches reaching national and international levels in diving, swimming, netball, fencing, gymnastics, table tennis and martial arts. It hosts a rich array of regional, national and international events, including the powerboat World Championship Grand Prix and the oldest of all solo offshore races – the prestigious Transat race.

We believe it has the potential to become a world class sporting destination, not least through its unique location surrounding the magnificent natural harbour of Plymouth Sound and its closeness to local Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Dartmoor National Park. The strategy seeks to build on its already impressive range of facilities, including the Life Centre, the Mount Batten Water Sports and Activities Centre, a number of multi-sport centres, such as UCP Marjon, Brickfields Sports Centre, YMCA Kitto and facilities at secondary schools, including the city's two sports colleges. This is an attractive mix of specialist provision including an ice rink, ski and snow centre, athletics track and golf courses. In addition there are around 1,500 hectares of open space including parks, woodlands, local nature reserves and public rights of way, available for a range of sporting and fitness activities (many of them free).



## How did we do it?

The strategy has been prepared by consultants Bennett Leisure and Planning Ltd in line with a steering group comprising officers of the City Council and external agencies including the Primary Care Trust. Building on existing studies, analysis and recent consultation, the methodology used follows that set out within government guidance, using tools prepared by Sport England, such as the Facilities Planning Model, the Sports Facility Calculator, Active Places (analysis of levels of sports facility provision) and Active People – a national survey of people’s sporting behaviour. Strategic planning support has been provided by Sport England through Genesis Consulting under its ‘Facilities Improvement Service’.

### Building block one - Plymouth profile

This looked at the characteristics which define Plymouth:

- ◆ Its settlement pattern – its geography and the characteristics of the individual neighbourhoods and localities
- ◆ Its population – its age, ethnic composition, projected growth and indices of health and deprivation
- ◆ Its transport routes and accessibility around the city

### Building block two - participation

We studied earlier research and surveys of sports participation in Plymouth, and used Sport England’s ‘market segmentation’ technique to illustrate how certain ‘market segments’ or types of people are represented across the city. This approach has formed the basis for identifying key areas, groups within the community and sports to target in order to raise participation amongst low participant groups within the city.

### Building block three - facility audit

We visited and audited over 60 indoor and outdoor sports facilities within the city, including all public leisure facilities, principal private and commercial facilities and all facilities at secondary schools, the University, City College and UCP Marjon. A specially developed audit form recorded all facilities present, and each was scored from one to five on ‘quality’ and ‘fit for purpose’. We also looked at management arrangements, use and access

### Building block four - consultation: assessing demand and need

This research has established key priorities and the demand for sports provision within the city through discussions with national and regional governing bodies of sport, sports development officers, league secretaries, key City Council and partner agencies’ personnel, local schools, the University and higher education and further education colleges, the Community Sports Network and Plymouth Sports Forum, sports facility managers (public, private and commercial) and various user groups including young people, older people and people with disabilities.

### Putting it all together

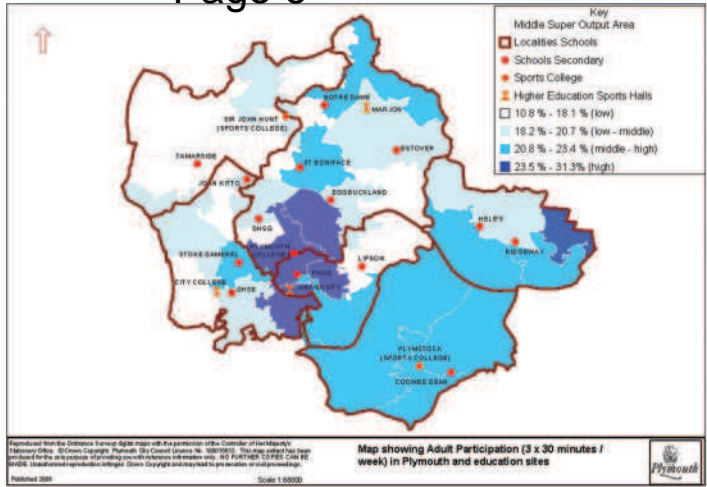




## What did we find?

There is already a well established network of public, commercial and education based sports facilities within Plymouth. Nevertheless, there are a number of challenges to address, including

- ◆ Varying rates of participation in sport across the city: generally, participation in sport is higher in the east than the west. Relatively low rates are found in the north west locality, extending south through to Devonport and Morice Town, east into Manadon and Derriford, and also in an arc north from Lipson and Laira through to parts of Leigham and Mainstone and Eggbuckland.
- ◆ The analysis suggests a relatively strong link between neighbourhoods showing lower rates of participation and high indices of deprivation.
- ◆ Sports facilities at secondary schools are ideally placed to provide opportunities for the local community, particularly those schools sited in areas with low rates of participation (see map)
- ◆ A number of older facilities, especially on school sites, require major upgrading or replacement
- ◆ Whilst indoor sports halls are generally 'fit for purpose' for recreational sports activity, they do not meet the specifications required for training and competition in certain sports (notably basketball, badminton and netball)
- ◆ There is no recognised hierarchy of provision which makes it difficult for a range of sports to progress from basic



entry level facilities to higher quality venues supporting the 'grow-sustain-excel' model of provision

- ◆ The quality of many ancillary facilities (changing rooms, car parking, catering facilities and access for the disabled) is inadequate to meet the demands placed upon them
- ◆ There is a lack of central venues for competition, training and sports development in a number of sports
- ◆ The vast majority of sports facilities are on school sites and used by schools during the day, leaving only a few opportunities for local people to take part in sport in the daytime.
- ◆ 85 per cent of indoor provision in Plymouth has restricted access (either because the facility is on a school site or usage is only available through private membership)
- ◆ Facilities are constantly under threat – the Civil Service Sports Ground providing just one example of facilities recently lost to sport.
- ◆ There are a number of deficiencies in both the quantity and the quality of provision across the range of sports facilities including indoor sports halls, swimming pools, synthetic turf pitches, indoor and outdoor provision for bowls



and tennis, specialist facilities for ice sports, gymnastics, table tennis, volleyball and athletics.

- ◆ There is great scope to develop links between sport and fitness and health, by improving the range of health and fitness opportunities on school sites, in local community centres, in community gyms, through GP referral schemes and through the use of Plymouth's green spaces .

## What are we suggesting?

**The analysis suggests the following are worthy of further consideration:**

That the strategy should focus on increasing participation amongst the following groups in Plymouth:

- ◆ Young people aged less than 24 years
- ◆ Men aged 34 to 54 years
- ◆ Women aged 45 to 64 years
- ◆ People aged 65 years and over
- ◆ People with disabilities.

That priority should be given to the provision of facilities within the following areas:

Areas of low participation in sport:

- ◆ north west (St Budeaux and Southway)
- ◆ south west
- ◆ south east (Lipson, Laira and Efford)

Areas of facility deprivation:

- ◆ Plympton
- ◆ north west

That a small number of sports should be selected for particular focus over the next few years in terms of facility provision in order to make the most of the and funding streams available. (The strategy currently considers how progression can be made through the Sport England continuum of 'grow-sustain-excel' for some 30 different sports)

## Outdoor, water and adventure sports and the natural environment

- ◆ The strategy believes that there is enormous untapped potential for making more use of Plymouth's unique location in terms of water and access to the countryside and challenging outdoor environments for sport, fitness and recreation
- ◆ Wherever possible, there should be improved links to green spaces, countryside and water within and near to Plymouth for range of walking, cycling, fitness, orienteering climbing, adventure sports and water based activities.
- ◆ A separate strategy should be prepared for water-based sport and recreation.

## Indoor sports halls

- ◆ Provision of 12 court hall at the Life Centre and the development of a network of smaller satellite indoor sports 'hubs' around the city
- ◆ Access to new larger high quality provision for sub regional training and competition in, for example, badminton, netball and basketball
- ◆ Increasing opportunities for access to space for indoor sport in north west Plymouth, Lipson/Laira/Efford and Plympton
- ◆ Replacement or major enhancement of facilities on various school sites through BSF
- ◆ Ensure range of provision/equipment at different venues to ensure all sports have development needs met
- ◆ Improved access to smaller community halls for fitness activities where detailed locality/neighbourhood analysis suggests shortfalls

## Provision for swimming

- ◆ Provision of an aquatic centre at the Life Centre – to operate as central hub for aquatics across the city and sub-region
- ◆ Provision of pool to serve Plymstock, Elburton and Sherford at Sherford (medium term)
- ◆ Plymouth City Council contribution to community access to UCP Marjon pool to serve north/north east of city
- ◆ Any additional need for provision to, for example, serve the west of the city, to be re-evaluated in the longer term

## Synthetic turf pitches (STPs)

- ◆ Synthetic turf pitches to serve Tamarside/St Budeaux, Whiteleigh/Southway and Plympton (school sites).
- ◆ Safeguard and increase existing provision for hockey (preferably sand filled STP)
- ◆ Two same surface STPs in close proximity for major competitions and training: aspiration for an existing STP site
- ◆ Provision of indoor 3G pitch to deliver towards broad football objectives within the city, particularly around juniors, girls and disability groups.

## Tennis and bowls

- ◆ Increasing opportunities for access to good quality artificial, floodlit tennis courts across the city
- ◆ Development of a pay and play indoor tennis centre (minimum four court) – preferably close to floodlit courts
- ◆ Replacement indoor eight rink bowling facilities at the Life Centre; further indoor provision to be kept under review
- ◆ Replacement outdoor bowling greens for those lost at Civil Service, plus ongoing improvements to green quality

## Other specialist provision

- ◆ New larger ice rink (replacement for Plymouth Pavilions)
- ◆ Training and competition venues for gymnastics, table tennis and volleyball
- ◆ Athletics:
  - improvement/relocation of restricted field facilities at Brickfields
  - keep new six to eight lane athletics facility under review pending junior development
  - development of training facilities in north of city
- ◆ Maintain current level of provision of squash courts
- ◆ Develop network of climbing walls, culminating in high quality provision at the Life Centre

## Other

- ◆ Improved access to, and better quality and provision of, opportunities for health and fitness, including at schools
- ◆ Ensuring new built environments encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- ◆ Further development of strong community use agreements on school sites



- ◆ Reviewing facilities and opportunities for disability sport
- ◆ Improved co-ordination of facilities and activities around the city – better marketing, complementary programming and pricing etc

### A central hub

The strategy supports the development of a network of provision to support the 'grow-sustain-excel' continuum. This places the Life Centre and Central Park as the central hub, with other sports provision as satellites to this and the development of a network of locally accessible, flexible multi-sport and multi-activity facilities and environments.

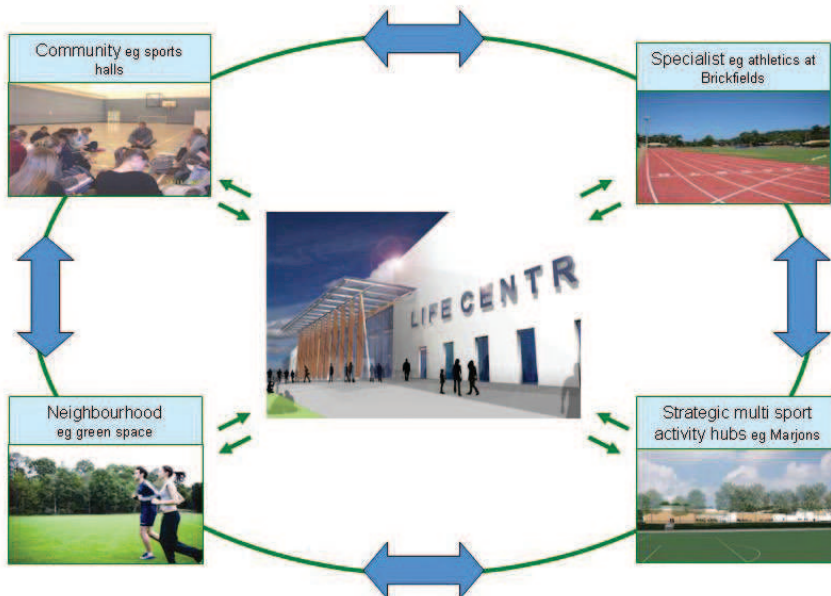
As follows:

- A Central hub facility – Life Centre and Central Park
- B Strategic multi sport activity hubs for example UCP Marjon, YMCA Kitto hub, Mount Batten WASC, Brickfields Sports Centre, Plymstock School

Sports College, Sir John Hunt  
Community Sports College

- C Specialist facilities: for example ski and snow centre, ice rink, gymnastics competition and training facility, indoor tennis centre, indoor bowls centre, climbing walls, full size synthetic turf pitches, Tinside Pool, Plympton Pool and professional clubs
- D Community: for example network of community sports halls including those on school sites and the University of Plymouth, and other commercial facilities, half size STPs, outdoor floodlit tennis courts and bowling greens, health and fitness facilities, youth facilities
- E Neighbourhood: for example access to multi use activity spaces indoors and outdoors, including greenspace. Designing for health and fitness at the local level, including networks of routeways, cyclepaths, greenspace and waterfront access.

### The Life Centre and Central Park



## Finally...

the following ‘**standards of provision**’ for the quantity and accessibility of various types of sports facility have been suggested. These will eventually inform Plymouth City Council’s Local Development Framework and provide a guide to developers of the contributions required towards sport and recreation facilities.

<b>Standards of Provision Table</b>		
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Proposed facility per number of population</b>	<b>Access Standards</b>
<b>Sports halls (community access)</b>	1 per 10,000 people	20 minute walktime
<b>Swimming pools (community access)</b>	1 per 26,000 people	30 minute walktime
<b>Synthetic turf pitches</b>	1 per 21,600 people	30 minute walktime
<b>Outdoor tennis courts</b>	1 per 5,000 people	20 minute walktime
<b>Indoor bowls</b>	1 rink per 18,000 – 24,000 people	10-15 minute drivetime
<b>Fitness gyms</b>	1 station per 200 people	20 minute walktime
<b>Small community halls and activity space</b>	1 space per 3000 people	10 minute walktime

## What can you do now?

### We welcome your comments - in particular on...

- ◆ key principles and aspirations of the strategy (page 3)
- ◆ what the strategy analysis has found (page 6)
- ◆ what the strategy suggests may happen next (page 7)

There is a twelve week consultation period ending on **22 January 2010**, following which all comments and information received will be considered in preparing the revised final strategy.

## There are several ways you can respond:

- 1 Write your comments on this leaflet (this page and overleaf) and send back to:  
**Culture, Sport and Leisure, FREEPOST (PY1415), Plymouth PL1 2ZZ** by 22 January 2010
- 2 Visit our website where you can fill in your comments online by 8 January 2010 (see details below)
- 3 Email your comments directly to: [peter.kelley@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:peter.kelley@plymouth.gov.uk)

For further information, to see the latest draft of the strategy and to submit comments online, please see our website at **[www.plymouth.gov.uk/sportsfacilitystrategy](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sportsfacilitystrategy)**

Thank you.

## Comments

*Please continue overleaf*

## Comments (continued)

Send your comments by **22 January 2010** written on this leaflet to:  
**Culture, Sport and Leisure, FREEPOST (PY1415), Plymouth PL1 2ZZ**

