

Report of:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health - Councillor Dorothy Davison Director of Regeneration and Culture - Richard Horniman
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Submitted to:	Executive - 22 December 2020
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Subject:	Middlesbrough Leisure Indoor and Built Facility Strategy
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
That Executive approves the adoption of the Middlesbrough Leisure Indoor Built Facility Strategy for use as a source of reference in decisions pertaining to Middlesbrough’s sport/leisure indoor built facilities.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
Decision	Yes	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
The protection, provision and enhancement of Middlesbrough’s built sport/leisure facilities provides an environment that contributes significantly to the health, happiness and well-being of the town’s residents.	The protection, provision and enhancement of Middlesbrough’s built sport/leisure facilities contribute to providing a physical infrastructure that enables clubs/organisations to prosper for the benefit of Middlesbrough residents whilst engendering a collective sense of pride in Middlesbrough.	The protection, provision and enhancement of Middlesbrough’s built sport/leisure facilities enables Middlesbrough to continue to attract sport and leisure events of local, regional and national significance that raise positively the profile of Middlesbrough and create positive economic impact.

Ward(s) affected
All Wards are affected by this proposal.

¹ Remove for non-Executive reports

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Middlesbrough's Leisure Indoor Built Facility Strategy with a view to its adoption by the Council for use as a point of reference for decisions pertaining to Middlesbrough's sport/leisure built facilities.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. The proposals would potentially affect all wards and are likely to inform funding bids over £150,000.

Report Background

3. The Leisure Indoor Built Facilities Strategy (IBFS) is intended to provide clear direction to all partners to enable them to plan and develop programmes of activity within modern, efficient and sustainable community-based sport/leisure facilities with a view to ensuring Middlesbrough residents have the opportunity to develop their physical, sporting, health and wellbeing ambitions within their local community.
4. Central to the IBFS is Sport England's directive that local authorities should seek to protect, provide and enhance its indoor/built sport/leisure facilities.

Overview of the Sport and Leisure Indoor and Built Facility Strategy

5. The Middlesbrough IBFS, undertaken by specialist sport and leisure consultants, Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP), is for the 15-year period 2019 – 2034. The Recommendations made within the IBFS are drawn from the IBFS Needs Assessment Reports, also undertaken by KKP.
6. Both the Assessment Report and the IBFS were prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities - for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) Guidance and in consultation with Middlesbrough Council, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), local sports clubs and key stakeholders.
7. In reaching its recommendations the IBFS has given full consideration to the relevant national and local strategic context as well as national planning policy.
8. The IBFS Needs Assessment Report has identified the following key points in relation to Middlesbrough's sport and leisure indoor built facilities:
 - a. sports halls: there are 14 sports halls with 3+ courts across 12 sites. This includes three six-court halls. Nearly 90% of the population lives within 1 mile walk of a sports hall and all live within 20 minutes' drive time. The general quality of facilities is above average and there is a wide range of sport (from beginner through to performance level in some) available to the local population including netball, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, futsal, martial arts indoor cricket, dodgeball etc.;
 - b. swimming pools: there are eight pools at six sites in Middlesbrough. At two sites (Neptune and Rainbow leisure centres) pay and play opportunity is offered. The Neptune and Rainbow leisure centres both have main pools

with separate teaching/learner pools and offer learn to swim; public recreational swimming; lane and fitness swimming; and swimming development programmes;

- c. health and fitness facilities: there are 15 'main' health and fitness facilities with 1,447 stations in Middlesbrough; this represents a positive supply demand balance;
 - d. tennis: there are four indoor tennis courts in Middlesbrough plus seven just outside Middlesbrough at the David Lloyd Centre in Stockton-on-Tees. The two new Padel tennis courts at Tennis World should broaden the participation offer;
 - e. squash: there are seven squash courts available that are either good or above average quality. The Rainbow Leisure Centre is the only facility that does not require membership in order to play;
 - f. cycling: there is a dedicated cycle hub with changing provision in Middlesbrough town centre as well as a closed cycle circuit and outdoor velodrome located at Middlesbrough Sports Village. Both the cycle circuit and velodrome are floodlit;
 - g. athletics: there is an 8-lane synthetic track with 10-lane straight and 'in-track' field event provision at Middlesbrough Sports Village. There is also a 40m indoor straight with a strength and conditioning area linked to the sports hall at the Sports Village. The facilities are of high quality and in good condition;
 - h. gymnastics: there are three dedicated gymnastics clubs in Middlesbrough. Facilities are high quality and in good condition;
 - i. indoor bowls: there are no indoor bowling greens in Middlesbrough although there are six facilities within 30 minutes' drive time of Middlesbrough;
 - j. table tennis: There are two dedicated table tennis centres in Middlesbrough, Ormesby Table Tennis Centre and Swerve Table Tennis Centre. They offer opportunities from recreational to international standard both in mainstream and disability competition; and,
 - k. climbing walls: There are three climbing walls in Middlesbrough. All are reported to be of good quality and offer climbing opportunity for people of all ability levels.
9. Utilising the evidence gained in the IBFS Needs Assessment Report, KKP have identified a number of key strategic objectives the Council may wish to consider. These objectives include:
- a. ensure that all school sports facilities are made fully available for community use (through binding and appropriate community use agreements) and that an agreed minimum level of availability is agreed. This includes confirming that previous community use agreement commitments are being adhered to;
 - b. consider the best method of increasing swimming provision in Middlesbrough, especially to serve areas of higher deprivation, where participation is lower. In particular, to use local insight generated via the

Local Delivery Pilot in the north of the town to assess the potential opportunity to work with adjoining local authorities;

- c. there is generally sufficient sports hall supply to meet the current needs of key sports. The exception is netball where a 2-court (minimum), ideally 3-court (indoors or covered) hall is required to meet existing demand and allow for growth within the sport;
- d. work with partners to develop a solution to the ancillary provision problems faced at the outdoor velodrome;
- e. work with both table tennis clubs to create a plan for moving forward which meets the needs of the table tennis community and makes best use of resources. Investment should be contingent upon some form of compromise between the clubs being agreed;
- f. support other developments (via planning and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community (e.g. gymnastics);
- g. given the success of the Live Well Centre, consider whether and how complementary services can be hosted within current sports and leisure facilities (e.g. a library or health centre facility). An example would be the Neptune Leisure Centre due to the close proximity of a GP Practice, pharmacist and library (as well as being located adjacent to the Local Delivery Pilot focus wards of North Ormesby and Thorntree and Brambles);
- h. improve the breadth, depth and quality of performance management data collected (and shared) and the associated analysis of facility usage to inform future marketing, promotion, programming and pricing;
- i. (aligned to the above) ensure that Council owned facilities make a progressively greater (and measured) contribution to reducing health inequalities and are fully accessible to/from all the town's communities via targeted initiatives, facilities programming and staff training. The development and deployment of an all-encompassing leisure card scheme will facilitate this process;
- j. identify ongoing investment, maintenance and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities; and,
- k. continue to work with local sports clubs to ensure facilities and workforce development programmes meet their needs and help them to increase capacity to meet community demand.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

10. That Executive approves the adoption of the Middlesbrough Leisure Indoor Built Facility Strategy for use as a source of reference in decisions pertaining to Middlesbrough's sport/leisure indoor built facilities.

Why is this being recommended?

11. This is being recommended so that the Council has a strategic foundation upon which to make decisions relating to the protection, provision and enhancement of Middlesbrough's sport/leisure indoor built facilities. The same strategic basis will also increase the council's capacity to work with partners to attract investment in projects that protect, provide and enhance the town's sport/leisure built facilities.
12. The IBFS has been delivered through consultation with all relevant stakeholders following the guidelines set out by Sport England.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

13. The Council could choose not to adopt the IBFS, however, this approach is not recommended for the following reasons:
 - a. It would undermine the strategic rationale for decisions pertaining to sport/leisure built facilities.
 - b. The lack of a strategic rationale for decisions pertaining sport/leisure built facilities will significantly hamper the capability of the Council to work with partners to attract external investment in projects.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

14. The impacts of the recommended decisions are as follows:

Legal

15. The adoption by the Council of the IBFS will provide the Council with a strategic underpinning upon which to make decisions. These decisions will generate their own legal implications in relations to areas such as funding agreements, governance; contractual arrangements relating to the management of sites or building; and lease arrangements.

Financial

16. The adoption by the Council of the IBFS will provide the Council with a strategic underpinning upon which to make decisions that may have financial implications, however, the adoption of the IBFS in of itself does not.
17. The adoption by the Council of the IBFS will provide the Council with a strategic foundation to look to implement at its discretion some of the proposed projects to protect, provide and an enhance Middlesbrough's indoor sport/leisure facilities.
18. Through IBFS the Council will possess the evidence base to work in partnership with national partners to access funding for projects though this will almost certainly require the Council to provide at least 50% of project cost and consider full on-cost implications.

Policy Framework

19. The decision will not amend the Council's policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

20. An Impact Assessment has been undertaken, and has concluded that the decisions requested would not have any disproportionately negative impacts.

Risk

21. The adoption by the Council of the IBFS will provide the strategic understanding and foundation for proposed decisions, that may incur a level of risk, to be considered. These risks will be counter balanced by the wider benefits to Middlesbrough's residents of the provision, protection and enhancement of the town's indoor sport/leisure built facilities.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

22. The delivery of the recommendations within the IBFS will progress with relevant partners and seek Council approval as appropriate.

Appendices

Middlesbrough Council Indoor Sports Facilities - Needs Assessment

Middlesbrough Council Indoor and Built Facilities - Strategy

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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