

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 30 March 2015

**Report Title:** Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy Refresh

**Report By:** Virginia Gilbert  
Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure

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### **Purpose of Report**

To present the refreshed Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy, with proposed actions, for consideration.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. That the contents of the refreshed Strategy be agreed.**
- 2. That the proposed recommendations and actions be agreed.**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

The Council and its partners are committed to the implementation of the Hastings and Rother Leisure Facilities Strategy (2009-2020). The original assessments are now considered to be out of date. The refreshed version includes up-to-date recommendations for Hastings, which are founded on new assessments and stakeholder consultation.

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## Introduction

1. In 2008, Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council and Sport England commissioned Capita Symonds to complete a Leisure Facilities Strategy for Hastings and Rother (2009-2020).
2. It is now appropriate to review the short term changes regarding leisure facility supply and demand information. It is generally accepted that this information should be reviewed within five years for the assessments to be considered up to date and sufficiently robust.
3. New opportunities have evolved, such as the Council's aspirations for new leisure provision at White Rock Gardens. With its refreshed assessments, the Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy will continue to serve as a baseline document for any future leisure facility development.
4. Founded on this robust and up-to-date information the strategy sets out refreshed recommendations which seek to identify optimum locations and review levels of provision to help establish viable facilities which serve our communities.
5. Rother District Council plan to commission a consultant later in 15/16 to update their assessments and recommendations. We will be able to jointly review any relevant information once Rother's refresh is available.

## Update

6. A stakeholder group including representatives from Sport England, Public Health, County Sports Partnership, and the local voluntary sector have advised on the strategy approach and development.
7. An updated audit of local facilities has been carried out.
8. Detailed analysis of our local swimming pools, artificial grass pitches and sports halls was provided by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model. This is one of the information sources which Sport England uses to assess Lottery Funding bids for community facilities. In its simplest form, the model seeks whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport is capable of meeting local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to such a facility.
9. Additional facility types were assessed using a more qualitative consultative approach. In order to gain an overview of facilities in Hastings from the different perspectives a range of national governing bodies of sport, local facilities and clubs were consulted. Over 50 organisations have inputted via email, telephone, site visits or discussions.
10. Further demographic data and mapping information was utilised from Sport England's Active People Survey, Market Segmentation profiles and Active Places Power which are all online diagnostic tools designed to support local authorities assessing their facilities. A strategic context review was also completed.

## Conclusion

11. The strategic recommendations highlight the current surplus or deficit for each of the facility types reviewed. The need for additional facilities is highlighted where appropriate.
12. Addressing the leisure facility needs of our residents will require focused partnership work and clear actions. Realistic key actions for 2015-17 have been highlighted.
13. Limited availability of funding will be a major challenge to overcome.

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## Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

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## Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	Yes
Anti-Poverty	No

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## Additional Information

Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy Refresh (2015-2020)  
Hastings Leisure Facilities Strategy - Appendices

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## Officer to Contact

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