

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
South Ribble Leisure Facilities Strategy	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health, Wellbeing and Leisure)	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Yes
Is this report on the <b>Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council? This should only be in exceptional circumstances.	No
Is this report confidential?	No

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report brings forward a proposed new Leisure Facilities Strategy for South Ribble outlining a vision for future Leisure Facilities in the borough that are sustainable and fully contribute to the wider aspirations and ambitions of the Council's Corporate Plan notably in the areas of Health and Wellbeing, tackling Health Inequalities and Community Development.

## PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Cabinet welcomes and adopts the new South Ribble Leisure Facilities Strategy as set out in Appendix A to this report as a key document that will help deliver a sustainable future for public Leisure Facilities in the Borough.
3. That Officers are requested to bring back to Cabinet and Council further reports outlining in detail how the new Leisure Facilities Strategy will be delivered including future management arrangements for the Leisure Centres.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

4. South Ribble Borough Council has lacked a Leisure Facilities strategy for some time that sets out a clear vision of what the Leisure Facilities offer will look like in the future. The key decision for Cabinet is to choose whether to adopt the proposed new Leisure Facilities Strategy which will ensure the future sustainability of Leisure Facilities, improve their quality and maximise their contribution to Health and Wellbeing, reducing Health inequalities and building local communities.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	x
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	x
Place, Homes and Environment	x

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	x
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## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

6. The issue of the future of the Council's Leisure Centres has been one of some debate over several years as has the question as to the future management of our Leisure centres going forward. The background to both issues was highlighted in the Council report submitted to full Council in September 2019. This report can be accessed as a background paper to this report.
7. A key gap identified by the Council report last September was the lack of a Leisure Facilities Strategy for the Borough.
8. To develop a new Leisure Facilities Strategy, Consultants FMG were appointed to work with the Council on preparing a long-term Leisure Facilities Strategy for the Council (See appendix A). This piece of work has considered the current Leisure Centres and the potential building of a new Leisure Centre as part of a sustainable Leisure Facility mix for the future.
9. As part of the commission FMG were also tasked with developing potential options for the future Management of South Ribble Leisure Centre. This forms part of the Leisure Strategy attached to this report.

10. It is worth noting that the new Leisure Facilities Strategy has been done against the backdrop of Covid 19.
11. The new Leisure Facilities Strategy takes account of this and recognises that recovery from Covid 19 will have significant impact on the future Leisure Facilities offer.

## **PROPOSALS**

12. Attached to this report is a proposed new Leisure Facilities strategy for consideration by Cabinet and ultimately the Council as a whole.
13. The strategy sets out in detail how it has been developed using up to date demand modelling and facility planning data obtained from Sport England and looking closely at the whole picture of Leisure Facilities in South Ribble and their sustainability.
14. In painting a vision as to the way forward for Leisure Facilities in South Ribble the Strategy has based its Vision and ambitions on a key set of principles:

**The ambition to develop a new Leisure Facility in the Leyland area that provides a new Hub for Leisure in the borough**

**The Development of a Playing Pitch Hub at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre on the back of the Playing fields strategy produced in 2019 and now used as planning guidance**

**The development of a racquet sports centre of excellence and community activity at the current Tennis Centre in South Ribble**

**The development of the concept of Leisure Local which is about increasing community access and activity at all sport facilities across the Borough including Schools, community centres, local community sports clubs and the promotion of physical activity outside through the Council's Green links network and local Parks**

15. Leisure local is a key component of the Strategy and is a reminder that whilst 'built leisure facilities' are an important part of the jigsaw they are only part of the local provision and a holistic multi-agency approach is required to improve physical activity levels in the Borough helping to improve health and wellbeing across the Borough.
16. Leisure local is about developing pathways into a more active lifestyle (not just sport) and related activities working closely with local sports clubs, schools, and community groups contributing to the Council's new Corporate strategy, collaborating with partners (including the local 'Better Together Partnership') to improve levels of physical activity within in all communities across the Borough both inside and outside built facilities
17. Leisure local will involve working in partnership with residents, community groups, voluntary organisations, education and schools to deliver and enable new

physical activity, sessions, develop volunteers with an aim of widening access and use of local indoor and outdoor leisure infrastructure.

- 18.** Leisure local will involve developing local sport and physical activity hubs across the Borough offering activity relating to the following programmes and facilities.
  - Public Health and Wellbeing Programmes
  - Adult Social Care and Mental Health & Disability Programmes
  - Sport Clubs and Associations
  - Community Centres as physical activity hubs
  - Educational / Dual Use Leisure Sites
  - Parks and Outdoor physical activity hubs including the Green links network
  - Indoor Council owned Built Leisure Facilities
- 19.** The term 'sport' can be a turn off for many. Therefore, this strategy will look to harness the positive power that 'sport' and 'physical activity' can have for some, whilst helping to break down barriers for those who are inactive, to position an active lifestyle as seen as a social norm.
- 20.** Developing the concept of Leisure local has a good foundation in the boroughs, with our current sport and leisure facilities attracting over 750,000 visits each year. Our swimming pools and sports hall well used and performing well when compared to national benchmarks with all three of our swimming pools producing income of over £1000 per m2.
- 21.** The new leisure local approach will build on existing participation levels developing a high-quality sport and leisure offer across the borough working with schools, clubs and the voluntary sector focusing on access to all. Particular emphasis will be given to using resources imaginatively going forward supporting communities to develop their own health and wellbeing opportunities to local residents and helping communities to reduce the health inequalities that affect areas of our borough'
- 22.** The attached proposed Leisure Facilities Strategy goes into the detail behind these principles and provides a rationale as to how they were developed. There has also been considerable further work carried out as to how the proposed Leisure Facilities Strategy could be implemented. Future delivery plans will be brought to future Cabinets once the Strategy has been adopted by the Council and a commitment is made to develop the new Leisure Centre which underpins the delivery of the Strategy in line with the principles outlined above.
- 23.** The proposed Leisure Facilities Strategy also considers the future management of the Leisure Centres with an emphasis on an in-house Trading Company within South Ribble benchmarked against the retendering of Leisure Centre management on the open market. Further reports will be brought back to Cabinet with a recommended direction of travel for future Leisure management

24. The rationale behind the new Leisure Facilities Strategy and proposals for the future management of Leisure Centres is about securing a long-term sustainable solution for Leisure Facilities in South Ribble. It is clearly a complex and high cost area for the Council which needs careful consideration as to deciding a way forward. Further reports will need to be brought back to Cabinet to approve how the Strategy can be delivered.
25. Procurement will play a part in delivering the proposals outlined in the Leisure Facilities strategy. Officers will work closely with Legal services and Procurement to ensure that any work undertaken follows the procurement rules laid down by the Council

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

26. Back in 2019 Extensive consultation was carried out across the South Ribble Borough as part of a wider Green links consultation. The consultation took the form of face to face workshops, planning for real workshops and a virtual consultation exercise. Well over 500 residents took part in the various forms of consultation. The consultation report can be seen as part of the background papers to this report. In addition, we have worked with the new Sport England facility planning model (FPM) which scientifically analyses the demand for Leisure facilities in a particular area against particular facility models.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

27. The Council could choose not to have a Leisure Facilities Strategy in place, but this would make progress in developing Leisure Facilities in the Borough very difficult going forward as has been shown in recent years.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

28. There are no Air Quality implications with this report

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

29. The Ambitions identified within the proposed Leisure Facilities Strategy bring with them risks. As each project is brought back to Cabinet for consideration, risk management will be taken into account

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

30. A full EIA will be part of the roll out of both the new Leisure Facilities Strategy and the implementing of the chosen management option for the Leisure Centres going forward.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

31. The Ambitions identified in the proposed Leisure Facilities Strategy will all have significant financial implications. As each project is developed finance will work

closely with colleagues in ensuring that what is planned is financially sustainable and affordable for the Council's revenue and capital budget.

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

- 32.** In the main this is a high-level report that is seeking approval for the way to proceed. Further reports will need to be brought back containing more detailed information once further work has been carried out. Ultimately certain aspects of these proposals may need to go to Full Council for decision.
- 33.** Legal Services will be involved in exploring the option of an In-House Trading Company if members decide that this is an option worth exploring. The Legal Team will also have to be instructed in respect of any procurement/contractual matters that arise.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The Council report on Leisure Services September 2019.  
The Green links consultation report

## APPENDICES

Appendix A: Proposed South Ribble Leisure Facilities Strategy

LT Member's Name  
Assistant Director Projects and Development  
Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Anderson, Catherine Southworth (Assistant Director of Projects and Development, Leisure and Projects Manager)	01772 625540	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020