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| Lead Officer:- | Laura Corby & Carly Pettit |
| Decision Maker(s):- | Cabinet |
| Name and Type of decision:- e.g. Policy, contract, service delivery change. | To approve the draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy dated July 2022 for public consultation |
| Date of decision When will the final decision be taken? | 4 July 2022 |
| Aims of the decision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives • Intended outcomes • Key actions • Who and how many will be affected | <p>The purpose of the strategy is to help guide potential decisions around rationalisation of and investment in indoor sports facilities, community use of school facilities, encouraging greater flexibility of facility usage and determining strategic objectives for the provision of indoor sport facilities in the District.</p> <p>The project was initiated to update the current strategy Indoor Sports Facility Strategy dated 2016 to support the Council in preparing a new Local Plan to 2040. The NPPF requires planning policies on open space and recreation to 'be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Furthermore, this study will supplement current feasibility work the Council is undertaking to explore the replacement of wet & dry side facilities at Tides Leisure Centre which is now 35 years old and in a declining state of repair. Millions of pounds of investment would be required over the coming years to keep Tides Leisure Centre functioning. Before committing major funding to the existing centre, a strategy was developed to determine the most effective way of meeting the district's need for indoor sports facilities.</p> <p>The intended outcome is to adopt a framework and guidance for use when developing specific projects to provide indoor leisure facilities. For example, the strategy calculates the quantity of swimming pool provision needed to meet demand in the District now and up to 2040. Strategic priority 3 is to progress with proposals to investigate options for the replacement of Tides Leisure Centre, which is given a high priority because of the identified need. The strategy does not discuss design or operational details relevant to a replacement leisure centre; that would be developed through a specific proposal, which would be subject to consultation.</p> <p>A large proportion of district residents could be affected by the strategy, including current and potential users of the leisure centres. However, as described in the previous paragraph the effect will be indirect because decisions about investment in specific projects will be covered by separate reports to Cabinet.</p> |

Information and Research

- Summarise research and information that you used to prepare your proposals / preferred options
- What data did you use to research your proposals
- List anything you found that will affect people with protected characteristics.

The Council appointed the consultants who undertook the previous study in 2016 and who also supported the Council in the successful delivery of the new £26.4m Dover District Leisure Centre. They were engaged to assess leisure provision to undertake a comprehensive review of indoor leisure facilities, considering the age, quality, size, accessibility, community use, opening hours and type of management at each existing facility. The information obtained was combined with current and predicted population data up to 2040, in correlation with the period for the emerging Local Plan.

The assessment was prepared in accordance with Sport England's guidelines to reflect current best practice for the provision of indoor sports facilities, for example where possible the data obtained was analysed using Sport England's Facility Planning Model. This research allowed the Council to develop a clear understanding of current and future supply and demand issues for key sporting facilities in terms of quantity, quality and location.

The Strategy itself refers to a number of national and regional reports and data sources:

- **Uniting the Movement – Sport England (2021-2031)**
- **Everybody Active, Everyday (Public Health England, 2014)**
- **UK Active's Blueprint for an Active Britain (2016)**
- **Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity (Sport England, 2020)**
- **Dover District Council Corporate Plan (2020-2024)**
- **Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - The five-year plan and priorities for Kent and Medway**
- **Dover District Summary – July 2020**

The Dover District Summary 2020 sets out the following:

- **20.8% of the District's population has an illness or condition which limits their day-to-day activities in some way; this compares with 17.6% nationally.**
- **Life expectancy at birth for males (79.2 years) and females (82.5 years) in the Dover District is lower than the national averages (79.6 years for males and 83.1 years for females).**
- **Life expectancy is 7.6 years lower for men and 3.1 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Dover than in the least deprived areas.**
- **The number of Dover District residents who are claiming disability benefits is 11,111 (9.5%) this is higher than Kent (7.7%), Southeast region (6.4%) and national figures (7.9%)**

Other health data includes:

The percentage of adults (aged 18+) classified as overweight or obese in Dover District is 63.4% this is higher than the Southeast region (61.5%) and in line with the UK average of 63% of adults. (Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID))

The percentage of children in Reception (age 4-5 years) classified as overweight in the Dover District is 25.4%, this is higher than the averages for the Southeast region and England. The district also has the 3rd highest prevalence of overweight children at Reception age in Kent. (Source: State of the District: Health and Wellbeing – 2017)

The percentage of children in Year 6 (age 10-11 years) classified as overweight or obese (including severe obesity) in the Dover District is 19.1%, this is higher than the Southeast region (16.8%) and marginally lower than the England average (20.2%). (Source: PHE: Local Authority Health Profile – 2019)

According to Public Health England, priorities in Dover include improving physical activity in children and adults.

Demographic information has been used to help identify priorities for facility provision. The District's Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (Partial Update 2020) which underpins the emerging Local Plan indicates that the population aged 65 or over is going to increase drastically over the period to 2040.

Therefore, Sport specific recommendations for certain age groups were informed through engagement with relevant national governing bodies of sport.

The anticipated outcomes within the Strategy set out a number of ways in which residents with protected characteristics may benefit for the delivery of the strategic objectives, these include:

- **Contribute towards addressing specific issues relating to the district's demographic profile.** To ensure that planned facilities are designed in such a way that they can assist stakeholders in addressing the district's high rate of obesity levels in children, ensure appropriate provision for the ageing population and can contribute to improving the below average levels of sports participation
- **Use indoor sport and leisure facilities to improve levels of physical activity in the whole population and reduce the gap in health inequalities by promoting access and engagement with at risk groups.**

This equality impact assessment shows that the ISFS has a positive impact on 3 groups with protected characteristics as defined in the 2010 Equality Act. With regards to Age, the strategy identifies the needs for indoor sports facilities to meet the needs of the ageing population through provision of sports such as Indoor Bowls. It also highlights the aim to work with education facilities to improve the offer which will positively impact on children. With regards to Disability, the strategy highlights the needs for accessible facilities which meet the needs of all users and encourage a wider range of sporting opportunity for Disabled groups. With regards to gender, there is a medium positive impact in that sport facilities will be encouraged to provide changing facilities to meet the needs of all genders.

In addition, when specific projects are delivered (such as a replacement for Tides Leisure Centre), further in-depth consultation will be carried out with representatives of the protected groups in the development of the project.

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| <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has there been any specific consultation done • What were the consultation results • Did the consultation analysis show any difference for people with protected characteristics. • What conclusions did you draw from the consultation | <p>During preparation of the draft strategy the Council has engaged with facility providers, town and parish councils, neighbouring district councils, major users of those facilities (key sports clubs), national governing bodies of sport and Sport England. Subject to Cabinet approval to conduct formal public consultation on the draft strategy, the Council will organize the formal consultation in accordance with the methods set out in Dover District Council's adopted 'Statement of Community Involvement' which applies to plan making and planning consultations</p> <p>The consultation will be advertised in a local newspaper and via social media, in addition to a press release and posters in key locations around the district. It will open for eleven weeks, which is considerably more time than normal, to allow for possible disruption school summer holiday period.</p> <p>The draft strategy will be available in electronic format on the consultation portal from the website. Email alerts will be sent to 'hard to reach' groups including different ethnic or national groups, religious groups and those that represent retired and elderly, youth groups or disabled people in the area, for example Age Concern and Kent Association for the Disabled.</p> <p>All responses will be appended to a report to Cabinet scheduled for the later this year, with proposed responses. Responses are likely to raise issues relevant to the Equality Duty and positively impact on people with protected characteristics which we will seek to address (if not already) in the final adopted Indoor Sports Facility Strategy.</p> |
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| Assessing if the decision is likely to be relevant to the three aims of the Equality Duty. | |
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| Aim | Relevance Yes / No |
| Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation | Yes |
| Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not. | Yes |
| Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. | Yes |

| If you have decided that this decision is relevant to the three aims of the Equality Duty, use the section below to show how it is relevant and what the impact will be. | | |
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| Protected Characteristic | Relevance High/Medium/Low | Impact of the decision Positive / Negative |
| Age | High | Positive |
| Disability | High | Positive |
| Gender reassignment | No information | No information available |
| Gender | Medium | Positive |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | No information | No information available |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | No information | No information available |
| Race | No information | No information available |
| Religion, Belief or Lack of Belief | No Information | No information available |
| Sexual Orientation | No information | No information available |

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| If you have found negative impact, outline the measures you | N/A |
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| intend to take to mitigate it. | |
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This Equality Impact Assessment must attach to any report throughout the decision making process, to allow the final decision makers to have Due Regard.