

Hastings & Rother – Leisure Facilities Strategy

Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council & East Sussex County Council



DRAFT SUMMARY FOR CONSULTATION

March 2009

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Introduction

1. In 2008, Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council (the Councils) and Sport England commissioned Capita Symonds to complete a Leisure Facilities Strategy (the Strategy) for Hastings and Rother. Freedom Leisure also contributed to the funding of the strategy.

The Scope of this Strategy

2. This Strategy seeks to identify optimum locations and levels of provision to help establish sustainable facilities, including the consideration of additions/changes to existing facilities to ensure viability throughout the period of the Strategy (2008 – 2020).
3. The key objectives of the Strategy are to:
 - analyse the supply and demand of facilities to identify gaps in provision and opportunities for improved facility provision
 - ensure that the delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken with full reference to the corporate strategies of the three authorities and other relevant strategic influences
 - clarify the role of the Councils as provider, partner, enabler and/or strategic director of leisure facility provision
 - identify alternative provision options
 - maximise engagement with key stakeholders.

Sports Facilities Included in the Strategy

4. The following types of facilities have been included in the strategy:
 - athletics tracks
 - sports halls
 - health & fitness suites
 - swimming pools
 - Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)
 - football stadia
 - indoor bowls facilities
 - outdoor bowling greens
 - indoor tennis
 - outdoor tennis courts
 - Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
 - climbing walls / climbing facilities
 - water sport facilities
 - skate parks.

The Purpose of this Document

5. This document is a draft summary of the work to date. It is intended to be used as the basis for consultation with local stakeholders, clubs, users and other interested parties. On completion of the consultation exercise, the draft findings will be updated and a final report completed.
6. The following pages contain a summary of the recommendations for future facilities needed, in both Hastings and Rother.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HASTINGS

7. The recommendations from the draft Strategy, for each facility type, are contained in Table 1. These recommendations relate to the quantity of facilities required, above the current levels. Other existing facilities will require replacement or refurbishment.
8. In addition, the location of new facilities must be considered. In the past there has been an opportunistic approach to facility development, often driven by funding opportunities. This has led to a degree of fragmentation, in terms of the location and mix of facilities. For example, the main leisure centres in Hastings and Bexhill are on split sites. This is uneconomical and leads to increased capital and revenue costs to the Councils.
9. Some existing community sports facilities face significant challenges in remaining viable in the long term, particularly Horntye Park, William Parker Athletics Arena and Hastings United Football Club. New developments are also likely in Hastings town centre, by Hastings College.
10. There are clearly opportunities to consolidate provision and to seek to create sustainable hubs, or clusters of activity, as opposed to further fragmentation of provision. New partnership opportunities are available and have been considered where they can benefit the Councils, partners and community users alike.
11. Table 1 contains a high level summary of the recommendations for Hastings. These recommendations relate to the quantity of facilities required, above the current levels. Other existing facilities will require replacement or refurbishment.

Table 1: Recommendations for Each Facility Type – Hastings

Facility Type	Additional Facilities Hastings
Athletics tracks	Additional support facilities required to include changing and toilets as a minimum.
Sports halls	Current provision is adequate – potential future oversupply
Health & fitness suites	A minimum of 70 additional health and fitness stations
Swimming pools	Equivalent of more than 4 lanes of a 25 metre, pool (238m ²)
Synthetic turf pitches	1 full sized, floodlit, third generation pitch.
Football stadia	Upgraded facilities required
Bowling greens indoor	None required
Bowling greens outdoor	None required
Indoor tennis courts	Between 8 and 9 courts
Outdoor tennis courts	None required
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's)	Further MUGAs to be provided in the future. Quantity and location to be confirmed
Climbing walls / climbing facilities	None required
Water sport facilities	A dedicated water sports centre with access facilities from the shore to the sea for a range of water craft.
Skate parks	There is likely to be an increased demand for skate parks. The current level of provision should be protected and increased.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ROTHER

12. Table 2 contains a high level summary of the recommendations for Rother. The table lists the facilities needed over and above those already provided. These recommendations relate to the quantity of facilities required, above the current levels. Other existing facilities will require replacement or refurbishment.

Table 2: Recommendations for Each Facility Type – Rother

Facility Type	Additional Facilities Rother
Athletics tracks	No athletics facilities required
Sports halls	Up to 6 badminton courts
Health & fitness suites	Between 55 – 101 stations
Swimming pools	Between 304m ² and 401m ² of pool water. This is equivalent to between 5 and 6 25m lanes.
Synthetic turf pitches	None, providing the planned facilities at Bexhill High School are delivered However, Claverham Community College has aspirations for 1 full size STP to serve curricular needs. It is possible that such a facility could also be used by community users. This would need to be subject to a detailed feasibility study to identify clear demand and to ensure that it complements the existing provision.
Football stadia	None required
Bowling greens indoor	None required
Bowling greens outdoor	None required
Indoor tennis courts	Deficit of 8.5 courts
Outdoor tennis courts	None required
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	Further MUGAs to be provided in the future. The quantity and location of these will be subject to further investigation by the Council.
Climbing walls / climbing facilities	None required
Water sport facilities	Access facilities from the shore to the sea for a range of water craft. Possible demand for a floodlit surf centre at Rock-A-Nore in Hastings.
Skate parks	Further skate parks to be provided. The quantity and location of these will be subject to further investigation by the Council

Next Steps

13. We are writing to a number of local stakeholders, clubs, users and other interested parties and you have been identified, by the Councils, as a key consultee. We would be grateful if you could spend some time considering the contents of this summary and completing the enclosed questionnaire (please see the questionnaire and covering letter for further information).
14. On completion of the consultation exercise, the draft findings will be updated and a final report presented to the Councils for approval.