



Chichester Indoor Sports Facilities Assessment 2018 -2036: Executive Summary

Overview

It has been the objective of this review to assist the Council to determine where built indoor sports facilities should be protected or enhanced (in terms of condition, meeting the needs of identified sports, location) and to identify the need and demand for new provision.

Health and exercise programmes are successfully delivered within the Council's main sports and leisure centres, and more locally within village and community halls. It is important that local new housing communities have access to indoor spaces where exercise classes, fitness programmes, yoga, short mat bowls and other physical activities can take place. The concept of health and well-being 'hubs' linking facilities that deliver such opportunities, indoor and outdoor, could be explored in more depth, for example linked to new housing developments.

Existing indoor sports facilities with assured community use at Westgate Leisure Centre, Bourne Leisure Centre and The Grange Leisure Centre (outside the Local Plan area) serve an existing need and demand for residents within the Local Plan Area (and within the South Downs National Park area) and their level of facility provision and locations should be protected. It is critically important that the provision of new or enhanced facilities meet future housing development needs and avoid deficiencies in accessibility, quality or quantity.

This study proposes a flexible approach to applying local standards to take account of the local circumstances that prevail in each sub area (such as access to education sports facilities now and in the future, and availability of other types of community hall, for example). It is important for the Council to seek to negotiate additional secured access to facilities (such as school sports halls) for community use in all sub-areas.

General policy recommendations are suggested in Section 5.3 of the main report.

Sub-area findings

East-West Corridor sub-area

Chichester City area

There is a need for 6 or 8 lane 25m swimming pool in Chichester to accommodate club training and competition (including spectator seating), diving, water polo and sub-aqua. This could replace the existing 33.3m pool. (The wider impact of any net loss of water square meterage per capita would need to be assessed). A movable boom could be provided at the existing Westgate Leisure Centre pool to provide a 25m competition option.



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There is an opportunity to further develop indoor tennis facilities between the University and Chichester Racquets and Fitness Club in partnership, supported by the LTA and the District Council, as a local and specialist sub-regional facility; a permanent indoor tennis hall structure could provide indoor courts adjacent to the existing Chichester Club, with community access.

The proposed athletics track at the University (J Section completed) should be completed as a sub-regional specialist facility for teaching, training, club and competition activities including indoor training facilities (sprint, jumps, throwing cage) and Sport Performance Centre.

The Council should continue to develop improved accessibility to indoor sports and community facilities by walking and cycling where possible, and through improved transport networks to and from rural areas in the District.

West of Chichester area

A strategic scale housing development is identified to the West of Chichester on land at Whitehouse Farm which would require additional indoor and outdoor community leisure space.

A possible 3G AGP (to World Rugby specification) with support changing and indoor coaching facilities could provide substantial usage opportunities to Bishop Luffa School, to Chichester Rugby Club, and to wider community clubs.

The concept of a health 'hub' linking indoor and outdoor facilities, health advice and treatment, could be developed alongside the new housing and population growth.

East of Chichester area

There is a current identified need in Tangmere for an additional community/sports hall (4 badminton court size) and ancillary facilities due to the difficult access to facilities in Chichester City and to the Westgate Leisure Centre.

Future new housing development is identified for the East of Chichester sub area; this will require suitable provision of additional indoor (and outdoor) community leisure spaces.

North East of Plan Area sub-area

Access to and from sport and leisure facilities is an issue for residents within the more rural parishes of the Chichester Local Plan area; it is recognised that residents will continue (and may prefer) to utilise sports facilities within the South Downs National Park or neighbouring authorities even whilst also identifying a need for their own local, dedicated community hall or swimming pool, for example.

The Manhood Peninsula sub-area



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Access to built indoor sports facilities in Chichester City remains difficult at peak times and for most residents living in the south of the sub area, where travel times are in excess of the suggested local standard; there is a greater demand than supply of indoor sports hall space at peak times, such as within the Selsey Centre.

Consultations have identified a demand for more locally accessible swimming pool space with secured community for residents within this sub area; while the Oasis (Bunn Leisure) allows community access to their 25m x 6 lane swimming pool, leisure pools and fitness gym (50 stations) for most of the year, it may be possible to secure greater community use of this facility.

There is a need for appropriate protection/enhancement/new provision of community halls where this applies; this may apply to East Wittering/Bracklesham sub-area subject to the level of proposed new housing development.

Community halls

Many settlements already have at least one small community venue, but fall short of the suggested standard for requiring additional halls; justified provision of community hall facilities is identified for Earnley and Sidlesham, with a new hall scheduled for construction in Westhampnett in 2018.

The suggested quantity, quality and accessibility standards should be interpreted and applied flexibly to best meet local circumstances, anticipated new housing and population growth where applicable, and including account of other community accessible spaces such as school halls, scout huts, church halls.

Aspirational standards

Aspirational standards may also be applied to the provision of indoor sports facilities and community halls where local circumstances call for provision greater than the suggested local standard as defined in the review.

Aspirational standards would seek to encourage both additional participation at grass roots level whilst encouraging competition, elite performance and to meet the Council's community health and well-being objectives and programmes.