

Redditch Borough Council

Built Facility Assessment and Strategy 2022 - 2032

An Executive Summary

December 2023



1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1. As set out in the Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy 2022-2032, Redditch Borough Council's Vision for future provision of leisure and culture in Redditch is:

Healthier and happier communities actively engaged in leisure and culture.

- 1.2. The Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy is an over-arching document, aligned to the Corporate Plan, comprising strategies for Parks and Open Spaces (including 4 Management Plans), Built Sports Facilities, Arts and Culture, and Playing Pitches. It recognises the contribution that leisure and culture can make to the achievement of our corporate and community priorities, and specifically community health and wellbeing.

Purpose of the Built Facility Assessment and Strategy (BFS)

- 1.3. The BFS informs the Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy and will guide future provision of indoor sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Redditch.

Methodology for developing the BFS

- 1.4. The BFS has been developed using the Sport England 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG)'. Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields used in the last 5 years e.g. if a new facility is proposed to be built on a playing field, and a consultee on other applications: it looks to improve the quality, access, and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand.
- 1.5. The key drivers for the production of the BFS as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:
1. **Protect:** To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support site allocations and development management policies which will protect sports facilities and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership;
 2. **Provide:** To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that the best uses are made of existing resources – whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance the existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets; and

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- 3. Enhance:** To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements (if on the infrastructure list) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and the local authority can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area.

Identified BFS Priorities

1.6. The BFS evidences the need for:

- Retaining existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports halls, squash courts, athletics track, and fitness stations;
- Investment in infrastructure of sports halls to maintain and improve the quality of the facilities although no additional sports hall provision is required to be built for community use either in 2021 or by 2040;
- Additional swimming pool provision is required now to meet current and future needs by 2040. The need is for circa 1 x 8 lane x 25m pool plus teaching pool 17m x 10m, or the equivalent of 553 sq m – 578 sq m of water space.
- Joint strategic planning of facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council, and specifically over future swimming provision.
- Negotiation to introduce Community Use Agreements on education sites to increase community access (pay and play); and
- Consideration of enhancing current facilities through planning obligation monies.

1.7. Retaining and improving the quality of provision is important in Redditch to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives (November 2020 - 2021) highlights that 31.5% of the Redditch community is inactive; if these people were to become more active then this would contribute to improved health and wellbeing.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 (R1)	Work with Rubicon Leisure to review existing programming at Abbey Stadium to facilitate casual access at peak times; this will require a re-balancing of time currently allocated to swimming club use.	(PROTECT)
Recommendation 2 (R2)	Explore the potential for integrated operational leisure management across both Redditch and Bromsgrove to identify economies of scale.	(PROVIDE)
Recommendation 3 (R3)	Explore the options available to Redditch Borough Council to address the current under-supply of water space in the Borough, working with BDC and Birmingham CC, given there is a geographical opportunity for collaboration between the three areas. A feasibility/options study is really needed to explore how additional swimming pool capacity could be developed in Redditch to meet both current and future demand. It could also be worth exploring the potential for collaboration with Stratford-Upon-Avon Council in relation to Studley swimming pool.	(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

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Recommendation 4 (R4)	Review the opportunity to consolidate community centre provision and potentially asset transfer more to the third/commercial sectors to reduce operational costs and resources.	(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)
Recommendation 5 (R5)	Redditch Borough Council to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e., Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls as and when opportunity arises proportionate to new developments.	(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)
Recommendation 6 (R6)	Upgrade ageing facilities (e.g. sports halls via planning monies if, by so doing, they increase community access. This has the potential to increase daytime access, which is lacking in the borough, particularly for older people.	(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)
Recommendation 7 (R7)	Improve access to built facilities for those with disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions e.g., pool pod	(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)
Recommendation 8 (R8)	<p>Identify very clear priorities for the Council’s Development Services Team to focus on the people and areas where their resources will have most impact</p> <p>Specific areas of work. should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embedding development capacity into the Integrated Care System (ICS) (as per national emphasis) with a focus on mental health, obesity and frailty, • the development of active environments across the borough • working collaboratively to engage with communities to understand the barriers to taking part in physical activity in Redditch • working collaboratively through a range of partnerships to co-design programmes and services meeting the needs of those who are inactive • effecting behaviour change by engaging the inactive • development of shared outcomes and KPIs to better monitor the impact of more people being regularly physically active • regular communication between partners to make best use of all available resources • development of a Physical Activity statement setting out the priorities to which facilities should contribute <p>aligned to the Government’s new Department of Culture Media and Sport Strategy: “Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity” encourages a cross-departmental approach at local authority level to supporting residents to be more active</p>	(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

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Recommendation 9 (R9)	i) Consider changing where management responsibilities for leisure and culture services ‘sit’ in the Councils to create a more integrated service, aligned to agreed outcomes and priorities. ii) Specifically consider facilitating a more joined-up and integrated approach to facility/venue management and the Council’s Development Services team aligned to delivery of Health and Wellbeing priorities; this could also involve transfer of some services to partner operators.	(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)									
Recommendation 10 (R10)	Invest in the development of additional/replacement facilities to address identified gaps: <table border="1" data-bbox="483 539 1675 1471"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="483 539 672 603">Facility Type</th> <th data-bbox="680 539 1196 603">Priority for Future Provision</th> <th data-bbox="1205 539 1675 603">Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 609 672 1225"> Sports Halls </td> <td data-bbox="680 609 1196 1225"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, </td> <td data-bbox="1205 609 1675 1225"> Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School, Abbey Stadium sports hall; Arrow Vale School, Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine’s School St Bede’s Catholic Middle School Trinity High School Tudor Grange Academy, </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1232 672 1471"> Swimming </td> <td data-bbox="680 1232 1196 1471"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. Development of additional water space to meet current and future </td> <td data-bbox="1205 1232 1675 1471"> Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council, Birmingham City Council Redditch Borough- Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Facility Type	Priority for Future Provision	Location	Sports Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community use/opening hours Refurbishment/replacement of existing ageing facilities – potentially through planning obligations Introduction of formal Community Use Agreements in schools to improve community access, especially during peak times Joint strategic planning of sports hall facilities with Bromsgrove District Council and other neighbouring local authorities, 	Abbey Stadium, Arrow Vale School, Trinity School, Tudor Grange School, Abbey Stadium sports hall; Arrow Vale School, Arrow Vale Sports and Leisure Centre St Augustine’s School St Bede’s Catholic Middle School Trinity High School Tudor Grange Academy,	Swimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint strategic planning of swimming facilities required with Bromsgrove District Council. Development of additional water space to meet current and future 	Redditch Borough and some engagement with Wychavon District Council, Birmingham City Council Redditch Borough- Kingsley Sports Centre and/or Abbey Stadium	(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)
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		demand (feasibility work required)			
	Health and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there is an oversupply of fitness stations in Redditch now and by 2040, it is important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations. Improvement in the quality of the poorer quality studio at Abbey Stadium Sports Centre 	Redditch Borough		
	Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing provision of 2 courts in the Borough to maintain supply of courts 	Redditch Borough		
	Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain provision of the synthetic track. Improve the track condition and quality by undertaking required track maintenance. 	Redditch Borough		
	Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for gymnastics clubs looking to find former industrial units in which to run gymnastics programmes. 	Redditch Borough		
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	General Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to retain community centres that can be used for informal sport and physical activity. Overall, and specifically through the housing growth agenda, provision of more active environments, reflecting active travel, cycle infrastructure, safe cycle routes to school, the need to link 	Redditch Borough		

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		existing and new communities with walking/cycling/jogging routes – all supporting access and movement			
Recommendation 11 (R11)	Provide support to gymnastics clubs looking to identify former industrial units as a club base, to develop gymnastics in the borough.				(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)
Recommendation 12 (R12)	Where appropriate, Redditch Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.				(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)
Recommendation 13 (R13)	Redditch Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Partnership.				(PROVIDE)
Recommendation 14 (R14)	Redditch Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion.				(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)
Recommendation 15 (R15)	There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.				(PROTECT)