

Hart Leisure Strategy. October 2007-2017.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Aims, Scope and Strategic Context

The Community Strategy for Hart District refers to a commitment to the encouragement of personal health and wellbeing, and the enhancement of the environment.

The Council's Corporate Plan then underlines this through the theme of contribution to the general health and wellbeing of our community via the promoting of cultural and leisure facilities which enhance the quality of life. This Leisure Strategy is therefore designed to link into these over arching strategies and is not a stand-alone document.

Leisure Mission Statement; Hart District Council aims to enable the provision of a range of high quality and accessible facilities, services and opportunities which meet the leisure, sport, health and physical activity needs of the District's communities. The component parts are

- Indoor sport and leisure
- Outdoor sport and play
- Parks, open spaces and commons
- Inland waters
- Aesthetic and performance

Improvement in the local quality of life manifests itself in a variety of ways including improved health, development of social skills, a fostering of community spirit, creation a healthy workforce and a subsequent reduction in stress related issues. These outcomes impact positively in terms of the demand for acute health services, an understanding and respect for others, the viability of local businesses, meaningful diversions from anti social behaviour and Hart as a place of choice to live. (Referred to as "Social Capital").

The Council's policies on equality and diversity are two major elements of the strategic approach to access. Accordingly all organisations working with or supported by the Council will be required to demonstrate their commitment to similar principles.

It is no coincidence that the high local levels of personal health and education are matched by the highest levels of physical activity in the South East of England. (MORI 2006). Indeed satisfaction levels with Council leisure and outdoor recreation services are in the upper quartile for the Country and represent an area where local residents have identified an improvement in service (Hart Household

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survey 2006). Further facility development is largely but not totally financially dependent on the S106 Developer contributions associated with new housing. Provision by and enabling of a variety of clubs and organisations will be supported on a strategic, District wide, basis as well as on a localised basis. The Council will not be the provider of all things. The intention is to encourage a variety of providers to offer new opportunities to the wider community in order to create the social capital that Hart will continue to need.

In developing the Strategy the Council has principally taken account of the Corporate Plan commitment to quality of life and a desire to maintain levels of community satisfaction. Supporting information is contained in the Leisure Strategy Companion Document of December 2006, the PPG17 Assessment Main Report of February 2006 and the Equality And Diversity Impact Assessment of May 2007.

1.2 Purposes of the Strategy

The purposes of the Leisure Strategy are to:

- Provide a strategic overview and a co-ordinated approach to future planning and resourcing of leisure provision in the district contained in the companion document
- Ensure leisure contributes to community health and safety
- Increase participation in leisure activities in the District
- Identify ways of addressing identified leisure needs
- Make particular provision for both younger and older people
- Develop a framework against which resources can be allocated and investment prioritised
- Harness the benefits of the 2012 Olympic Games

1.3 The Council's Role in Leisure Provision

The council has set itself the objectives of:-

- Ensuring everyone in the District has access to high quality sports and leisure facilities and services, including swimming pools, sports halls, fitness training equipment, all weather training areas, and arts and sport development opportunities
- Ensuring the most effective spatial distribution of facilities
- Maximising access to its existing leisure facilities
- Developing effective local leisure partnerships for the provision of facilities and services
- Enhancing and developing existing provision
- Enabling the delivery of additional facilities and opportunities
- Ensuring future provision is appropriately resourced and managed

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- Promoting physical activity in order to improve health

2 MAIN THEMES OF THE STRATEGY

2.1 Strategic Direction (SD)

The Council playing an enabling and facilitating role leads the strategic direction of leisure provision. Strategic priorities for the provision of facilities and services, and the realisation of opportunities, are as follows:-

- SD1 -** Allocating the resources to meet identified investment, development, capital and revenue funding
- SD2 -** Planning strategically across the District whilst taking account of provision beyond the District's boundaries
- SD3 -** Linking leisure provision into the evolving development planning framework for the District
- SD4 -** Optimising the funding and delivery opportunities provided by "Section 106" developer contributions for investment in leisure provision.
- SD5 -** Establishing a co-ordinated and consistent brand for leisure provision across the District
- SD6 -** Investing in opportunities and facilities either in house or with partners
- SD7 -** Completing an appraisal of service delivery and mechanisms used at periodic intervals

2.2 Partnerships (P)

Developing internal and external partnerships for provision is vital to the success of the Strategy. It is these partnerships which will secure active community ownership of and participation in leisure provision. They will assist in accessing external funding and identifying additional resources for the District. Providing a co-ordinated and joined-up approach to future leisure development/ delivery will ensure that both national priorities and local needs are effectively addressed. The Strategic aims are as follows: -

- P1 -** Ensuring provision of adequate development resources for countywide or local partnerships which could result in inward investment for the District
- P2 -** Ensuring that appropriate support is available to the voluntary network – which itself has significant potential to deliver provision
- P3 -** Improving awareness of potential opportunities to benefit the District in terms of participation, funding etc
- P4 -** Ensuring participation and involvement in countywide, cross-boundary and local partnerships which have the potential to complement council provision

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- P5 -** Establishing partnership initiatives with the Hampshire Primary Care Trust
- P6 -** Working with Parishes, local communities and local clubs to develop, programme and manage local provision.

2.3 Sport and Art Development Resources (SADR)

The Council will support the employment of sports and arts development staff to help organisations and individuals in the District. The strategic aims are as follows: -

- SADR 1-** Supporting the employment of sports and arts development officers to provide development resources for the District. Working within the community to develop participation, provide links between clubs and schools, promote talent identification and represent the District at those partnership initiatives from which it can benefit
- SADR 2 -** Identifying sufficient resources to support the prioritised leisure needs of the District, whether provided directly by the council or through its enabling/facilitating role.

2.4 Facility Development and Infrastructure (FD)

The following represents the identified demands and opportunities relating to leisure in the District. They are recorded in theme order. The Action Plan identifies the initial time-scales and targets attached to each item, thus creating a list of priority actions.

2.4.1 Indoor sport and art

- FD1 –** Refurbishment of Hart and Frogmore Leisure Centres
- FD2 -** Development of The Harlington Centre as a District wide arts and entertainment venue
- FD3 -** Development of Hart Leisure Centre as the indoor facility hub of the proposed Calthorpe Sports Village
- FD4-** Commitment to the future development of Elvetham Heath Community Centre and the joint use outdoor sports area
- FD5 -** Investigation into the provision of a new teaching/studio swimming pool or negotiated access to other externally operated facilities

2.4.2 Outdoor Sport

- FD6 -** Development of one multi-pitch site with changing facilities
- FD7 -** Development of at least two new artificial turf pitches
- FD8 -** Promotion of outdoor/indoor sports facilities in districts and parishes where opportunities present themselves or as identified by the Parish Councils
- FD9 -** Financial assistance with Tennis development in Odiham through the local club.

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2.4.3 Parks, Open Spaces and Commons

- FD10 -** Refurbishment of all play grounds and playing fields operated by HDC.
- FD11 -** Refurbishment of public parks operated by HDC
- FD12 -** Development of informal open space/countryside to include but not be limited to a Country Park at the Calthorpe (Hitches Lane) site
- FD13-** Development of youth provision in Blackwater, South Fleet/Church Crookham, and Crondall
- FD14 -** Promotion of specific green corridors for walking and cycling
- FD15-** Commitment to the protection of commons and heathlands as natural habitats open to informal public use
- FD16-** Investigation into the provision of allotments and implementation of outcomes.

2.4.4 Open Water

- FD17-** Completion of an environmental assessment of Fleet Pond (sic Nature Reserve) as a natural resource for informal and supervised recreational use. Implementation of an improvement programme
- FD18 -** Completion of an assessment of the role of the Council in the management of Basingstoke Canal. Implementation of the chosen response

2.5 Planning Standards – Quantitative (PS)

2.5.1 In February 2006 the Council completed and published its PPG17 Audit of leisure and open space provision in the District. The leisure strategy will adopt a standard of 3.9 hectares (ha) of public open space per 1000 population for new developments which is in line with the findings of its PPG17 Audit. In some cases the needs of the district will be better served by the provision of indoor facilities (e.g. as part of a community centre or sports centre) and the Council will take account of this in its negotiations with Developers. The exact nature of the open space or other provision will be agreed with the Developer of each site.

Residential developments of 1 to 19 dwellings will normally only be permitted where a contribution is made towards appropriate off-site provision. Developers will be expected to make provision in accordance with the tariff associated with this Policy of the Leisure Strategy, having regard to any deficiency of open space and leisure facilities in the locality.

Residential developments of 20 or more dwellings will normally only be permitted where open space is provided on site. The provision of open space on the site will be considered as an integral part of the design and layout of the new residential development, and designers are expected to include an open space scheme as part of

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the overall design. However financial obligations towards schemes off-site will also be sought from individual Developers where such a contribution may be more cost effective and operationally advantageous to the settlement than a series of small sites. Where such off -site contribution is required a pro rata contribution per person will be requested based on the tariff in this policy.

In determining whether S106 funds should be expended the Council places high priority on providing facilities in the locality of the development, the remainder to be set aside for the benefit of the whole District

2.5.2 The Leisure Tariff

2.5.2.1 Developer Units (DU) = Number of persons arising from the development based on the 2007 average figure of 2.72 persons per dwelling. For ease of calculation the following has been agreed.

- 1 bed dwelling = 2.0 persons
- 2 bed dwelling = 3.0 persons
- 3 bed dwelling = 4.0 persons
- 4 bed dwelling = 5.0 persons

Impact Multiplier (IM) = 3.9 ha of space per 1000 residents (39 sq. m /resident)

Cost Multiplier (CM) = £2352 / resident (i.e. total estimated capital programme £6.4M, divided by estimated increased occupants of new development of 5440 over ten years, multiplied by 2 to account for lack of on-site provision and pressure on existing facilities) subject to annual revision to take account of changes in the economic and developer environment.

Therefore; On-site provision = DU x IM
Off site provision = DU x CM.

2.5.2.2 The Council will expect any sum to be index-linked (upwards only), using the most appropriate linking formula, from the date of the agreement to the date that the sum is due. If the sum is not paid on the due date then the Council will expect that the sum is further increased monthly or part thereof at a rate of 4% above base rate of the Bank of England between the due date and the date the sum is actually received by the Council.

2.5.2.3 Where the Council agrees to receive a financial contribution towards leisure and/or recreation provision there should be no time limits on the expenditure of the monies received. The Council undertakes to expend all monies received on leisure and recreation provision in the district and where money remains unspent after completion of

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a project it will divert such monies into leisure and recreational provision elsewhere in the district.

2.5.2.4 Where the Council agrees to adopt land, facilities or equipment it will only do so where a financial contribution towards maintenance is provided in accordance with the following tariff. In line with Circular 05/2005 on planning obligations, where the facility is predominantly for the occupiers of the development then the Council will seek to ensure that the financial contribution provides sufficient funds to allow the land to be maintained in perpetuity. Where the facility is for wider public use then Developers will be required to provide for a minimum maintenance period of 25 years. In any event the land shall have been adequately maintained by the developer for a period of at least one year before it is adopted by the Council.

2.5.2.4 In calculating any perpetuity sum, the Council will expect the developer to provide sufficient sums based on contract rates identified by the Council for the maintenance of the land. That is to say;

The commuted sum being calculated as the net present value of the annual maintenance sum for such categories of Open Space play and recreation equipment as may from time to time be defined by the Council (including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing each category of Open Space play and recreational equipment required over a 25 year period including an allowance for price inflation and an expected interest rate based on the Public Works Loan Board 25 year lower quota rate.

- PS1** - Implementation of district-wide standards of provision for indoor leisure and linked into the planning framework to realise developer contributions.
- PS2** - Implementation of district wide standards of provision for outdoor sports/open spaces and linked into the planning framework to realise developer contributions
- PS3** - Implementation of district wide standards of provision of public art are linked into the planning framework to realise developer contributions.

2.6 Financial and Physical Resources (R)

Funding available through Developer contributions and external partnership/grant aid will be allied to the priorities set out in para 2.4. As Developer contributions are usually theme or development specific separate capital and revenue funding will be required to facilitate achievement of other priorities. In addition revenue funding of salaries and activities will be required to support capital investment and sustain long term action.

- R1** - Capital reserves to be identified for specific projects

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- R2 -** S106 Developer contributions. Individual contributions aggregated to create a fund
- R3 -** S106 Developer contributions. Specific sums dedicated to specific projects
- R4 -** Revenue funding to enable Hart to benefit from external funding sources and partnership opportunities through the matched funding process
- R5 -** Allocation of long term revenue investment to maintain the role of a Sports Development Officer
- R6 -** Allocation of long term revenue funding to appoint and maintain the role of an Arts Development Officer.
- R7 -** Reduction in revenue income to support the introduction of concessionary pricing.

2.7 Leisure and the Wider Agenda (LWA)

It is important to evaluate the contribution of leisure provision to the wider local agenda of community safety, health, community cohesion, improved quality of life, and the achievement of community plan objectives. The Council will therefore: -

- LWA 1 -** Establish a mechanism to evaluate the contribution of local leisure provision to the wider agenda within the District
- LWA 2 –** Use the 2012 Olympics as a catalyst to encourage people to build physical activity into their every-day lives and to promote volunteering as a means to deliver greater participation.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION

3.1 This Strategy is designed in the form of a blueprint for direction over a ten-year period. It is directly linked to the needs of the community and the numbered themes will be used as signposts to future delivery. In turn those signposts will inform the Action Plans which will flow from periodic reviews thus ensuring the relevance of the strategy as time progresses.

3.2 This Strategy was adopted in October 2007 and will undergo a complete review before October 2012.