

## REPORT TO CABINET

31 January 2018

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Sandwell Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy</b>
<b>Presenting Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Paul Sandars – Chair of Select Committee for Leisure Provision Councillor Paul Moore - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Director - Housing and Communities - Alan Caddick</b>
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Forward Plan (28-day notice) Reference:</b>	SMBC16173
<b>Member Approval and Date:</b>	Councillor Sandars – 16 December 2017 Councillor Moore – 13 December 2017
<b>Director Approval:</b>	Alan Caddick – 11 December 2017
<b>Reason for Urgency:</b>	Urgency provisions do not apply
<b>Exempt Information Ref:</b>	Exemption provisions do not apply
<b>Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):</b>	This is a boroughwide initiative
<b>Scrutiny Consultation Considered?</b>	Scrutiny have not been consulted
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Chris Jones Business Manager – Sport & Leisure <a href="mailto:chris2_jones@sandwell.gov.uk">chris2_jones@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

## **DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **That Cabinet:**

1. Approve the adoption of the Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy;
2. Authorise the Executive Director - Neighbourhoods to develop further reports to Cabinet for the following priority opportunities:
  - O1 – Develop an aquatics centre providing competitive and community swimming and diving facilities in Smethwick;
  - O8 – Secure the long-term sustainability of golf in Sandwell by supporting independent clubs, creating a golf development pathway, and identifying potential alternative uses for Brandhall Golf Course.
3. The Council be recommended to appoint Members to the Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy Members Working Group.

## **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the findings of the Select Committee for Leisure Provision and the approval of the Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy, prior to a report to full Council.

## **2 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S VISION**

- 2.1 The Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy, with input from the Select Committee, will help improve our sport and active leisure offer in the borough, which will directly support the Vision 2030 ambition for Sandwell's communities to live healthy lives.
- 2.2 Improved leisure facilities will also help the ambition to strengthen Sandwell's towns as successful centres of community life. The partnership approach which is utilised in Sandwell will also contribute towards the ambition to have a reputation for getting things done.

## **3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Beginning in 2009, Sandwell Council has delivered a capital programme for the replacement of aged leisure facilities in Tipton, Oldbury, and Wednesbury along with a new facility in West Bromwich.

- 3.2 To assess the need to continue this programme at the meeting of Council on 19 July 2016, the Select Committee for Leisure Provision was established to review leisure provision, with a primary focus on the older facilities in Sandwell.
- 3.3 Throughout the last 12 months, the Select Committee has considered a wide-ranging evidence base which has included: -
- Baseline information on Sandwell's population, participation in sport and current facilities;
  - A wide-ranging consultation with the public, local organisations and clubs;
  - Engagement with strategic partners including regional and national governing bodies for various sports;
  - An assessment of leisure facilities across the Black Country and the impact on Sandwell; and
  - Strategic assessments and planning models carried out by Sport England of sports halls and swimming facilities in Sandwell.
- 3.4 At the meeting of Cabinet on 28 June 2017, the Select Committee updated on progress and it was agreed that a further report would be presented to Cabinet for consideration recommending the approval of the Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facility Strategy (126/17).

## 4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 All the information that has been considered by the Select Committee has been amalgamated into the Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy.
- 4.2 This strategy details the current position of sport and leisure facilities in Sandwell and its ability to deal with residents demands / needs now and forecast in the future.
- 4.3 It highlights that there is shortfall in the supply of swimming facilities and sports halls in Sandwell and that this shortfall will only increase as the demand for such facilities grows in the future due to the increase in the population of Sandwell, an increase that is projected to be above the national average.
- 4.4 The strategy also highlights that the oldest facilities in Sandwell - Langley Swimming Centre, Smethwick Swimming Centre, Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre, and Brandhall Golf Course are in a poor condition and do not meet the needs of residents. It suggests that these facilities are identified for remodelling or redevelopment with new and modern facilities in the short-term to ensure that demand is met in Sandwell.

- 4.5 The strategy recommends that Hadley Stadium, Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Tipton Sports Academy, and facilities at Swan Pool are identified for investment in the medium to long term.
- 4.6 The strategy, having been developed in conjunction with Sport England and Swim England, highlights the demand for a competitive swimming facility in Sandwell as one does not currently exist. The provision of such a facility would allow the growth of swimming, the second most demanded activity by residents, in Sandwell.
- 4.7 The strategy, building on the work completed in Sandwell's Revised Playing Pitch Strategy which was approved at the meeting of Cabinet on 16 September 2015 (156/15), highlights that there is spare capacity at all golf courses in Sandwell to accommodate current and future demand. In the Black Country only 1.94% of residents play golf, this is lower than the national average which is 2.54%. Membership and usage numbers at Brandhall Golf Course have dropped significantly over the past 3 years and the facility requires a substantial subsidy for it to remain open. With demand being catered for by other golf courses in Sandwell and the declining membership numbers at Brandhall Golf Course, the strategy recommends that the future use of the facility is reviewed and potential alternative uses are identified.

## **5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 5.1 To enable the Select Committee to understand the views of Sandwell residents, a comprehensive community consultation was undertaken over a period of 12 weeks. This consultation took the form of an online survey for residents to complete, which attracted 793 responses, and face to face / telephone consultation with local community groups, schools, and sports clubs.
- 5.2 The community consultation focused on residents' views on whether the existing older leisure facilities are in a good condition, meet their needs, and what further activities they would wish to participate in should facilities be remodelled or replaced with new provision.
- 5.3 The Select Committee also consulted with National Governing Bodies for Sport to understand what their priorities are for Sandwell and the facilities that would be required to meet their needs.
- 5.4 This consultation was conducted between January and May 2017.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 If the Council does not have an updated Built Leisure Facilities Strategy, it will miss out on opportunities to drive improvements to our sport and active leisure offer within the borough. This would also mean that potential health benefits for our residents would not be realised.
- 6.2 Without a Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy the Council are limited on the grant funding opportunities to support any capital works in the future.

## **7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 As this report is seeking the approval of a strategic document, there are no strategic resource implications. Any actions or projects that arise out of the approval of this strategy will seek further approval at Cabinet at which time the strategic resource implications of each project will be laid out.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 As this report is seeking the approval of a strategic document, there are no legal and governance considerations. Any actions or projects that arise out of the approval of this strategy will seek further approval at Cabinet at which time the legal and governance considerations for each project will be laid out.

## **9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been completed and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. Any actions or projects that arise out of the approval of this strategy will seek further approval at Cabinet at which time Equality Impact Assessments will be completed accordingly.

## **10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 All information held for this work has been subject to the Council's Data Protection policy.

## **11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT.**

- 11.1 As this report is seeking the approval of a strategic document, there is no impact on crime and disorder in Sandwell. Any actions or projects that arise out of the approval of this strategy will seek further approval at Cabinet at which time details concerning the impact on crime and disorder and full risk assessments will be laid out.

## **12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

- 12.1 Any actions or projects that arise out of the approval of this strategy will seek further approval at Cabinet at which time any impact on Council managed property or land will be laid out.

## **13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

- 13.1 The adoption of this strategy will enable the Council to make improvements to sport & leisure built facilities. This improvement will have a long-term positive impact on the health and wellbeing of Sandwell residents. The full implications of this positive impact on health and wellbeing will be detailed in future reports to Cabinet that consider the individual actions and projects arising from the delivery of the strategy.

## **14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

- 14.1 As this report is seeking the approval of a strategic document, there is no impact on any Council managed property or land. Any actions or projects that arise out of the approval of this strategy will seek further approval at Cabinet at which time any impact on Council managed property or land will be laid out.

## **15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 15.1 In conclusion, it is recommended that the Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facility Strategy is approved by Cabinet.
- 15.2 The approval of this strategy will enable Sandwell Council to continue the provision of state of the art leisure facilities for Sandwell residents, making Sandwell a place where all people can engage in an active lifestyle through sport and leisure.

## **16 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 16.1 Sandwell Sport & Leisure Built Facilities Strategy

**Alan Caddick**  
**Director – Housing and Communities**