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(Tel: 01443 864245 Email: barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Date: 31st October 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A Special meeting of the **Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Thursday, 8th November, 2018** at **5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days, and a simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meetings and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

**Christina Harrhy**  
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## A G E N D A

	Pages	
1	To receive apologies for absence.	
2	Declarations of Interest.	

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers

A greener place Man gwyrddach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



To receive and consider the following report:-

3 Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29.

1 - 82

**Circulation:**

Councillors J. Bevan, D.T. Davies (Chair), C. Elsbury, Mrs C. Forehead (Vice Chair), R.W. Gough, A.G. Higgs, A. Hussey, S. Kent, Ms P. Leonard, J. Ridgewell, J. Scriven, G. Simmonds, A. Whitcombe, T.J. Williams, W. Williams and B. Zaplatynski

And Appropriate Officers

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## SPECIAL REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 8TH NOVEMBER 2018

**SUBJECT: DRAFT SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY 2019-29**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the public consultation exercise and to seek Committee's views on the updated draft Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 prior to presenting to Cabinet for consideration.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At its meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended a draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 to Cabinet. The draft Strategy was approved by Cabinet for public consultation at their meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018. This report presents a draft strategy, amended following the consultation exercise, which set out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. For the purposes of the draft Strategy (Appendix 1) and this report sport and active recreation is defined as the range of sport and physical activity opportunities provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council in conjunction with our key partners.
- 2.2 A ten week consultation period was undertaken to obtain the views of Caerphilly County Borough residents, existing users and a broad range of stakeholders. Views were sought via a questionnaire and 11 drop-in sessions that were held across the county borough to provide the opportunity for one to one discussions with Officers. 711 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire with a further 20 written responses also being received.
- 2.3 The full report of the consultation responses is available at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk). In summary, there was broad support for the draft Strategy's Vision and proposed Actions to support the Vision. Similarly, there was support for the 3 Key Outcomes supporting actions identified in the draft Strategy. In the *What Needs to be Done* section of the draft Strategy there was both agreement and disagreement with the actions identified and these are considered in more detail in the report. This report presents the issues raised through the consultation and the Committee's views are sought on an amended draft Strategy at Appendix 1 prior to presentation to Cabinet for approval and adoption.
- 2.4 An important factor for Members to consider is the period of time (2019-2029) to be covered by the Strategy. It is therefore important to remember that any decisions arising from the Strategy (if adopted) will be taken over the 10 year period and will be the subject of specific reports to Cabinet.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 supports the following Wellbeing Objectives within the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-23:
- Improve education opportunities for all;
  - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable development principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
  - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.
- 3.2 The draft Strategy also supports the Wellbeing Objectives within the Caerphilly Public Services Board's Wellbeing Plan, 'The Caerphilly We Want':
- Positive Change – A shared commitment to improving the way we work together
  - Positive Start – Giving our future generations the best start in life
  - Positive People – Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential
  - Positive Places – Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable
- 3.3 The draft Strategy will also contribute to the draft Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough, 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023'.
- 3.4 The Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:
- A prosperous Wales.
  - A resilient Wales.
  - A healthier Wales.
  - A more equal Wales.
  - A Wales of cohesive communities.
  - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
  - A globally responsible Wales.

The content of this report supports: A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, A globally responsible Wales, A more equal Wales.

- 3.5 Through this Strategy Caerphilly County Borough Council will also contribute to Sport Wales' Community Sport outcomes namely:
- Generating increased frequencies of regular participation;
  - Targeting inequalities and barriers to participation;
  - Providing high quality opportunities allowing our most talented athletes to realise their potential.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 At its meeting of 26th June 2018, Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended a draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 to Cabinet. The draft Strategy was approved by Cabinet for public consultation at their meeting of 27th June 2018. Following a Members' Seminar on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 the draft Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy was the subject of a ten week consultation exercise between 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

- 4.2 711 completed surveys were returned by the closing date, with 20 further written responses also received. Of those who responded to the survey:
- 94% indicated that they were a resident of the county borough
  - 12% work within the county borough
  - 8% represented a local sport club or organisation
  - 3% indicated that they were a local business person and a further 3% were elected members
  - 50% were Leisure Lifestyle members
  - 51% were male and 49% were female
  - 68% indicated that they normally travel to the place where they take part in sport and active recreation by car, 23% walk, 4% cycle 4% use public transport.
- 4.3 Respondents were asked to indicate which facilities they had accessed to take part in sport and active recreation within Caerphilly county borough at least once a month during the last 12 months. The results indicate that leisure centres had been used by the highest proportion of respondents (68%) in the last year. A significant number had also visited country parks (57%) and parks and children's play areas (44%) at least once a month in the last 12 months. The leisure centres used most often by respondents were Pontllanfraith, Newbridge, Cefn Fforest and Caerphilly. The country parks used most often by respondents were Parc Penallta and Penyfan Pond. The parks and children's play areas used most often by respondents were Ystrad Mynach, Morgan Jones and Blackwood Showfield.
- 4.4 85% agreed with the Vision to encourage healthy lifestyles and support our residents to be more active, more often. In respect of the Actions underpinning that Vision 75% agreed that encouraging a collective responsibility will enable the council to best deliver its vision for the county borough. 44% agreed with supporting others and only directly providing where the need is great and no others have the expertise or capacity to. Whilst 37 % disagreed, a further 19% indicated that they "didn't know" in relation to this approach
- 4.5 The draft Strategy identified 3 Outcomes:
- 96% agreed that "better health" should be a key outcome of the strategy;
  - 91% agreed that "healthier and prosperous communities" should be a key outcome;
  - 70% agreed that "a more efficient and sustainable future provision" should be a key outcome.
- 41% felt that there were outcomes missing and these are considered further in the Report of Consultation at Appendix 2.
- 4.6 There was strong agreement with the actions identified under the "better health" outcome:
- 97% agreed that our future generations should be inspired to adopt healthy active lifestyles
  - 96% agreed that the council should support and encourage the provision of more opportunities for more daily active recreation in our communities and work places;
  - 84% agreed with the provision of specialist interventions e.g. exercise referral, outreach work using physical activity.
- 4.7 There was agreement with the actions outlined under the "healthier and prosperous communities" outcome:
- 88% agreed that working with community sports clubs and their governing bodies to help our clubs become bigger and stronger
  - 60% agree with reviewing the commercial business case and options for a new or improved leisure attraction in the south west of the county borough (17% don't know).

- 4.8 There was also agreement with the actions identified under the outcome “a more efficient and financially sustainable future provision”:
- 94% agree with maximising the use of all our community amenities and the local environment
  - 54% agree with maximising use of assets through co-locations, invest to save models and aim to reduce subsidy levels at our strategic leisure centres to between £1 and £1.20 per user (16% don't know)
  - 74% agree with creating more sustainable facilities by improving schools use agreements and investment in more attractive strategic facilities
  - 63% agree with focussing our unique and essential role on providing specialist interventions in communities (20% don't know)
  - 87% agree with motivating young people - commissioning and supporting our schools to provide the right learning environment that is also available for community activity at appropriate times
  - 70% agree that where there is a business case, we will invest in key, strategic facilities (17% don't know)
  - 89% agreed that the council should ensure that strategic facilities directly operated by us receive the level of regular investment required to ensure that equipment and facilities are safe, functional, modern and inspirational.
- 4.9 In the *What Needs to be Done* section of the draft Strategy there was agreement with all the actions detailed under Corporate Policy with one exception:
- 97% agreed Sport and active recreation makes a significant contribution to achieve healthy lifestyles, education, economy and regeneration across the County borough.
  - 58% disagreed that it is no longer feasible for the Council to provide the 'same service for all' whilst only 25% agreed with this statement and a further 17% indicated that they “don't know”.
  - 89% agreed that the Council should work with others to make the best use of all available opportunities, facilities, funding and people.
  - 92% agreed that the Council should make better and more innovative use of the widest possible range of indoor and outdoor physical activity spaces across all communities.
  - 77% agreed that the Council should follow a joint sport and active recreation and schools strategy to include a new robust joint use agreement with schools.
- 4.10 In relation to the Facilities section of the draft Strategy:
- 58% agreed with adopting the Welsh Government and Sport Wales Facilities Blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation.
  - 50% agreed with adopting a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic Leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. 17% disagreed and 33% said they “don't know”.
  - 69% agreed that the Council should seek clarity on the future swimming entitlement along with supporting the rationale for a sustainable programme of aquatic delivery also informing the need for future aquatic facilities.
  - 90% agreed that the Council should develop a plan to enhance and maximise the impact of outdoor spaces, playing fields, parks and informal recreational spaces.
  - 81% agreed with maximising the use of 3G facilities for school, community and weekend competitive use alongside the grass pitch network.
  - 52% felt the impact of rationalising leisure facilities would be negative.
- 4.11 There was strong agreement that outreach intervention programmes should continue:
- 95% agreed that the Council should continue to collaborate with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles.

- 95% agreed that the Council should continue to provide targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities.
  - 88% agreed that the Council should continue to encourage and support federations of clubs sharing resources.
  - 81% agreed that the Council should continue to provide specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider.
  - 82% agreed that the Council should continue to lead the regional Active Gwent collaboration programme to increase participation in sport and physical activity in a way that has the greatest impact in Caerphilly.
- 4.12 After the public consultation on the draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy a petition was presented at Council on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 by Councillor Kevin Etheridge with 5343 signatories to: *Action against possible closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.*
- 4.13 The consultation results provide broad support for the draft Strategy and its 10 year Vision, the Key Outcomes within it, and the proposed actions that underpin it. As indicated in 4.3 above a high proportion of respondents are regular users of leisure centres. 52% of respondents felt that rationalising leisure centres would have a negative impact. The potential for some negative impacts on some groups should facilities close has been recognised as detailed in the Equalities Impact Assessment attached at Appendix 3 and steps will be taken to mitigate those. As well as the petition referenced in the preceding paragraph a number of responses to the public consultation specifically referenced concerns around the potential closure of two facilities, Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre. Clearly there is a body of respondents who have focussed on these two facilities which has not played out across the rest of the county borough in relation to other facilities. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy sets out a long term, countywide approach and as mentioned there is broad support for that.
- 4.14 The draft Strategy proposes adoption of the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. This means that over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. During the course of the consultation an expression of interest was received from a third party interested in taking over the management of Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre. The Council is acutely aware of concerns regarding any potential loss of facilities and will give careful consideration to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Decisions on each will be the subject of separate reports and a specific decision making process as the Authority evolves to the new model of provision over the lifetime of the Strategy.
- 4.15 The draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. For the purposes of the draft Strategy (Appendix 1) and this report sport and active recreation is defined as the range of sport and physical activity opportunities provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council in conjunction with our key partners.
- 4.16 The benefits of leading a physically active lifestyle for our residents are well documented and, acknowledging the current financial climate within which local authorities operate, a clear strategic direction is essential. The draft Strategy recognises the multiple challenges of poor levels of health, particularly in certain areas of the County; reducing budgets; the large number of facilities across the County and the deteriorating quality of our older buildings; and increasing population and consumer demand. The Council does not have a statutory responsibility to provide most of our current sport and active recreation services. This discretionary provision, the maintenance of our facilities and services, has to be measured against their positive impact on our corporate priorities of health, regeneration, education, and future affordability.

4.17 The support for the draft Strategy received through the consultation is welcomed. The draft Strategy at Appendix 1 has been the subject of minor amendments in the light of the responses and feedback received through the course of the consultation process. More significant amendments have been made as a result of specific representations received and more detail on these is provided in the Report of Consultation at Appendix 2; in summary, after their consideration, the following changes have been made:

- Text added to confirm that wellbeing includes physical and mental health.
- Text added to confirm that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.
- Additional text to confirm the linkages to the Caerphilly Public Services Boards Wellbeing Plan, *The Caerphilly We Want*, across a number of the Wellbeing Plan Action Areas.
- Action added to the Healthier and Prosperous Communities Outcome in relation to pre-school activity.
- Text added to recognise the opportunity to link delivery of this Strategy with the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- Reference to Active Travel expanded to strengthen the linkages and highlight the significant infrastructure that exists across the county borough.

## 5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 The issues outlined in this report make a contribution across the seven well-being goals, but in particular to the following areas:

1. **A healthier Wales:** There is significant evidence to support the view that undertaking an active lifestyle has significant benefits in terms of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease along with positive impacts upon mental health and body weight control. The role of community centres is significant in terms of supporting the integration of physical activity into everyday lifestyles.
2. **A prosperous Wales:** There is significant evidence of the essential role that sport and physical activity plays in regenerating communities, raising aspirations and making them a more attractive place to live, work and visit.
3. **A Wales of cohesive communities:** Caerphilly County Borough Council has communicated a vision to place its facilities at the heart of the community, ensuring it is effectively placed to deliver a well-connected, socially inclusive hub.
4. **A globally responsible Wales:** There is significant evidence to support the positive impact that leading a healthy, physically active lifestyle has upon the economic, social and cultural well-being of Welsh residents.
5. **A more equal Wales:** There is significant evidence to support the positive role that engaging in community activity can play in supporting people to fulfil their potential from both an educational and socio economic perspective.

5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed as follows:

- **LONG TERM** - The existing Sport and Leisure Services estate across the whole of the authority is not sustainable in the long term due to cuts in the revenue available to the local authority. Securing the provision of sport and active recreation services now and in the future requires that difficult decisions have to be made that balance short term



considerations against long term sustainability. The current financial climate means that it is not possible to continue subsidising all existing provision and so decisions must be taken now to secure a sustainable sports and leisure service for future generations.

- **INVOLVEMENT** - An extensive consultation was undertaken with a broad range of stakeholders. Inevitably residents will wish to see as many local authority services as close to their homes as possible, and this view would be held by all communities within the county borough.
- **PREVENTION** - The promotion of health and well-being now, prevents need in the future and reduces demand on public services. In preparing the proposed vision and strategic direction we have sought to maintain sports and leisure services accessibility for the community as far as is practicable and affordable.
- **COLLABORATION** - Sport and Leisure Services currently collaborates with a range of partners both locally and regionally to develop services that support increased opportunity and engagement.
- **INTEGRATION** - Sport and Leisure Services have considered how the proposed vision and strategic direction may impact on the well-being goals and in so doing have been mindful of the requirement to provide a holistic sports and leisure offer that is still accessible across the county borough utilising all available resources.

## 6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared at this consultation stage in accordance with the Authority's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 and is included at Appendix 3. The potential for some negative impacts has been identified associated with mobility issues for some groups with protected characteristics should some leisure facilities close. However, the proposal to focus on 4 strategic leisure facilities accessible by public transport will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, geographic coverage across the county borough. There is no statutory requirement for the Council to provide these facilities and this represents a fair and just allocation of resources that will deliver continued sport and leisure provision into the future for the benefit of all. The new model of service delivery will evolve over the 10 year lifetime of the Strategy and careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.
- 6.2 Actions are proposed to mitigate some potential negative impacts that have been identified and these potential impacts are outweighed by the overall benefits of ensuring sustainable sport and active recreation provision across the county borough. The consultation exercise has been used to strengthen our understanding of any potential positive or negative impacts and the Equality Impact Assessment has been revised as a result.
- 6.3 The proposal supports Strategic Equality Objective 3: Improving Physical Access, Strategic Equality Objective 5: Inclusive Engagement and Participation, Strategic Equality Objective 6: Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards, and Strategic Equality Objective 7: Supporting Age-friendly Communities.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications at this stage. Should the Strategy be formally adopted then proposed actions will be the subject of separate reports over the 10 year course of the Strategy that will include detailed financial implications. Any decisions will be dependent on the availability of funding and the approval of a robust business case.
- 7.2 The cost of delivering the services identified within the draft Strategy are set out in greater detail in the document, however the table below provides an overview of the net cost of each:

Service Area	Net cost
Leisure Centres	£1,928,047 (inc £213,300 Free Swim Initiative grant)
Community Centres	£358,855
Property Services – Statutory Maintenance at Leisure Centres	£20,000 in 2017/18
Sports Development	
• Caerphilly Adventures	£143,091
• National Exercise Referral	£174,677 (Grant Funded)
• Sports Development	£430,200 (Grant Funded)
Central Leisure Costs	£666,034
Outdoor and Green Spaces	£4,458,662

It should be noted that the above reflects current budgets which will need to reduce as a consequence of the ongoing public sector austerity.

- 7.3 It is noted that the largest investment by the authority is the built infrastructure, in particular the network of leisure centres. The majority of facilities as stated earlier were built in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Buildings of this age are traditionally not energy efficient, despite investments in various Local Authority Energy Finance projects and are also subject to a significant outstanding maintenance liability.
- 7.4 The last service wide condition surveys undertaken on the leisure centre portfolio was in 2012 which identified circa £3 million of category 1, 2 and 3 requirements. Whilst there has been investment in addressing, particularly category 1 aspects, it should be noted that it is likely this cost pressure will increase upon completion of updated condition surveys. There is currently no budget or capital set aside for the £3 million backlog. In 2013/2014, £395,000 of Leisure Centre revenue budget was transferred to Property Services for building maintenance and there is a potential saving if the condition of the stock could be improved. There is the potential for capital receipts if rationalisation of facilities is adopted, which would generate funds that could be reinvested in sport and active recreation.
- 7.5 A key aspiration of the draft Strategy is the requirement to address the position in respect of Caerphilly Leisure Centre. It has been clearly identified that the south west of the county borough will experience a significant population growth over the strategy timeline. This growth provides an opportunity to develop a Level 3 style facility that supports the authority's aim of Caerphilly as a tourist destination.
- 7.6 Proposals developed by Sport and Leisure Services in partnership with Alliance Leisure in 2017 identified four options to address Caerphilly Leisure Centre, namely:-
1. Do nothing and continue to subsidise at present values
  2. Refurbishment Option 1 – Circa £5.188m
  3. Refurbishment Option 2 – Circa £8.915m
  4. New Build Option – Circa £13-15m

However, it should be noted these costs would be subject to construction industry inflation given that they are some 12 months old. Any decision to progress refurbishment or new build would be dependent on the availability of funding and the approval of a robust business case.

- 7.7 The Strategy also identifies the need for a capital budget (of circa £200k per annum) for replacement of key equipment at the directly managed strategic sites.

## 8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no personnel implications at this stage; however should the strategy be formally adopted then due consideration will be required to establish future resource requirements.

## 9. CONSULTATION

9.1 The draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy was promoted and to launch the consultation a 2 minute video was produced. The video explained the key points of the strategy as well as identifying current financial challenges. 135,809 individuals were reached via social media with 7,242 likes, shares and comments and 250 consultation link clicks. The draft Strategy was subject to the following consultation process:

TIMESCALES	ACTIVITY
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Pre consultation - Members Seminar
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July – 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018	10 week public and stakeholder consultation period
Mid June	Newsline signposting to consultation
At outset of consultation period and follow up	NewsOnline Promotion
At outset of consultation period and follow up	Press activity + social media – Facebook and Twitter
For 10 week consultation period	Website – banner on front page Online survey (SNAP).
For 10 week consultation period	Posters in public facing Council venues and paper versions of survey available from leisure centres, main public facing council buildings and other venues impacted – community centres, country parks and schools
During 10 week consultation period	Surgery/drop in sessions to be held at key locations across the borough - promoted using above tools
At outset of 10 week consultation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct correspondence with groups as outlined in the Consultation and Monitoring Guidance document covering protected characteristics. This may be via e-mail or letter or face to face with groups as appropriate</li> <li>• Age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Youth forum</li> <li>– 50+ forum</li> <li>– Age Cymru</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Deafblind.org,</li> <li>– RNIB Cymru,</li> <li>– Action Hearing Loss Cymru,</li> <li>– BDA,</li> <li>– Disability Can Do,</li> <li>– Caerphilly County Borough Access Group,</li> <li>– Caerphilly People First,</li> <li>– Disability Sports Wales,</li> <li>– Caerphilly Borough Mind</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pregnancy and Maternity – general consultation</li> <li>• Race <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS)</li> <li>– Race Equality Council,</li> <li>– SEWREC</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Religion or Belief – general consultation</li> <li>• Sex – general consultation</li> <li>• Sexual orientation and gender reassignment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Umbrella Cymru</li> <li>- LGBTQ+ youth group,</li> <li>- Stonewall Cymru</li> <li>• Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Menter Iaith,</li> <li>- Welsh Language Forum</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
At outset of 10 week consultation period	<p>Direct correspondence with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All smart card users (for leisure centres)</li> <li>• Sports and clubs across the county borough</li> <li>• All groups who use leisure facilities for any other activities</li> <li>• Community centre secretaries and all groups who use community centres currently</li> <li>• All groups who use tourism venues for active recreation.</li> </ul>
At outset of 10 week consultation period	<p>Direct correspondence with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All local Councillors</li> <li>• All town and community councils</li> <li>• WLGA</li> <li>• Dragons Rugby</li> <li>• Coleg-y-Cymoedd</li> <li>• Future Generations Commissioner</li> <li>• Older People's Commissioner</li> <li>• Children's Commissioner</li> <li>• Welsh Language Commissioner</li> <li>• Equalities and Human Rights Commission</li> <li>• Local Assembly Members</li> <li>• Local Members of Parliament</li> <li>• Partner organisations through the Public Services Board and Standing Conference members</li> <li>• Voluntary sector through GAVO</li> <li>• All schools via head teachers</li> <li>• Further and Higher Education Colleges</li> <li>• Business forum</li> <li>• All private sector leisure providers within the county borough</li> <li>• Neighbouring local authorities whose provision may be impacted</li> <li>• Welsh Athletics</li> <li>• Sport Wales</li> </ul>

9.2 711 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire with a further 20 written responses also being received. The full report of the consultation responses is available at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk).

9.3 This report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

## 10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the public consultation responses and make any recommendations on the updated draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 prior to presentation to Cabinet for consideration.

## 11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To set out to all stakeholders the strategic vision for the delivery of sport and active recreation services within the county borough.

## 12. STATUTORY POWER

### 12.1 Local Government Act 1972.

Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Policy and Public Protection  
Consultees: Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director, Communities  
Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services  
Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager  
Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Services Development Manager  
Mike Headington, Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager  
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)  
Mike Eedy, Finance Manager  
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Background Papers: 'Strategic Review of Leisure Facilities' report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

'Review of Existing Formal Recreation and Leisure Facilities' report to Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Wales Audit Office Report 'Review of the development of a sport and leisure strategy – Caerphilly County Borough Council' May 2016.

'Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29' report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 26<sup>th</sup> June and Cabinet 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029

Appendix 2: Report of Consultation

Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment

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Caerphilly County Borough Council

# SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY 2019-2029



Man gwyrdach ar gyfer chwaraeon a dull byw gweithredol  
A greener place for sport and active lifestyles



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	<b>2</b>
STRATEGY PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES	<b>5</b>
A REVIEW OF WHAT WE KNOW - INFORMING FUTURE DECISIONS	<b>15</b>
MAJOR CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME	<b>23</b>
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE	<b>31</b>





# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCING THIS STRATEGY AND ITS INTENDED PURPOSE

- This strategy sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions.
- Where necessary, as and when required, the strategy implementation will be supported by more detailed communications, consultation, and business cases for action to support reports to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and/or Full Council.

**To be successful, the Council must fundamentally redefine its unique role i.e. what we do, the services we provide, and how we provide them.**

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## WHAT IS SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION?

The definition of Sport and Active Recreation in relation to this strategy is based on the range of sport and physical activity opportunities provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council in conjunction with our key partners:

## THE RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGY

- ‘Caerphilly County Borough Council has embarked on an exciting and challenging journey of improvement and change’ The Corporate Plan (2018-2023).
- ‘Rising to the future challenges it is clear that we will need to do things differently - be innovative and willing to adapt and respond to change’.
- To be successful, the Council must fundamentally redefine its unique role i.e. what we do, the services we provide, and how we provide them.
- No longer can we do what we have always done - our future role will be less about directly delivering services and more about enabling the many other organisations who already provide excellent opportunities across our communities.

## IMPLEMENTING THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT

- We will need to be bold - not holding on to what we have done in the past, but looking forward to ensure that the decisions we make and opportunities we provide are fit for future generations - responding to the emerging needs of our young people, the adults of tomorrow, and of course looking after the different needs of a growing older population.
- We must also make sure what we provide is going to be sustainable i.e. we can all afford to maintain service provision into the future.
- Future approaches will demand that people take greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity. It is the role of the Council to support them to do this for themselves.
- To deliver a 'change agenda' the Council will also have to make a number of critical decisions. It is vital therefore, that this strategy provides a clear rationale and priorities for action. It must provide a vision for where we are going and how we are going to get there, so that everyone understands what we can achieve, what to expect of us, as well as the roles that others have to play.
- Finally, the strategy is not focused just on buildings but the activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

**Future approaches will demand that people take greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.**



## THE FORMAT

In developing this strategy we have set out:

1. What we have to achieve, our core purpose i.e. the better health and wellbeing priorities set out in our Corporate Plan (2018-2023).
2. A review of:
  - a. Our communities and their needs - what we know about our population, the place we live, current provision;
  - b. Lessons learnt from our achievements, building on what we do well, taking account of the views of others;
  - c. What we know about future needs and emerging trends.
3. The major challenges:
  - a. Poor levels of health particularly in certain areas of the county;
  - b. Reducing budgets;
  - c. The large number of facilities across the County and the deteriorating quality of our older buildings;
  - d. Increasing population and consumer demand.
4. The actions - what needs to be done.



# STRATEGY PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES, AND PRIORITIES

## OUR VISION AND HOW WE WILL DELIVER IT

- 'Our vision for sport and active recreation is to encourage healthy lifestyles and support our residents to be more active, more often'.
- We will do this by encouraging a collective responsibility and approach to provide and promote appropriate opportunities across a wide range of organisations.
- We will support others and only directly provide where the need is clearly identified and no others have the expertise or capacity to:
  - Promote positive messages about health and physical activity;
  - Encourage physical activity through the provision of varied, attractive and accessible opportunities;
  - Achieve raised standards of performance and celebrate local success in sport.

**'Our vision for sport and active recreation is to encourage healthy lifestyles and support our residents to be more active, more often'.**



## OUR COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICE'S ROLE

- Within Caerphilly County Borough Council our Community & Leisure Service is responsible for leading the promotion of sport and active recreation. Currently the Service looks after a wide range of active recreation activities and places including children's play areas; country parks and open spaces; sports pitches; and leisure centres - usually on Secondary School sites. It also manages Outdoor Adventure Activities and Sports Development - including services ranging from GP exercise referrals to support for sport.
- The Service will ensure it is able to focus on leading and coordinating the future delivery of this Strategy.

**The Service will ensure it is able to focus on leading and coordinating the future delivery of this Strategy.**

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## HELPING DELIVER SPORT WALES' GOALS

- Through this Strategy, Caerphilly County Borough Council will also contribute to Sport Wales's Community Sport outcomes namely:
  - Generating increased frequencies of regular participation;
  - Targeting inequalities and barriers to participation;
  - Providing high quality opportunities allowing our most talented athletes to realise their potential.

## ENSURING THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- This strategy is designed to help deliver the goals and principles set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act has put into law 7 Wellbeing Goals for a prosperous; resilient; healthier; more equal and globally responsible Wales; with cohesive communities; a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.



- There are clear opportunities for collaboration between this Strategy and the Caerphilly Public Services Board's Well-being Plan, The Caerphilly We Want. Our semi-rural environment is a significant asset, the Well-being Plan aims to increase the contribution our environment makes to health and well-being through the provision of good quality accessible green space. The Well-being Plan also aims to help residents manage their own physical and mental well-being by creating supportive environments to do this. Working in partnership with the rest of the public sector is intrinsically linked to how we will deliver sport and active recreation
- Fundamentally, the Act requires 'responsible and sustainable decision making' - that Caerphilly County Borough Council considers the longer-term impact of the decisions it makes.
- Future decisions made by the Council will need to ensure sustainable developments to deliver wellbeing by:
  - Focussing on securing the sustainability of provision to meet the longer term needs of future generations - not based upon the past;
  - Understanding the root cause of issues to prevent problems from occurring;
  - Involving/considering the diversity of our population and communities in decisions that affect them;
  - Working more with others to secure future provision and sustainable solutions.

**Future decisions made by the Council will need to ensure sustainable developments to deliver wellbeing...**



## SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION IS NOT A STATUTORY ‘REQUIREMENT’

- Caerphilly County Borough Council does not have to provide most of our current sport and active recreation services - it is not a statutory responsibility. So the case for this discretionary provision - the maintenance of our facilities and services, has to be measured against their positive impact on our corporate priorities of health, regeneration, education, and future affordability.
- This strategy is therefore designed to provide a vision and rationale for the future that is directly linked to the Council’s Wellbeing Objectives, its strategic priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan (2018-2023).

**This strategy  
is designed to  
provide a vision  
and rationale for  
the future.**

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## THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES FOR SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION

- The main Wellbeing Objectives in the Corporate Plan that sport and active recreation contributes to are:
  - **Objective 1:** Improving education opportunities for all and improving the learning environment;
  - **Objective 5:** Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle and reduces inequalities in health across the County Borough in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
  - **Objective 6:** Supporting citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing - helping keep older people involved and active in their local communities.

### Corporate Objective 1: Improved learning attainment and environments

- Not only does health and wellbeing positively contribute to higher educational attainment, healthier young people are more likely to become healthier adults.
- We will work with our schools to support the provision of an inspirational sport and physical activity offer, fit for future generations and to encourage a commitment to active lifestyle habits leading to our young people growing up to become more active adults.
- In the first phase of our 21st Century Schools Programme (2014-2019) over £56m has been invested in schools to improve facilities, (including the new Islwyn High School to replace Pontllanfraith and Oakdale Comprehensive Schools and Y Gwindy Welsh Medium School) - this includes new sport and physical activity spaces which are available for community use.
- We will support and develop successful approaches to maximise community use of all school facilities. Whether our secondary school facilities are part of a Leisure Centre or not, we will expect and support them to ensure they are available for community use out of school hours. We will expect an equitable standard of service regardless of whether the community use is managed by the Community and Leisure Service or School.

**Not only does health and wellbeing positively contribute to educational attainment, healthier young people are more likely to become healthier adults.**



### **Corporate Objective 5: Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle**

- To create a place that supports a healthy lifestyle, helping encourage people to become more physically active, reducing overweight and obesity rates in children.
- To reduce inequalities in health across the County Borough:
  - We will establish a supportive partnership with our schools, securing a commitment from the top (Head Teachers and Governors) and throughout the school, to engage and motivate all children to be physically active by choice;
  - We will encourage physical activity within our communities in the most appropriate and effective ways through support that reaches out and works with others or through specific intervention programmes targeting communities - to create supportive, welcoming, attractive, easy to access activity opportunities;
  - We will aim to increase the number of visits to all sport and active recreation places across the County Borough - whether they are community centres; primary/secondary schools; parks; the countryside; sports pitches or our strategic leisure centres. This will include targeted investment where there is a clear business case to improve the activity offer such that we respond to the greatest areas of need and demand and reach out to the largest numbers of new participants i.e. targeting known popular activities such as fitness, 5 a-side football, cycling, walking, jogging, dance activities etc.

**We will work with communities and local groups to support interventions that help keep older people active and involved in their local communities.**

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### **Corporate Objective 6: Supporting citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing**

- Helping local community clubs and groups to engage 'older adults' in volunteering and supporting older people to lead independent, physically active and healthy lives - stimulating both mental wellbeing as well as maintaining appropriate levels of physical activity, bodily strength and mobility.
- We will work with communities and local groups to support interventions that help keep older people active and involved in their local communities.



## SUMMARY STRATEGY PURPOSE

### Our First Key Outcome: Better Health

- We must achieve a healthier county - recognising that today's unhealthy residents might be tomorrow's customers for our health and social care services. Our long-term plan is to achieve healthier residents and communities although we recognise this will take more than a generation of change - over 20 years.

However due to serious financial constraints, we must also achieve a healthier Borough with less resources - so we will have to be 'smart' in the way we work.

### ● We will achieve our better health outcomes by:

- Inspiring our future generations of children and young people to willingly choose to adopt healthy active lifestyles - this will be the biggest contribution to generational change;
- Supporting and encouraging the provision of more opportunities for more daily active recreation in our communities and work places - by working with a wide range of other providers including encouraging increased use of the great outdoors;
- Specialist interventions e.g. exercise referral, outreach work using physical activity to improve the lives of priority groups enabling people to lead healthier lifestyles on a daily basis in their local communities. However, these will only be targeted interventions where there is evidence of need and no other alternative solution.

### Our Second Key Outcome - Healthier and Prosperous Communities

- This means stronger, safer and improved places to live, work and visit for all - communities with a sense of pride and identity.
- This vision includes:
  - Strong successful local sports clubs at the heart of every community: maintaining local facilities and the environment; providing sport and physical activity; managing events; attracting young people; engaging volunteers; creating safer and socially cohesive places to live and work, helping to keep older people involved and active locally; supporting and promoting sporting success which in turn creates role models, community pride and a feeling of wellbeing and positivity.



- In major conurbations and visitor destinations, commercial leisure attractions can also be a dynamic for regeneration - creating a better place to live and work, attracting employers and businesses and creating jobs, e.g. in North Wales - a new water park and leisure attraction in the Rhyl coastal resort will attract over 350,000 visitors as well as servicing over 40,000 local residents; or in Swansea - LC2 attracting over 750,000 footfalls a year - Wales's most visited paid for attraction for the last 7 years. Our Centre of Sporting Excellence used by Coleg y Cymoedd, Welsh Rugby Union and Dragons Rugby provides a prestigious, specialist regional sports facility attracting visitors to the area, supporting sporting success and stimulating local pride.
- **We will promote Healthier and Prosperous Communities by:**
  - Working with community sports clubs and their governing bodies to help our clubs become bigger, stronger and more sustainable; assisting them to improve their facilities, encouraging more volunteers and creating more sporting opportunities for participation and success;
  - Reviewing the commercial business case and options for a new or improved leisure attraction in the Caerphilly Basin to take account of a growth in new homes and to support our economic regeneration objectives for the area.
  - Engaging with pre-school children through 'Community Tots' based around fundamental movement skills and piloting a pre-school training offer to public and private providers to upskill their workforce.

**Our Centre of Sporting Excellence used by Coleg y Cymoedd, Welsh Rugby Union and Dragons Rugby provides a prestigious, specialist regional sports facility...**

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**Our Third Key Outcome: securing a more efficient and financially sustainable future offer**

- As well as our aspirations for a healthier, more physically active and successful sporting County Borough and to close the north/south gap that exists in the average life expectancy between our residents, we also have to secure financial savings and achieve these positive outcomes with increasingly less resources. This will demand that we are smart and focussed in our future actions.
- **We will secure a more efficient and financially sustainable offer by:**
  - Maximising the use of all our community amenities and the local environment, encouraging people to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing in a sustainable way. Our approach to communities will focus on building on strengths recognising each community is different and it is neither affordable or sustainable for the Council to be expected to continue providing the same service;

- Maximising use of assets through co-locations, invest to save models and aim to reduce subsidy levels at our strategic leisure centres to below a range of £1 to £1.20 per user;
- Creating more sustainable facilities by improving schools use agreements; investment in more attractive strategic facilities leading to a growth in visitor numbers and rationalisation reducing overall running costs;
- Focussing our unique and essential role on providing specialist interventions in communities and with groups where it is most needed whilst recognising and supporting the role of others in providing opportunities;
- Motivating young people will be a key priority as we work collaboratively with others to inspire activity for life - generating more active adults - commissioning and supporting our schools to provide the right learning environment ensuring that facilities are also available for community activity at appropriate times;
- Where there is a business case, we will invest in key, strategic facilities to ensure they are appropriate, attractive, inspirational and lifestyle convenient alongside working to maximise the impact of all community amenities;
- Finally, we will ensure that strategic facilities directly operated by us receive the level of regular investment required to ensure that equipment and facilities are safe, functional, modern and inspirational.

**Motivating young people will be a key priority as we work collaboratively with others to inspire activity for life**

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# A REVIEW OF WHAT WE KNOW - INFORMING FUTURE DECISIONS

## CELEBRATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

### ● Customer satisfaction

- In our bi-annual consultation over 85% of residents said they were satisfied with sport and leisure, recreation and sports ground services, with over 90% satisfied with country parks;
- Our customer satisfaction score is 98% which is 8% above the UK national average.

### ● The performance of our leisure centres

- We have been able to invest in some of our facilities to improve provision e.g. new fitness suites and 3G pitches. This has generated an increase in visitor numbers and we now also have over 150,000 registered Smart Card users;
- We have also continued to achieve the nationally recognised Quest quality assurance accreditation;
- However, despite our leisure centre subsidy having reduced by over £500,000 over the last 5 years, it still demands over 70% of the sport and leisure budget so the future performance and affordability of our leisure centres needs to be addressed.

### ● Our parks and great outdoors

- We have been successful in achieving a Green Flag status at 5 of our outdoor parks where we provide a range of activities and create a place people can enjoy;
- It is important to build on these strengths and the significant amount of green space that is available to promote physical and mental wellbeing;
- Caerphilly Adventures successfully uses our great outdoors to support the Education Service and Families First initiatives and work with young people and their families improving family relations, parenting, confidence and self-esteem and delivering Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

● **Our children and young people**

- 47% of primary and secondary school children aged 7-16 engage in sport and physical activity 3 times a week and overall, there have been year on year increases in participation;
- Over 57% of 16 year olds are also members of a sports club in Caerphilly County Borough.

● **Sports development initiatives and partnerships**

- Free Swimming initiatives take place at all leisure centres and participation rates have increased year on year;
- Caerphilly 10K is now in its 6th year attracting circa 3,000 runners and is part of the Welsh athletics annual race calendar;
- The National Exercise Referral Scheme targeting clients who are at risk of developing, or have, a chronic disease has benefited over 1,000 people a year helping improve those participants' quality of life and life expectancy;
- The Council is playing a lead role in the Active Gwent regional collaboration for community sport and promoting Positive Futures and Tackling Inequalities initiatives - benefiting children and young people from deprived communities who are living in poverty and being supported through an inclusion programme using sport to engage young people - attendances have grown by over 1,200 to 9,000 in 2017;
- The Daily Mile Initiative is embedded across our Primary Schools and is helping children get fit by walking or running for 15 minutes each school day;
- We have contributed to the "large scale change" collaborative programme with Sport Wales, Public Health Wales, Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Blaenau Gwent/Torfaen County Borough Councils aimed at getting females more active to improve health outcomes in the Heads of Valleys area. This has been a successful collaboration leading to a number of success stories and lifestyle changes;
- Increasing women and girls participation is particularly important for health benefits and the Lets Go Girls Initiative encourages activity providers and females interested in taking part in activity to connect.

- Building on these significant achievements, this strategy sets out the direction for the future of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough to ensure the continued provision of a wide range of opportunities to benefit the health and wellbeing of our residents.

**Free Swimming initiatives take place at all leisure centres and participation rates have increased year on year.**

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## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH - THE PLACE WE LIVE IN

- The County Borough is spread across a wide geographical area and made up of very different urban, rural, more affluent and some very deprived local communities.
- The 5 principle town centres are: Caerphilly; Blackwood; Risca; Bargoed; and Ystrad Mynach.
- Approximately 80% of the County Borough is classed as rural with a variety of attractive outdoor activity spaces i.e. uplands, lakes and rivers, public rights of way, country parks, nature reserves and many other areas that can be used for healthy active lifestyles.
- Spread across the County Borough there are over 500 different sport and physical activity places, many are old and have become 'tired', are not cost-effective to run with inefficient heating, lighting and insulation services and no longer attractive to new participants or fit for future purposes.

**Different approaches are needed to respond to the highly varied and different local community needs...**

### ● **Looking to the Future**

- More emphasis needs to be placed on the promotion of the wide variety of opportunities across the borough as well as in neighbouring areas;
- Different approaches are needed to respond to the highly varied and different local community needs with priority given to addressing the greatest health and activity challenges in the most deprived Heads of the Valley communities;
- The 5 town centres and population hubs should be the future focus of strategic provision - travel to destinations with good transport links. Furthermore, any future strategic sport and active recreation provision should be shared use on education sites. They are an essential requirement for Curricular and Extra Curricular activity and a cost effective way of providing expensive facilities that also serve community needs;
- The Council must address the whole facilities infrastructure as any investment to create fit for future generations facilities will first demand rationalisation and savings in order to finance better quality, more sustainable, fit for purpose facilities in strategic locations.



CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH... ABOUT THE PEOPLE

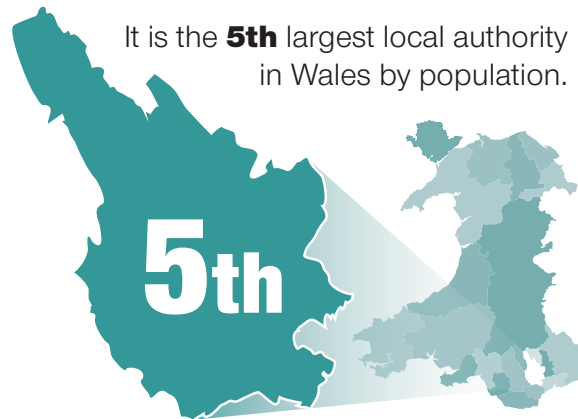
POPULATION SIZE

**180,000**

people live in Caerphilly County Borough.



It is the **5th** largest local authority in Wales by population.



The population is expected to grow by over

**2,155**

people within the next **20** years and alongside this

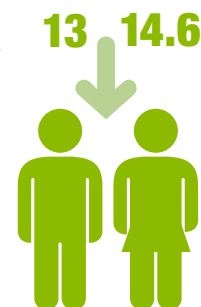
significant additional housing is planned particularly in the south of the County Borough in the Caerphilly basin area.

HEALTH

**74%** of adults in the County Borough do not meet national physical activity guidelines. The percentage of adults who are overweight or obese within Caerphilly County Borough is **4%** higher than the Wales average of **59%**, and by **2050** it is predicted that **60%** of adult men, **50%** of adult women and **25%** of children will be obese.

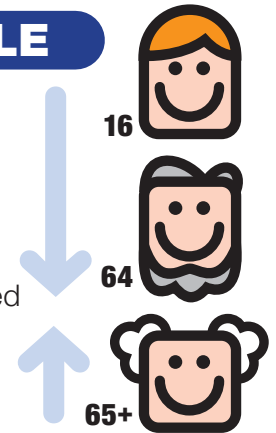


People living in areas of higher deprivation also have higher levels of ill health with life expectancy varying greatly depending on where you live. Between the least and most deprived areas there is a healthy life expectancy gap of **13** years for men and nearly **14.6** years for women.



AGE PROFILE

It is anticipated that numbers of people between 16 and 64 will decrease over the next 20 years, but the numbers of people aged over 65 will increase by nearly **42.2%** in the same period.



ECONOMIC PROFILE

**P45**

Caerphilly County Borough has some of the most deprived areas in Wales. It has the **5th** highest percentage of people claiming benefits and the joint **5th** lowest employment rate of 16 to 64 year olds compared to the rest of Wales.



● **Looking to the Future**

- There is a need to give priority to help increase activity levels to reduce the health inequalities and levels of obesity with a focus on local community solutions and engaging young people - our future generations;
- A growing and changing population will require appropriate levels of provision to meet demand and with new housing developments comes opportunities to negotiate planning gains to support future community needs - this sport and active recreation strategy should be used to support the business case for these plans;
- There will be a growing need to focus on helping maintain active and independent lifestyles amongst an ever increasing ageing population with more diverse needs.

**There will be a growing need to focus on helping maintain active and independent lifestyles...**


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## WHICH OF THE SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION ACTIVITIES ARE THE MOST POPULAR

- People leading healthy active lives do so through a wide variety of mediums ranging from allotment gardening and domestic activities to work place activities, cycling to work, walking to a bus stop, swimming, walking the dog etc.
- As well as this, there are over 87 recognised sport and physical activities to choose from ranging from dance, yoga, netball, fencing, a wide range of martial arts, weight training, gymnastics, angling, golf to team sports like netball, rugby and football.
- However, the most significant numbers of adult participation figures are achieved through individual exercise and informal activities which are easy to access and fit into busy lifestyles - walking, cycling and jogging or using the great outdoors with few activities dependent on our built facilities. The most popular activities amongst adults are:
  - walking - 47% of adults participating;
  - indoor exercise activities - 21% of adults participating.
- The great outdoors - our natural resources are also important for encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles; promoting mental as well as physical wellbeing - 35% of adults have identified they would like to visit the outdoors to be more active more often with the range of activities becoming more diverse. An example of this is Parkrun:
  - Junior Parkrun - 44 Juniors (age 4-14 years) are participating each week, from 15 clubs;
  - Parkrun (Age 14+) 166 Adults are participating each week from over 203 clubs.

**The most significant numbers of adult participation figures are achieved through individual exercise and informal activities.**



### Future Sport and Active Recreation

- **Adults - into the future**
  - 'Acting today for an Active Tomorrow' identifies trends which will transform sport in Wales, in a report produced in 2014 by A Sport Wales's Advisory Group. This identified a number of themes that should be considered by providers in making future plans i.e. the need to be more responsive to:
    - People leading more demanding lifestyles and having less time therefore requiring easier access to doorstep activities;

- Customers having higher expectations needing a more 'commercial standard' of opportunity i.e. more customer orientated services as well as higher quality facilities;
- The need for greater use of technology to engage people i.e. through mobile devices;
- A more mixed economy of facility providers as a result of emerging not for profit operators, social and community interest companies alongside an ever-changing commercial sector;
- Future sport and active recreation opportunities need to be ever more "lifestyle convenient", for example:
  - Easy to Play Sport e.g. Futsal and 5 a-side leagues; Back to Netball and Hockey - social participation for adults; Parks Tag Rugby and other easy to organise and access small-sided team games;
  - Easy to access outdoor fitness activities when it is most suitable to the individual i.e. in safe walking, jogging and cycling settings (Caerphilly County Borough Council already supports many events that help respond to these demands i.e. parkruns, cycling events etc.).

**Future sport and active recreation opportunities need to be ever more "lifestyle convenient."**

### ● **Young People - into the future**

- Sport England's Youth Insights Pack (August 2014) highlights how it is important to look at ways of more effectively reaching out to young people - they have grown up in an environment that is totally different to that of previous generations - this demands change just to maintain levels of interest amongst each new age group i.e.:
  - Technology is an integral part of young people's lives;
  - Reasons for young people to take part need to be relevant to their lives - what matters to them, not what matters to adults and decision makers. Teenagers are also increasingly looking towards the benefits of active lifestyles for reasons of looking and feeling good as well as health and fitness;
  - Participation by children is influenced by what they get offered at school, as well as by the views of parents and friends. Once these influences are removed and lifestyles change, activity levels start to decline;



● **Looking to the Future**

- Caerphilly County Borough Council will need to review and adjust its unique role in response to the many competing and alternative offers that are available;
- To significantly increase activity levels there is a need to give priority to the opportunities that are attractive to the biggest audiences. Where possible this will include investment in better quality facilities for the biggest and fastest growing participation activities - those that have become more popular due to changing lifestyles and people choosing to be active for health and social reasons i.e. exercise, fitness, dance, walking, jogging, cycling, 5 a-side football etc;
- Sport and physical activity facilities in schools, particularly our secondary schools, need to be designed to inspire a nation of young people committed to becoming active adults - currently many school facilities do not meet these expectations;
- Alongside activity venues in local communities, strategically located specialist sports facilities are important to provide for training and competition at the higher levels and to deliver the vision for a 'nation of champions', however whilst specialist facilities are needed they are not necessarily required in all Local Authority areas;
- To embrace these recommendations we will adopt the 'Facilities for Future Generations - blueprint for sport and active recreation in Wales'. (Welsh Government and Sport Wales [March 2016]).

**To significantly increase activity levels there is a need to give priority to the opportunities that are attractive to the biggest audiences.**



# MAJOR CHALLENGES TO BE OVERCOME

## BETTER HEALTH CHALLENGES

- Since the Welsh Health Survey started, obesity levels have increased and there has been little evidence of change in physical activity levels. Survey reports have shown that:
  - 58% of adults are overweight and 22% obese;
  - 33% of adults are limited in their day to day activities because of health problems or disability;
  - Only 29% of adults are reported as physically active but there are more men than women active although this decreases with age;
  - Around 1/3 of adults are not physically active at all.
- Low levels of physical activity along with unhealthy eating are leading to significant increases in levels of obesity.
- There are particularly higher incidents of poor health and low levels of physical activity in areas of multiple deprivation.
- Overall it is estimated that the total cost of physical inactivity to Wales is in the regional of £650,000,000 per annum.
- Despite these trends 'Creating an Active Wales' reports how physical activity has many mental as well as physical health and wellbeing benefits i.e.
  - Up to 50% reduced risk of developing major chronic diseases such as heart diseases/ diabetes and some cancers;
  - A 20-30% reduced risk of premature death.
- **Looking to the Future**
  - Targeted community interventions and low cost, accessible/local, indoor and outdoor health and fitness activity centres are more likely to be attractive to women and disengaged participants who it is difficult to encourage to adopt more active lifestyles.

## MAJOR FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

- Caerphilly County Borough Council has already made considerable savings in recent years - over £82,000,000 but further savings of over £34,000,000 are still needed in the next 3 years.
- For the most part, sport and active recreation provision is not a statutory requirement of local government and although Caerphilly County Borough Council is committed to maintaining front line services, it does recognise things need to change.
  - The Community & Leisure Services budget must achieve reductions over the course of this Strategy.
- **Looking to the Future**
  - The more effective use of our many different community facilities will need to be part of the future offer to increase activity levels;
  - This strategy also makes the case for rationalisation enabling some savings to be used to enable investment alongside innovation and transformation.

**The more effective use of our many different community facilities will need to be part of the future offer to increase activity levels.**



## BUILT FACILITY CHALLENGES

- The Council has too many different facilities including leisure centres, many of which are old and vary in quality with high levels of maintenance required - there is a need for fewer but better quality provision. A summary schedule of the 500+ different sport and physical activity spaces across the County Borough is summarised in the adjacent table.
- Caerphilly County Borough Council's independent review of Leisure Centres in 2014 also reported the need for a rationalisation of the separately managed leisure centres.
- 8 of the 10 leisure centres are on Secondary School sites and used by schools during the day. This use is heavily subsidised through the Sport & Leisure budget. Four Secondary Schools have strategic leisure facilities of which any community use is not managed by Sport & Leisure Services.
- The provision of appropriate sport and physical activity facilities on secondary school sites that are accessible for Curricular and Extra Curricular activities is a requirement - wherever possible these should be managed to be available for community use out of school hours.

Table 1: Summary Schedule of Sport and Active Recreation

Facilities Where Physical Activity Can Occur	Total Number of Activity Spaces
<b>Indoor</b>	
Sports Halls	15
Community Centres	50
Youth Centres	20
Swimming Pools	8
Primary Schools i.e. halls	80
<b>Outdoor</b>	
Artificial Turf Pitches (ATPs) Type 1: Sand based shorter pile more suitable for hockey Type 2: '3G' pitches longer pile with rubber infill more suitable for football and rugby	16 Type 1: 7 Type 2: 9 (2@COSE)
Country Parks	6
Youth Shelters	21
Playgrounds (excluding primary school playgrounds)	104
Multi-use Games Areas	25
Skate Parks	9
Kick Walls	10
Football and Rugby Grass Pitches (excluding school pitches)	116
Bowling Greens	20
Cricket Wickets	9
Tennis Courts	18
	500+



- The majority of the Council's investment (approximately 70%) in 'Sport & Leisure Services' - is taken up by the cost of running traditional leisure facilities - with Caerphilly County Borough Council operating more Leisure Centres than any other Local Authority in Wales.
- The cost of maintaining the Leisure Centres in the County Borough is the highest in Wales - over £1m per annum:
  - The subsidy per person is over £1.50 - to bring this subsidy closer to other areas, this figure should be less than £1 to £1.20 - this cannot be achieved without rationalisation and modernisation;
  - There is a significant capital investment liability due to the age of the leisure centres - currently estimated at over £3m;
  - There is also a need for a capital budget to invest in upgraded equipment such as modernised fitness suites, spin bikes and new 3G pitches which increase levels of use following investment.
- Customer comment reports have also identified the need for improvement i.e. 'changing rooms need upgrading', 'the centre is looking dated now' and the need for change given the current financial climate is also recognised.
- Generally across Wales less than 30% of the adult population visit a leisure centre and many of the County Borough Leisure Centres are not generating more users - in half these numbers are declining. Only 3 key strategically located centres in Caerphilly County Borough are attracting over 250,000 visits a year with the majority servicing less than 100,000 visits per year.

### ● **Looking to the Future**

- Facilities for Future Generations - the blueprint for sport and active recreation in Wales'. Welsh Government and Sport Wales (March 2016) will be adopted by Caerphilly County Borough Council providing the framework for future sport and active recreation facilities. This will take into consideration:
  - The needs of future generations;
  - The need for inspirational learning environments for children and young people on school sites;
  - The need to invest in better quality, more fit for purpose and future facilities that are strategically located;
  - The need to rationalise the existing number of different facilities that are no longer fit for purpose or sustainable into the future set in context with all other active space facilities such as community centres, primary schools, youth centres, outdoor parks etc.;
  - Defining future expectations for and delivery of aquatic provision linked to facility rationalisation.

## **OTHER FACILITY CHALLENGES - MAXIMISING THE IMPACT OF ALL SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION AMENITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Outdoor sports pitches**

- Grass sports pitches across the County Borough also present a future challenge. Changing climates and reducing budgets provide an increasing challenge for the maintenance of these facilities alongside which capital investment in improved or new drainage is important to help overcome pitch quality issues. Increasingly long spells of wet weather, has resulted in these important facilities which serve the biggest sports becoming a threat to future levels of activity.
- Furthermore, less than 30% of the cost of maintaining the grass pitches is recovered through income due to the low levels of use that is possible to sustain on the grass pitches.
- In total, there are over 120 sports pitches, 20 bowling greens, 9 cricket wickets and a number of tennis courts, more than any other Local Authority in Wales. There are also a large number of football and rugby clubs - over 130 relying on these facilities. However, many of these clubs are small and 'nomadic' relying on access to different and often poor quality grass pitches. On the other hand, Clubs with owned or leased facilities are able to invest more time and resources into maintaining their pitches to a higher standard and can more easily attract members, generate income and become a stronger community clubs.
- In addition to the natural turf pitches, there are 16 artificial turf pitches - again more than any other area in Wales. Nine of these pitches are 3G football/rugby surfaces - a full sized floodlit 3G pitch can provide the same level of use as 5 grass pitches.
  - Looking to the Future Artificial turf '3G' pitches are an important part of future outdoor pitch provision - they provide a consistent quality of service that can be used in all weathers;
  - There is a case to be made for more strategically located 3G pitches to support grass-pitch provision - also taking account of the potential to maximise the beneficial use of school facilities;
  - Future approaches should include support for clubs to play a greater role in the future management and maintenance of sports pitches and pavilions. This would help and lead towards better facilities as well as stronger, more sustainable community clubs;
  - At least one 3G pitch should be available on all secondary school sites with a community sports partnership that guarantees the out of hours use and the formation of sports clubs hubs.

## MAXIMISING COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

- The Welsh Government and Local Authority 21st Century Schools programme is intended to help create 'fit for the future' sport and active lifestyle facilities for Wales. Investment is expected to deliver:
  - Learning environments supporting improvement and better education outcomes including health and wellbeing;
  - Greater economies and efficiencies through better use of resources including community use;
  - Sustainable facilities that help to reduce costs and carbon footprints;
  - Finally, this is more than a building programme - 21st Century Schools are intended to impact on both public and community learning, health and wellbeing outcomes.
- This strategy recognises the importance of schools as an essential part of the future community sport and active recreation offer. Currently there is an inconsistent approach to access to school facilities for the wider community.
- **Looking to the Future**
  - The Community & Leisure and Education Services will establish a joint vision to deliver the healthy physical activity outcomes in this strategy as well as serving school and wider community needs. This will inform a robust joint use agreement with clear priorities and outcomes supported by appropriate sustainable funding models.

**This strategy recognises the importance of schools as an essential part of the future community sport and active recreation offer.**



## PLAY AMENITIES

- Caerphilly County Borough has 178 different “play” facilities including fixed play provision, kick walls, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) skate parks etc. Such provision is governed by Welsh Government Play Sufficiency duties and is separately covered by bespoke strategies and plans.



## OUTDOOR PARKS AND THE NATURAL OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

- Of the 42% of the adult population reported by Sport Wales to be ‘hooked on sport’ in Caerphilly, the majority do so through activities taking place in facilities that don’t demand a strategic sports hall or swimming pool.
- High levels of physical activity are enjoyed in a wide range of environments stretching from the countryside to highways, paths and bridle ways used for walking, cycling and jogging.
- The Active Travel Integrated Map includes the accessible walking and cycling routes across the county borough and links with the Sustrans National Cycle Network. This is supplemented by the delivery of kerbcraft and national standards cycle training, safely equipping and supporting children to lead more sustainable and healthy lives.
- The natural resources in Caerphilly County Borough provide significant opportunities to increase activity levels.
- It has a large number of high quality countryside as well as more traditional formal parks - 5 of which have a green flag accreditation.
- There is a significant level of countryside and open space - the Countryside Service manages parks, rights of way, nature reserves/managed biodiversity sites and a canal network. In addition there is a substantial amount of unmanaged countryside and open space. There will be an opportunity to link delivery of the outcomes of this strategy with the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy to support the network of interconnected green space to maximise its use for sport and active recreation.
- The Council also provides an Outdoor Adventure Service which supports a range of outdoor activities as well as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.
- Whilst important to this strategy, these areas of provision are separately covered by bespoke, formally adopted plans and strategies.

**The natural resources in Caerphilly County Borough provide significant opportunities to increase activity levels.**



# WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

## 1. Corporate Policy

- a. In adopting this strategy Caerphilly County Borough Council recognises that sport and active recreation makes a significant contribution to achieve healthy lifestyles, education, economy and regeneration across the County Borough.
- b. Recognising that it is no longer feasible to provide the same service, the Council's unique role will focus on:
  - i. Working with others to make the best use of all available opportunities, facilities, funding and people;
  - ii. Making better and more innovative use of the widest possible range of indoor and outdoor physical activity spaces across all communities;
  - iii. Specialist interventions in approaches and places that will have the greatest long term health impact on priority target audiences and where no others are in a position to provide such assistance.
- c. A joint approach to sport and active recreation with schools will be pursued to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults through more inspirational learning experiences, whilst also ensuring the learning environments are maximised for community use out of school hours. This will include a new fit for purpose, robust joint use agreement with schools with clear priorities and outcomes.

## 2. Facilities

- a. To inform future decision making, the Council will adopt:
  - i. The Welsh Government and Sport Wales Facilities Blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation (See Table 2) informing all physical activity spaces and their use across the County Borough;
  - ii. A decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic Leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport & Leisure Service (See Table 3);

**A joint approach to sport and active recreation with schools strategy will be pursued to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults through more inspirational learning experiences.**

- iii. An “invest to save” strategy enabling the future rationalisation of some facilities, to help achieve a more sustainable future service alongside investment of some savings secured to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites as well as in local communities.

Table 2: Blueprint for Future Generations - Sport and Active Recreation Facilities

Facilities Framework	Action
<p><b>Facilities Framework Level 1</b> Local community assets and club facilities essential to serve the needs of sport and doorstep activity - enabling daily active lifestyles i.e. the outdoors for green exercise, multipurpose community halls, sports clubs, primary schools, community parks, community centres, health centres, libraries, church and village halls.</p>	<p>Any future sport and active recreation facility delivery should consider all of these assets and their potential to provide locally accessible physical activity hubs particularly targeting deprived communities. Delivery should include opportunities for potential co-location and shared management to maximise sustainability of future community amenities.</p>
<p><b>Facilities Framework Level 2</b> Strategic, ‘travel to’ wider community facilities located on education/secondary school or college sites to maximise use, ensure value for money and because the provision of good quality inspirational physical activity facilities is an obligatory requirement for all schools.</p>	<p>The strategic policy should establish a clear expectation that future school facilities (buildings and pitches) deliver appropriate and fit for purpose physical activity, teaching and recreational spaces as well as contributing to the community sport and active recreation offer including the development of school/community sports club hub management models.</p>
<p><b>Facilities Framework Level 3</b> Large strategic “commercial” sport or leisure tourist attractions of regional or national significance. This would include leisure centre provision in the south west of the county borough and the Centre of Sporting Excellence.</p>	<p>Adopt a future sport and active recreation investment strategy that delivers a commercially sustainable leisure attraction in the south west of the county borough, in response to the significant growth in new housing.</p>

**The strategic policy should establish a clear expectation that future school facilities deliver appropriate and fit for purpose physical activity...**

Table 3: Strategic Leisure Centre Needs Assessment Matrix

Assessment Criteria	Measurement Factors
Impact analysis Number of visitors	1. Over 250k visits pa 2. Shared daytime use with education provider
Need Centre of population Access - travel to location; public transport routes; car parking No competing facilities	1. Easy to access car park, major public routes 2. No other local competing with school/community/commercial offers
Fitness for purpose Fit for future generations 21st Century design Inspirational school	1. Range of 21st century amenities - fitness, dance, activity studio, 3G, spa 2. Strategic standalone facility only in major population centre/visitor destination
Running cost Subsidy per user/sustainability	1. Subsidy per user under £1 to £1.20

- b. A rationalisation of facilities will result in 4 strategic, high quality, multi service leisure centres that are managed by the authority’s Sport and Leisure Service. The 4 strategic centres will be located in Risca, Caerphilly, and Newbridge, and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas to serve the north of the county borough. It is therefore anticipated that the other leisure centres would either transfer to school management (if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval) or could close completely. Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.
- c. The Council will clarify the future swimming entitlement along with supporting the rationale for a sustainable programme of aquatic delivery also informing the need and scope of future aquatic facilities.
- d. In terms of Outdoor Facilities, the Council will:
  - i. develop a plan to enhance and maximise the impact of outdoor spaces, playing fields, parks and informal recreational spaces, where possible utilising investment resulting from planning gain;



- ii. maximise the use of 3G facilities for school, community and weekend competitive use alongside the grass pitch network, supporting the development of stronger sports clubs.

### 3. Sport and active recreation outreach and intervention programmes

The Council will continue to:

- a. Collaborate with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education;
- b. Provide targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy to access physical activities;
- c. Encourage and support federations of clubs sharing resources, helping to build stronger, more sustainable, and successful sports clubs;
- d. Provide essential support underpinning sporting success;
- e. Provide specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider;
- f. Lead the regional Active Gwent collaboration programme to increase participation in sport and physical activity in a way that has the greatest impact in Caerphilly.

**The Council will continue to adopt a collaborative approach with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles...**



# SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY 2019-2029



## **Report of Consultation**

Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 – 2029

**October 2018**

### **Introduction**

The council has prepared and published the Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29

### **The Consultation**

The Draft Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy was the subject of a ten week consultation exercise between 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

### **The responses and how they are addressed**

The report considers the comments made during the consultation

## **Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 - 2029**

### **The Responses**

Comments were invited on the Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy' in a structured manner,

A total of 711 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire with a further 20 written responses received.

The issues raised have been grouped under their respective section. An Officer response considers whether changes to the draft Strategy need to be made.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

In line with the Council's Equalities Monitoring procedures, respondents were asked whether any of their answers to questions in the survey were impacted by any of the following (age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, religious belief or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents).

## Key Outcomes

Three key outcomes for the draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy have been identified. These are:

- **Better Health**
- **Healthier and Prosperous Communities**
- **Securing a more efficient and financially sustainable future offer.**

Respondents were asked whether any Outcomes were missing and, if so, to provide details.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Proposal
A key theme highlighted in the comments around missing outcomes was that of ensuring that sport and active recreation is inclusive and accessible to all.	Under the Healthier and Prosperous Communities Outcome within the draft Strategy it was stated that this means “stronger, safer, and improved places to live, work and visit for all”. The draft 10 year Strategy reflects a fair and equitable distribution of resources. Agree that the intention to ensure that sport and active recreation is inclusive and accessible to all can be strengthened.	Second Key Outcome – Healthier and Prosperous Communities amended to make the intention clear. Other amendments made to the proposed draft Strategy to reinforce this aspect.
Provision should be accessible to those with disabilities, mental health issues and those of all ages.	Agreed.	No additional changes to the Draft Strategy proposed.
Need to ensure provision is accessible to those living in deprivation, making reference to the lack of availability of public transport and the additional cost of transport for those required to travel	Of the respondents to the consultation on the draft Strategy 68% indicated that they normally travel to the place where they take part in sport and active recreation by car, 23% walk, 4% cycle 4% use public transport. All future provision will be accessible by public transport and will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable,	No additional changes to the Draft Strategy proposed.

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Proposal
further distances to access facilities.	<p>geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and leisure provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>The draft Strategy proposes a financially sustainable vision to secure sport and active recreation provision in the county borough into the future. In doing so any financial pressure to increase prices for customers is reduced thereby promoting accessibility across socio-economic groups.</p>	
There is a need to provide support for those who wish to take part in a variety of sports.	Agreed. This is reflected in the draft Strategy.	No changes proposed.

## Outcome 1: Better Health

Three actions have been identified as key to delivering the outcome of achieving 'Better Health':

- Inspiring our future generations to adopt healthy active lifestyles;
- Supporting and encouraging the provision of more opportunities for more daily active recreation in our communities and work places;
- Specialist interventions e.g. exercise referral, outreach work using physical activity.

Respondents were asked whether there are any actions missing and whether there is anything else we can do to support the outcome of achieving better health.

Page 54

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Comments under the “better health” outcome reinforced comments made in the previous section relating to missing outcomes.	Noted.	No changes to the draft Strategy proposed.
Promoting healthy living through education. This action is not just about increasing activity levels but ensuring a good understanding of role of diet and exercise.	Agreed - We have identified that in delivering the Strategy there is an opportunity to improve the awareness and marketing of the full sport and active recreation offer across the county borough including that provided by others. Supplementing existing delivery mechanisms such as National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) and Nutrition Complete	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.
Making better use of outdoor space and improving active travel routes	Although the primary purpose of Active Travel is for connecting people to places for a purpose it is important in promoting healthy	Text added at page 30 to expand upon the role of Active Travel and



## Report of Consultation October 2018

<b>Issues Raised</b>	<b>Officer Response</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(specifically cycle networks and footpaths) to encouraging general fitness through incidental exercise.	lifestyles and is included in the Strategy. However, the links can be strengthened in particular in relation to the availability of the adopted Active Travel Existing Routes map as well as the delivery of kerbcraft and national standards training safely equipping and supporting children to lead more sustainable and healthy lives.	include the significant infrastructure that exists across the county borough.
Ensuring careful consideration of the importance of the sport and active recreation provision in the long term health of residents and ensuring that no changes result in poorer health outcomes for residents.	Agreed – Corporate Objective 5 ‘Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle’ is clearly articulated within the strategy. The strategy also recognises the broad spectrum of opportunities that exist to encourage residents to lead physically active lifestyles to reduce obesity and health inequalities across the county borough. Adopting a collaborative approach will be essential in supporting all stakeholders to deliver programmes / facilities that support the vision and key principles	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.
Strengthen reference to links between the outdoors and mental health.	The draft Strategy highlighted that physical activity has many mental as well as physical health and wellbeing benefits as well as the significant amount of green space that is available to promote wellbeing. Agree that there are opportunities to strengthen those links.	Text added at pages 15 and 20 to make it explicit that “wellbeing” encompasses both physical and mental health. Text also added to page 8 recognising the contribution to social connections, cohesive communities, and active citizenship.
Ensure physical literacy from preschool and through the school setting.	Agreed. Pre-school children are engaged through our Community Tots delivery which is based around fundamental movement skills and covers a wide range of sports and activities, the programme caters for children aged 2-6yrs. We are also piloting a preschool training offer to public and private providers to upskill their workforce. The Strategy commits to collaborating with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles, as well as restating the Council’s Wellbeing Objective to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults.	Action added to the Healthier and Prosperous Communities Outcome in relation to pre-school activity at page 13.

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Promote active workplaces.	Agreed. As detailed above the Strategy includes the action: Supporting and encouraging the provision of more opportunities for more daily active recreation in our communities and work places. The Council is showing leadership in this regard through its own Wellbeing@work Group.	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.

### Outcome 2: Healthier and Prosperous Communities

Three actions have been identified as key to delivering the outcome of achieving ‘Healthier and Prosperous Communities’:

- Working with community sports clubs and their governing bodies to help our clubs become bigger ,stronger and more sustainable;
- Reviewing the commercial business case and options for a new or improved leisure attraction in the south west of the county borough.

Respondents were asked whether there were any actions missing to support the outcome of healthier and prosperous communities.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Encourage and support local clubs and organisations to provide a range of activities including athletics, running, hockey, bowls.	Agreed. Within the draft Strategy under the Healthier and Prosperous Communities Outcome there is the Action: Working with community sports clubs and their governing bodies to help our clubs become bigger, stronger and more sustainable.	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy
The Council should work with other providers of sport and active recreation	Agreed. Our collaborative approach and desire to work in partnership with others is reflected in our current service delivery	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
within the county borough.	and the draft Strategy. We have identified that in delivering the Strategy there is an opportunity to improve the awareness and marketing of the full sport and active recreation offer across the county borough including that provided by others.	
Work collaboratively with other organisations to encourage community-led innovation and involvement.	Agreed – The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) Wales makes clear that public services should be working closely with other partners to secure future provision and explore a range of opportunities for innovation and involvement	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.
Community involvement and an innovative approach are key to achieve change.	Agreed – See point above	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.
Support local clubs and other providers.	Agreed. Within the draft Strategy under the <i>Healthier and Prosperous Communities</i> Outcome we have an action: Working with community sports clubs and their governing bodies to help our clubs become bigger, stronger and more sustainable	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.
Consider the links between sport and active recreation provision and crime and anti-social behaviour.	Noted the Strategy highlights existing delivery through the Positive Futures scheme supporting the approach of sport and active recreation as a mechanism for improving community cohesion. This work will be further supported by enhanced collaboration with a range of stakeholders including schools and local clubs / associations.	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy
Provision needs to be accessible and affordable to all.	Agreed. Accessibility and affordability are key drivers for the strategy.	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.

Page 57

### **Outcome 3: A more efficient and financially sustainable future provision**

Seven actions have been identified as key to delivering the outcome of achieving ‘A more efficient and financially sustainable future provision’:

- Maximising the use of all our community amenities and the local environment;
- Maximising use of assets through co-locations, invest to save models and the aim to reduce subsidy levels at our strategic leisure centres to between £1 and £1.20 per user;
- Creating more sustainable facilities by improving schools use agreements and investment in more attractive strategic facilities;
- Focussing our unique and essential role on providing specialist interventions in communities;
- Motivating young people - commissioning and supporting our schools to provide the right learning environment that is also available for community activity at appropriate times;
- Where there is a business case, we will invest in key, strategic facilities;
- We will ensure that strategic facilities directly operated by us receive the level of regular investment required to ensure that equipment and facilities are safe, functional, modern and inspirational.

Page 58

Respondents were asked whether there were any actions missing to support the outcome of a more efficient and financially sustainable future provision.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Ensure opening times allow for access to facilities at times when they are needed (full time working people, shift workers and during the day).	Agreed and we currently offer broad opening hours for example: Caerphilly Leisure Centre, is open 7 days a week and from 6:15am to 10:00pm in the week; and likewise Newbridge Leisure Centre which is open 6:00am to 10:00pm in the week.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Ensure facilities provided are of a good quality (a number suggested that this was not currently the case).	The Strategy is, in part, a response to this very issue. The majority of facilities were built in the late 1960s, early 1970s. Despite significant investment the last service wide condition surveys undertaken in 2012 identified circa £3 million of category 1, 2 and 3 outstanding maintenance requirements. The Strategy proposes	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
	investment in more attractive strategic facilities where there is a business case and that they receive the level of regular investment required to ensure that equipment and facilities are safe, functional, modern and inspirational.	
Remove parking charges at country parks to support maximising the use of all our community amenities and the local environment	We do offer season tickets so that regular users of our Country Parks are able to do so for less than £1 per week. However, this concern is acknowledge and we will look for any opportunities to address this matter further in the face of UK Government's ongoing austerity measures.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Motivating young people beyond schools and education and inspiring future generations	The Strategy commits to collaborating with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles, as well as restating the Council's Wellbeing Objective to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Provision of alternative community health and leisure venues if local leisure centres are to close.	Noted – The draft Strategy makes clear that there is a mixed economy of provision within the county borough that supports a broad range of opportunity and access to sport and active recreation. Working collaboratively to support partners and unlock the available opportunities is a key and essential component of the Strategy's vision	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Explore ways to ensure viability of existing provision including community centres and shared school/leisure use facilities/church halls and other community assets – this includes promoting what is available.	Agreed – please see above point	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
There were mixed views in relation to the feasibility of using school facilities (access and capacity)	The role of schools from both an educational and facility perspective is a key tenet of the strategic vision. Supporting schools and associated governing bodies to maximise access to facilities that support delivery of sport and active recreation will	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.

Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
	increase opportunity and place schools and the heart of developing cohesive communities.	
Motivating young people beyond schools and education and inspiring future generations.		
Acknowledging financial pressures whilst questioning economic sustainability versus true sustainability (health and deprivation).	<p>It is agreed that sustainability is much wider than financial pressures, but it would be wrong to ignore and not plan for the reality of the financial pressures that we face. As stated in the Strategy, “We must achieve a healthier county.” and Better Health is the first of three Key Outcomes that the Strategy aims to deliver. It is why the Strategy has been developed to set out a 10 year vision outlining how the Council will continue to have a major role in sport and active recreation for years to come.</p> <p>It is recognised that those living in our more deprived communities experience worse health outcomes and that health inequalities across the county borough remain. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy aims to sustain countywide access to sport and active recreation opportunities. In relation to leisure facilities the Strategy proposes a fair and just distribution of resources including a strategic facility to serve the north of the county borough.</p> <p>As stated in the Strategy the Council promotes Positive Futures and Tackling Inequalities initiatives - benefiting children and young people from deprived communities through an inclusion programme using sport to engage young people - attendances have grown by over 1,200 to 9,000 in 2017. The Strategy also aims to build upon the “large scale change” collaborative programme aimed at getting females more active to improve health outcomes</p>	No changes proposed to the draft Strategy.

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
	in the Heads of Valleys area and the Lets Go Girls Initiative.	
Removal of facilities from more deprived areas – cumulative impact.	Please see above.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Consider closer links and reference to Public Services Board Well-being Plan Action Areas (including, but not limited to, the Natural Environment, Volunteering and Good Health & Wellbeing) and other thematic areas such as Active Travel and Play	Agreed that there is an opportunity to be clearer about the links between this Strategy and the PSB's Wellbeing Plan. Our semi-rural environment is a significant asset, the Well-being Plan aims to increase the contribution our environment makes to health and well-being though the provision of good quality accessible green space. The Well-being Plan also aims to help residents manage their own physical and mental well-being by creating supportive environments to do this. Working in partnership with the rest of the public sector is intrinsically linked to how we will deliver sport and active recreation.	Additional text inserted at page 8
Linking with the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy – to consider delivery of services and natural/built infrastructure that deliver multiple benefits.	The Green Infrastructure Strategy has not yet been drafted, but the link is accepted.	Add reference to the emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy at page 30.
Planning - consideration of usable sport and active recreation spaces at the planning stage of any developments, in particular, housing developments.	Agreed. This opportunity is recognised in the draft Strategy.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.

## What Needs To Be Done

## Corporate Policy

If respondents disagreed with any of the statements relating to Corporate Policy they were asked to suggest alternative ways forward.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Keeping costs down was a concern, in particular, ensuring that alternative and school-based provision does not cost more however, a number also suggested increasing charges could be a means of keeping facilities open.	Affordability is a concern and the Strategy aims to maximise sport and active recreation opportunities for all across the county borough. The proposed approach to facilities aims to allow for investment in high quality facilities, recognising that income is an important part of any business model, but avoiding excessive charges that would present a barrier to participation.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Making better use of a range of other venues was supported by many although smaller proportion of respondents supported joint school use. Concerns were raised over the capacity of schools to run facilities and restrictions on access to facilities (opening times, school holiday closures)	The Strategy recognises the importance of schools as an essential part of the future community sport and active recreation offer and the Council will work with schools to help them meet their needs and those of the wider community.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Ensuring a multi-agency approach that encourages healthy lifestyles beyond exercise.	The Strategy highlights the broad collaboration with our partners, but there is an opportunity to be clearer about the links between this Strategy and the Caerphilly Public Services Board's Well being Plan across health and well-being, social connections and cohesive communities, volunteering and active citizenship, culture, economic opportunity and the natural environment.	Additional text added at page 8.

## Facilities



## Report of Consultation October 2018

If respondents disagreed with any of the statements relating to Facilities they were asked to suggest alternative ways forward.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of capacity of remaining facilities to support an expanding population;</li> <li>• The suitability of alternative facilities for certain activities</li> <li>• Ensuring a full cost benefit analysis is undertaken before any decisions are made</li> <li>• Specifically, there was opposition to the potential closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres. Proposed that alternative provision is available to meet the demand for services in the area e.g. swimming pool capacity at other leisure centres if Cefn Fforest is to close.</li> </ul>	<p>The draft strategy recommends adoption of the Welsh Government Facilities for Future Generations blueprint to support decision making in respect of the built infrastructure, across the lifetime (10 years) of the strategy. As the service evolves to the new model of delivery careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Any proposed changes to the existing portfolio will be subject to robust business cases at the appropriate time, considering the authority's unique position in respect of delivery and opportunity.</p>	<p>Text added at page 30 to confirm that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</p>

Page 63

Respondents were asked to outline what they felt the impact would be on them of rationalising facilities so that the Council's Sport and Leisure service directly manages 4 strategic leisure centres located in Risca, Caerphilly, Newbridge and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas with other leisure centres either transferring to school management (if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval) or closing completely.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
<p>Increased travel time and distance for those who drive.</p>	<p>There may be an increased travel time and distance for some; this may be reduced for others.</p>	<p>No changes proposed to the draft strategy.</p>

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Increased cost of travel.	There may be an increased cost of travel for some; this may be reduced for others.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Concern relating to inadequate public transport provision to sites.	The locations of the 4 strategic leisure centres are all accessible by public transport.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Reduced availability and access to facilities (capacity and opening hours)	Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Focussing on 4 strategic leisure centres directly managed by the Council's Sport and Leisure service will support investment in multi-functional facilities and allow opening hours to be maximised.	Text added at page 30 to confirm that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.
Fair geographical distribution	Agreed - All future provision will be accessible by public transport and will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and leisure provision into the future for the benefit of all.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Capacity of swimming pools for swimming lessons.	Noted - It is clear that we need to clarify our unique position in respect of aquatic delivery. Any changes to aquatic provision will be subject to robust business cases across the lifetime of the Strategy that support our unique position, the financial climate and the requirement to provide the appropriate facility mix to support a broad range of delivery options.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Support for development of strategic sites in Caerphilly and Bargoed.	The draft strategy clearly articulates the vision to maximise resources through the delivery of four strategically located leisure facilities that provide fair and equitable access to all residents. The anticipated population growth in the south of the county borough, along with the current condition of the existing facility and opportunity to develop a fit for purpose, better quality leisure centre that supports the Facilities for Future Generations blueprint, clearly	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.

## Report of Consultation October 2018

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
	identifies that this area of the county borough is of significant importance. Further, delivering a high quality leisure facility that supports the north of the county borough, in partnership with Welsh Governments 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme is also a key aspiration	

If respondents indicated that the impact of rationalising leisure facilities will be negative, they were asked what could be done to mitigate the impact on them and their family.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
Ensure that alternative provision is in place before centres are closed	Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Focussing on 4 strategic leisure centres directly managed by the Council's Sport and Leisure service will support investment in multi-functional facilities and allow opening hours to be maximised.	Text added at page 30 to confirm that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.
Maximise the use of local assets (community centres, church halls etc) to provide classes etc	Maximising the use of all our community amenities and the local environment is an Action identified in the Strategy under Outcome 3: A more efficient and financially sustainable future provision.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Ensuring that there is adequate capacity within remaining facilities if leisure centres are to close	Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Focussing on 4 strategic leisure centres directly managed by the Council's Sport and Leisure service will support investment in multi-functional facilities and allow opening hours to be maximised.	Text added at page 30 to confirm that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.

Page 65

### Sport and active recreation outreach and intervention programmes

## Report of Consultation October 2018

If respondents disagreed with any of the statements relating to outreach and intervention programmes, they were asked to suggest an alternative way forward.

Issues Raised	Officer Response	Recommendation
A need to monitor and evidence the effectiveness of intervention programmes	Agreed, intervention programmes are evaluated.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Ensuring sustainability of provision when relying on volunteers or private companies moving forward	Agreed.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Considering the negative impact of rationalising leisure centres on local clubs who use these facilities	Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.	Text added at page 30 to confirm that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.
A need to work with parents to ensure they encourage and adopt healthy active lifestyles for themselves and their families.	Our vision for sport and active recreation is to encourage healthy lifestyles and support our residents to be more active, more often.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.
Encouraging a Gwent wide approach with cross border access to facilities	The Council is playing a lead role in the regional Active Gwent collaboration programme to increase participation in sport and physical activity in a way that has the greatest impact in Caerphilly.	No changes proposed to the draft strategy.

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

## THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

<b>NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL *</b>	Caerphilly County Borough Sport & Active Recreation Strategy 2018-2028
<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	Communities
<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	Communities & Leisure
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	Rob Hartshorn

**\*Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, 'proposal' is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

## INTRODUCTION

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

It also helps the Council to meet its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and supports the wider aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There is also a requirement under Human Rights legislation for Local Authorities to consider Human Rights in developing proposals.

Specifically, Section 147 of the Equality Act 2010 is the provision that requires decision-makers to have 'due regard' to the equality implications of their decisions and Welsh Language Standards 88-97 require specific consideration of Welsh speakers under the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015.

The Council's work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the **Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020**.

## PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

<b>1</b>	<p><b>What is the proposal intended to achieve?</b> <i>(Please give a brief description of the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <p>The Council has identified the need and opportunity to develop a strategic approach to shape the future of its sport and active recreation services.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to establish a joined up vision for future provision, setting clear outcomes recognising the contribution that sport and active recreation makes to economic, social, environmental &amp; cultural well-being.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Who are the service users affected by the proposal?</b> <i>(Who will be affected by the delivery of this proposal? e.g. staff members, the public generally, or specific sections of the public i.e. youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits etc.)</i></p> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy affects the public generally and in particular current, potential and future users of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outdoor and Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities;</li><li>• Sports Development programmes;</li><li>• Staff</li></ul>

## IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

<b>3</b>	<p><b>Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals?</b> <i>(What has been done to examine whether or not these groups have equal access to the service, or whether they need to receive the service in a different way from other people?)</i></p> <p>Sport and active recreation provision is not a statutory requirement of Local Government in Wales. The Council heavily subsidises Sport and Leisure Services provision in Caerphilly. This subsidy is not necessarily strategically directed nor applied consistently which results in operational anomalies. Reducing revenue and capital resources need to be balanced against crucial health and well-being priorities and focus on making the most impact possible on health and well-being inequalities, which will facilitate continued provision of a range of opportunities to benefit our residents.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a rationalisation of facilities to achieve a sustainable future service alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. The new model of service delivery will evolve over the 10 year lifetime of the Strategy and careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</p> <p>Whilst some existing facilities might close which may result in some users having longer travel time to facilities, all of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and are accessible by public transport. All future provision will so far as reasonably practicable ensure geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and active recreation provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers. An ongoing investment strategy will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p> <p>A collaborative approach aims to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education, whilst also ensuring the learning environments are maximised for community use out of school hours.</p> <p>There is a coordinated approach between schools &amp; Caerphilly Adventures in the engagement of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards helping young people to gain skills for life delivering better educational, employment, and social outcomes for the benefit of all of our communities.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and intervention provides targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social, and easy to</p>
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	<p>access physical activities.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to deliver sustainable sport and active recreation provision that can be maintained at a level of service which is comparable with other Local Authorities. Facilities will be improved and the Council will take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and will work to address access for older people, younger people, and disabled people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Give careful consideration to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</li><li>2. Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts due to longer travel distances and work to address access for people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</li></ol>



4. What are the impacts of the proposals?					
Protected Group		Positive Impact?	Negative Impact?	No Specific Impact	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative how can it be mitigated? (action)
Gender	Male			X	
	Female			X	We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery. <b>Action: Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.</b>
	Transgender			X	The Council is sensitive to issues around changing, but has not had any representations' or engagement on this issue to date.
Religion			X		
Race			X	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to race.	
Disability		X	X		<p>Where leisure facilities are closed people with disabilities may be more greatly affected if this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities. However, all of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and are accessible by public transport.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers. An ongoing investment strategy will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p> <p>The public consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing</p>

					<p>disabled people. Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and leisure provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Action: Give careful consideration to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</b>  <b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for disabled people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
Sexual Orientation				X	
Age	Older People	X	X		<p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. However there may be some negative impact where there are increased travel distances following any rationalisation of facilities.</p> <p>The public consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing older people. Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and</p>

				<p>intervention provides targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy to access physical activities.</p> <p>We will also support individuals by providing specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences in our communities where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider.</p> <p><b>Action: Give careful consideration to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</b>  <b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for older people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
	Children and Younger People (Under 25)	X	X	<p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough for future generations alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. However there may be some negative impact where there are increased travel distances following any rationalisation of facilities.</p> <p>The public consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing children and young people. Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</p> <p>Young people attending schools where there was joint use would benefit from access to enhanced sport and leisure facilities during the school day. A joint sport and active recreation and</p>

					<p>schools strategy will be pursued to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults through more inspirational learning experiences.</p> <p>A collaborative approach with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education.</p> <p><b>Action: Give careful consideration to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</b>  <b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for younger people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
Marriage & Civil Partnership				X	
Pregnancy & Maternity				X	We have identified no adverse impact as long as pre and post natal classes are sustained at existing service levels.
Socio-economic Background		X			<p>All future provision will be accessible by public transport and will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and leisure provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a financially sustainable vision to secure sport and active recreation provision in the county borough into the future. In doing so any financial pressure to increase prices for customers is reduced thereby promoting accessibility across socio-economic groups.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes the redevelopment of Caerphilly Leisure Centre which is in the vicinity of the most deprived locality (St</p>

				<p>James 3) in the whole of Wales as defined within the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation.</p> <p>The Council's unique role will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Working with others to make the best use of all available opportunities, facilities, funding and people;</li> <li>II. Making better and more innovative use of the widest possible range of indoor and outdoor physical activity spaces across all communities;</li> <li>III. Specialist interventions in approaches and places that will have the greatest long term health impact on priority target audiences in our communities and where no others are in a position to provide such assistance.</li> </ol>
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5	<p><b>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1) Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</b></p> <p><i>(The specific Policy Making Standards requirements are Standard numbers 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The full detail of each Standard is available on the Equalities and Welsh Language Portal)</i></p> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will not have any effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b> None</p>

## INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p><b>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available?</b>  <i>(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposals include an analysis of those affected?)</i></p> <p>In 2016 26.9% of people in the county borough aged 16-64 were disabled as defined by the Equality Act.      In the 2011 Census 97.6% of the population are identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British.      50.7 are identified as being of Christian religion with 48.32% identified as having no religion or religion not stated.      50.95% of the population of the county borough were female and 49.05% male.</p> <p>There are limitations in the data that we hold, but information analysis of 152,000 Sport and Leisure service users who hold Smartcards is as follows:      43% male, 52% female, 5% unspecified;      1.3% disabled;      3 different ages groups comprising of 50.9% aged 25-64, 35.9% under 25 and 13.2% over 64.      95.1% of Smartcard holders identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British</p> <p>We do not hold data regarding other services users or other protected characteristics.</p>
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**Actions required:** We have highlighted above limitations in the information that we hold, but have used the public consultation process to strengthen this position and engaged directly with:

Youth forum  
50+ forum  
Age Cymru  
Deafblind.org  
RNIB Cymru  
Action Hearing Loss Cymru  
BDA  
Disability Can Do  
Caerphilly County Borough Access Group  
Caerphilly People First  
Disability Sports Wales  
Caerphilly Borough Mind  
Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS)  
Race Equality Council  
SEWREC  
Umbrella Cymru  
LGBTQ+ youth group  
Stonewall Cymru  
Menter Iaith  
Welsh Language Forum

## CONSULTATION

### 7 What consultation has taken place?

*(What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have the Council's Equalities staff been consulted? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)*

A ten week consultation period was undertaken to obtain the views of Caerphilly County Borough residents, existing users and a broad range of stakeholders. Views were sought via a questionnaire and 11 drop-in sessions that were held across the county borough to provide the opportunity for one to one discussions with Officers. As well as other stakeholders we also engaged directly with the following:

Youth forum  
50+ forum  
Age Cymru  
Deafblind.org  
RNIB Cymru  
Action Hearing Loss Cymru  
BDA  
Disability Can Do  
Caerphilly County Borough Access Group  
Caerphilly People First  
Disability Sports Wales

	<p>Caerphilly Borough Mind  Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS)  Race Equality Council  SEWREC  Umbrella Cymru  LGBTQ+ youth group  Stonewall Cymru  Menter Iaith  Welsh Language Forum</p> <p>711 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire with a further 20 written responses also being received.</p> <p>A 2 minute video was released explaining the key points of the Strategy.</p> <p>135,809 individuals were reached via social media with 7,242 likes, shares and comments and 250 consultation link clicks.</p>

## MONITORING AND REVIEW

<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>How will the proposal be monitored?</b>  <i>(What monitoring process has been set up to assess the extent that the service is being used by all sections of the community, or that the savings proposals are achieving the intended outcomes with no adverse impact? Are comments or complaints systems set up to record issues by Equalities category to be able analyse responses from particular groups?)</i></p> <p>There are limitations in the data that we hold but we have used the public consultation on the Strategy to strengthen our understanding.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b>  1. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport &amp; Leisure Service systems.</p>

<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>How will the monitoring be evaluated?</b>  <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments process that is regularly reviewed for trend data.</p>
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	Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations Customer Satisfaction survey and Net Promotor Score process
	<b>Actions required:</b> None

<b>10</b>	<b>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified?</b> <i>(Has the EIA or consultation process shown a need for awareness raising amongst staff, or identified the need for Equalities or Welsh Language training of some sort?)</i>
	No
	<b>Actions required:</b> None

<b>11</b>	<p><b>Where you have identified mitigating factors in previous answers that lessen the impact on any particular group in the community, or have identified any elsewhere, please summarise them here.</b></p> <p>The proposal will ensure future sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. Careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>All of the proposed strategic facilities will be fully accessible and accessible by public transport.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities with modern and accessible equipment will encourage people with mobility impairments to become more active.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and active recreation provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery.</p> <p>Age</p> <p>As identified in Section 3 above young people will benefit positively from the</p>
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enhanced collaboration between the Sport and Leisure service and schools as well as from the strengthening of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

New and refurbished facilities with modern equipment will be particularly attractive to young people and therefore enhance accessibility.

**Summary of Proposed Actions:**

- 1. Give careful consideration to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn.**
- 2. Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts due to longer travel distances and work to address access for people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.**
- 3. Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.**
- 4. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport & Leisure Service systems.**

**12** **What outcome does this Equality Impact Assessment suggest you take?** You might find that more than one applies. Please explain why you have come to this decision.

Outcome 1		<b>No major change needed</b> – the EIA hasn't identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken
Outcome 2		<b>Adjust the policy</b> to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers you identified?
Outcome 3	X	<b>Continue the policy</b> despite potential for negative impact.
Outcome 4		<b>Stop and rethink the policy</b> when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination.

**Our Assessment is Outcome 3 – Continue the Policy**

We have reached this conclusion because although the potential for some negative impacts have been identified actions are proposed to mitigate these and the impacts are outweighed by the overall benefits of ensuring sustainable sport and active recreation provision across the county borough. This assessment has been informed by the extensive consultation process.

<b>Completed by:</b>	Rob Hartshorn
<b>Date:</b>	22nd October 2018
<b>Position:</b>	Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services

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