



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26TH JUNE 2018

SUBJECT: DRAFT SPORT & ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY 2019-29

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Scrutiny Committee views on a 10 year holistic vision and Strategy for the delivery of Sport and Active Recreation in Caerphilly county borough prior to presenting to Cabinet for approval to commence a ten week consultation exercise with a range of stakeholders.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report presents a draft strategy which set outs 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 we define sport and active recreation as the range of sport and physical activity opportunities provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council in conjunction with our key partners.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The draft Strategy is strongly aligned to the Wellbeing Objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan and in doing so also acknowledges that in rising to the future challenges it is clear that we will need to do things differently. The Authority currently provides a large number of opportunities to engage with physical activity which include a physical infrastructure of leisure centres, community centres and fixed play, further supported by a number of (country) parks, cycle paths, outdoor sports facilities and school sport provision. The majority of the current leisure centre facility stock was built during the late 1960s / early 1970s and no longer meet modern day leisure centre requirements.
- 2.4 The draft Strategy proposes adoption of Welsh Government's blueprint for sport and active recreation in Wales, 'Facilities for Future Generations' together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. The significant role played by the outdoors in support of a holistic approach to sport and active recreation provision is recognised. The county borough has a significant level of countryside and outdoor space that includes country parks, municipal parks, allotments, fixed play, sport pitches, nature reserves, cycle and walking routes. The aim is also to maximise the use of 3G facilities for school, community and weekend competitive use alongside the grass pitch network, supporting the development of stronger, more sustainable, sports clubs.

- 2.5 In terms of sport and active recreation outreach and intervention programmes the draft Strategy proposes that the Council will continue to:
- Adopt a collaborative approach with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational and inclusive physical activity experiences whilst they are in education.
 - Provide targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older/less independent people to lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy to access physical activities.
 - Encourage and support federations of clubs sharing resources, helping to build stronger, more sustainable, and successful sports clubs.
 - Provide essential support underpinning sporting success
 - Provide specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider.
 - 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.
- 2.6 A ten week consultation period is proposed to obtain the views of Caerphilly County Borough residents, existing users and a broad range of stakeholders to shape the future provision and delivery of sport and active recreation across the county borough.

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 In October 2014 a paper was presented to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny committee, titled Strategic Review of Leisure Facilities that set the scene in respect of a strategic approach to the provision of leisure facilities. Public consultation was undertaken in June 2015, however the scope of this review was considered too narrow. In 2015 the council adopted an Outdoor Sports Strategy that included sports pitches, allotments, play provision and amenity green spaces. In May 2016 a further review undertaken by the Wales Audit Office concluded that the Authority needed to develop and agree a vision and strategy for its Sport and Leisure Service.
- 4.2 This report presents a draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 setting 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 we define sport and active recreation as the range of sport and physical activity opportunities provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council in conjunction with our key partners.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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. The draft Strategy is strongly linked to the Wellbeing Objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan and in doing so also acknowledges that in 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. 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.
- 4.5 Having regard to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act the draft Strategy reflects that 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 it into the future.

- 4.6 The draft Strategy advocates 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.
- 4.7 Whilst the overarching aim of the strategy is to deliver sport and active recreation services on a holistic basis, it should be noted that the largest element of the authority's investment is consumed by its physical infrastructure. The Authority currently provides a large number of opportunities to engage with physical activity which include a physical infrastructure of leisure centres, community centres and fixed play, further supported by a number of (country) parks, cycle paths and outdoor sports areas. The majority of the current leisure centre facility stock was built during the late 1960s / early 1970s and no longer meet modern day leisure centre requirements.
- 4.8 The draft Strategy proposes adoption of Welsh Government's blueprint for sport and active recreation in Wales, 'Facilities for Future Generations', with the aim of achieving a landscape of modern, fit for purpose and sustainable facilities aimed at providing improved opportunity for access and engagement. Facilities for Future Generations suggests that sport and leisure facilities are classified within three distinct categories, namely:-
- **Level 1** – Very local, community facilities that are essential to deliver door step provision and facilitate daily active lifestyles. An example in this regard is the community centre network and local green infrastructure.
 - **Level 2** – Described as 'travel to' community facilities. It is suggested that these facilities are ideally located on school sites to maximise use and deliver value for money. The primary purpose of these facilities is to inspire young people to engage in physical activity and serve communities through out of hours community use. In this regard an example is the facilities currently delivered upon school campus.
 - **Level 3** – These are identified as large strategically placed facilities that may be specialist sport and /or tourist attractions that have the ability to impact positively upon the local economy. In this regard it is considered that the Centre of Sporting Excellence and the opportunities that exist within the south west of the county borough and the development of a new or refurbished Caerphilly Leisure Centre fit within this category. Investment is proposed to deliver a commercially sustainable leisure attraction in in response to the significant growth in new housing and supporting our tourism aspirations in the south west of the county borough, although this is dependant on the availability of finance.
- 4.9 A proposed decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic Leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service is set out within the draft Strategy. It is proposed that the criteria for strategic facilities in future would include that provide a range of facilities and services for sport and active recreation including "wetside" (e.g. pool, sauna, spa, etc.) and "dryside" (e.g. fitness suite, dance, classes, etc.) activities, they are shared with a day time user (standalone only in major population centres and/or are attractions of regional or national significance). Strategic facilities would also have over 250,000 visitors per annum, appropriate access, and the aim of reducing the subsidy per user to less than £1 to £1.20. Current visitor and subsidy levels of our existing facilities are detailed in the table below:

FACILITY	2017/18 VISITS	2017/18 NET OPERATING COST (TOTAL)	2017/18 NET COST PER VISIT £
Caerphilly (including pool)	265,624	231,421	0.87
Risca (including pool)	223,687	217,969	0.97
Newbridge (including pool)	264,810	294,127	1.11

Heolddu (including pool)	97,423	256,646	2.63
Cefn Fforest (including pool)	66,598	217,025	3.26
Bedwas (including pool)	27,412	124,775	4.55
St Cenydd	45,868	81,169	1.77
Pontllanfraith	74,347	104,797	1.41
Sue Noake	33,261	51,348	1.54
New Tredegar	17,834	82,211	4.78

- 4.10 Application of the decision making matrix outlined in 4.9 above will result in a rationalisation of facilities over the next 10 years focussing on 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. Decisions on each will be the subject of separate reports and a specific decision making process.
- 4.11 The draft strategy also aims to capture the significant role played by the outdoors in support of a holistic approach to sport and active recreation provision. The county borough has a significant level of countryside and outdoor space that includes country parks, municipal parks, allotments, fixed play, sport pitches, nature reserves, cycle and walking routes. The Council's Outdoor Sports Strategy adopted in 2015 establishes a clear position that the delivery of activities aimed at improving physical health and wellbeing do not need to be exclusively delivered from a built physical structure. The Council will 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. The Centre for Sporting Excellence offers a 3G football pitch and rugby pitch; it is used as a training facility by the Dragons Rugby and Coleg-y-Cymoedd, and is used by sports clubs from across the county borough
- 4.12 In terms of sport and active recreation outreach and intervention programmes the draft Strategy proposes that the Council will continue to:
- Collaborate with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational and inclusive physical activity experiences whilst they are in education.
 - Provide targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older/less independent people to lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy to access physical activities.
 - Encourage and support federations of clubs sharing resources, helping to build stronger, more sustainable, and successful sports clubs.
 - Provide essential support underpinning sporting success.
 - Provide specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider.
 - 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.
- 4.13 Obtaining the views of Caerphilly County Borough residents, existing users and a broad range of stakeholders will be essential in shaping the future provision and delivery of sport and active recreation across the county borough. In support of this requirement, a ten week consultation period is proposed that includes the following:-

Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy – Outline of Proposed Consultation

TIMESCALES	ACTIVITY
9th July	Pre consultation - Members Seminar
Friday 16th July – 21st 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
TBC	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"> • 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 • Age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Youth forum – 50+ forum – Age Cymru • Disability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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 • Pregnancy and Maternity – will be covered by general consultation • Race <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS) – Race Equality Council, – SEWREC • Religion or Belief – will be covered by general consultation • Sex – will be covered by general consultation • Sexual orientation and gender reassignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Umbrella Cymru – LGBTQ+ youth group, – Stonewall Cymru

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Menter Iaith, – Welsh Language Forum including Meithrin etc <p>Direct correspondence with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All smart card users (for leisure centres) • Sports and clubs across the county borough • All groups who use leisure facilities for any other activities • Community centre secretaries and all groups who use community centres currently • All groups who use tourism venues for active recreation. <p>Direct correspondence with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All local Councillors • All town and community councils • WLGA • Dragons Rugby • Coleg-y-cymoedd • Future Generations Commissioner • Older People's Commissioner • Children's Commissioner • Welsh Language Commissioner • Equalities and Human Rights Commission • Local Assembly Members • Local Members of Parliament • Partner organisations through the Public Services Board and Standing Conference members • Voluntary sector through GAVO • All schools and parents via head teachers • Further and Higher Education Colleges • Business forum • All private sector leisure providers within the county borough • Neighbouring local authorities whose provision may be impacted • Welsh Athletics • Sport Wales
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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 have communicated a vision to place its facilities at the heart of the community, ensuring it's 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 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 financial climate means that it is not possible to continue subsidising all provision and so decisions must be taken now to secure a sports and leisure service for future generations.
- **INVOLVEMENT** - An extensive consultation will take place 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 in the current challenging financial climate.
- **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 Equalities 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 2. 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 and 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.
- 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 will be used to strengthen our understanding of any potential positive or negative impacts and the Equalities Impact Assessment will be kept under continuing review throughout the consultation process.

- 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 direct financial implications at this initial consultation 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 robust business cases.
- 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 Officers	£430,200 (Grant Funded)
Central Leisure Costs	£666,034
Outdoor and Green Spaces	£4,458,662

- 7.3 It should be noted that the above reflects current budgets which will need to reduce as a consequence of the ongoing public sector austerity programme. The updated Medium-Term Financial Plan presented to Council on the 22nd February 2018 showed a potential Authority-wide savings requirement of circa £34m for the four-year period 2019/20 to 2022/23. This is clearly extremely challenging and it is inevitable that some very difficult decisions will need to be made. In looking to develop proposals to address the financial challenges moving forward it is widely accepted that the Council cannot continue as it is. There is therefore a need to examine the ways in which we deliver services to make the best use of available resources in the context of the reduced funding available.
- 7.4 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 maintenance liability.
- 7.5 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 subject to the approval of business cases.
- 7.6 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.

7.7 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 would be dependent on the availability of funding and the approval of a robust business case.

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 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 proposal to undertake a public consultation on the draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 and make any Recommendations prior to presentation to Cabinet.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11.2 To obtain feedback from all stakeholders to assist in informing the next stages of strategy development and implementation

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
Shaun Watkins, HR Manager
Sue Richards, Head of Service, Education, Planning and Strategy
Nicole Scammell, Section 151 Officer
Lisa Lane, Interim Monitoring Officer
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance

Background Papers:

'Strategic Review of Leisure Facilities' report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee
28th October 2014.

'Review of Existing Formal Recreation and Leisure Facilities' report to Cabinet 17th June 2015
Wales Audit Office Report 'Review of the development of a sport and leisure strategy – Caerphilly
County Borough Council' May 2016.

Appendices:

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

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

Caerphilly County Borough Council

SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY 2019-2029

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



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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.

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.

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.

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 great 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.



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.
- 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.**



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.

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 and stronger; 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.

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

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 provide the same for all and in every area;

- 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 that is 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



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 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.



CAERPHELLY 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.
- **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.

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

CAERPHELLY COUNTY BOROUGH... ABOUT THE PEOPLE

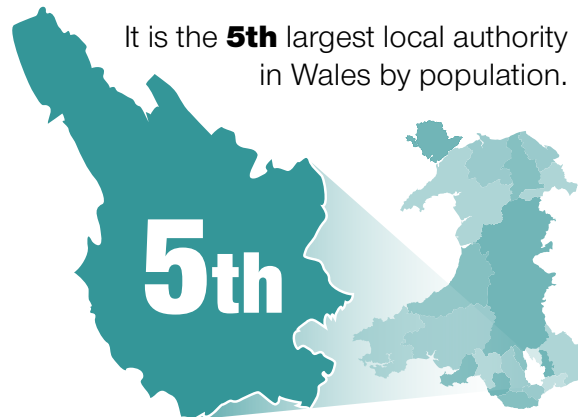
POPULATION SIZE

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

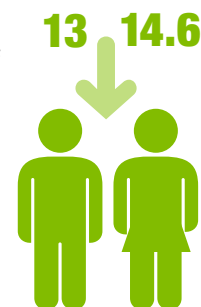
significant additional housing is planned particularly in the south of the County Borough in the Caerphilly basin area.

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.

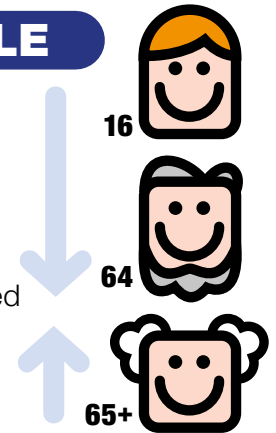


People living in areas of higher deprivation also have higher levels of ill health with life expectancy varying greatly depending on where you live. Between the least and most deprived areas there is a healthy life expectancy gap of **13** years for men and nearly **14.6** years for women.



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...



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 - 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
Indoor	
Sports Halls	15
Community Centres	50
Youth Centres	20
Swimming Pools	8
Primary Schools i.e. halls	80
Outdoor	
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 council's active travel integrated network map was approved in February 2018.
- 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.
- 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 for all', 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 sport and active recreation and schools strategy 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 sport and active recreation and 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>Facilities Framework Level 1 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>Facilities Framework Level 2 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>Facilities Framework Level 3 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.
- 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 for 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 adopt a collaborative approach with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles...



Caerphilly County Borough Council

SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY 2019-2029



Adobe Stock

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.

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

1	<p>What is the proposal intended to achieve? <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 draft 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 & cultural well-being.</p>
2	<p>Who are the service users affected by the proposal? <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 draft 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">• Outdoor and Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities;• Sports Development programmes;• Staff

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

3

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?

(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?)

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.

The draft 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.

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.

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.

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.

There is a coordinated approach between schools & 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.

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 access physical activities.

	<p>The draft Strategy aims to 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>Actions required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Undertake consultation on the draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.2. Review this consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment following consideration of consultation responses received.3. 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.

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. Action: Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.
	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 draft 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>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and leisure provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a</p>

					<p>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>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.</p> <p>Action: Use the consultation process to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing disabled people.</p>
Sexual Orientation				X	
Age	Older People	X	X		<p>The draft 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 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 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>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.</p> <p>Action: Use the consultation process to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing older people.</p>
	Children and Younger People (Under 25)	X	X		<p>The draft 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>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 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>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.</p> <p>Action: Action: Use the consultation process to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing younger people.</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 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> <p>The Strategy proposes the redevelopment of Caerphilly Leisure Centre which is in the vicinity of the most deprived locality (St 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"> 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 in our communities and where no others are in a position to provide such assistance.

5	<p>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.</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 draft 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>Actions required: None</p>

INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available? <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 Equalities 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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	<p>Actions required: We have highlighted above limitations in the information that we hold, but will use the consultation process to strengthen this position and will be engaging directly with:</p> <p>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 including Meithrin etc.</p>
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CONSULTATION

<p>7</p>	<p>What consultation has taken place? <i>(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?)</i></p> <p>Full public consultation is proposed. Organisations representing those with protected characteristics will be consulted directly.</p>
	<p>Actions required: 1. Full consultation.</p>

MONITORING AND REVIEW

<p>8</p>	<p>How will the proposal be monitored? <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 and the intention is to use this consultation process to strengthen our understanding.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport & Leisure Service systems. 2. Review this consultation stage EIA following consideration of consultation responses.
<p>9</p>	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated? <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> <p>Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations</p> <p>Customer Satisfaction survey and Net Promotor Score process</p>
	<p>Actions required: 1. Consideration given to all observations and responses submitted as part of consultation process</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified? <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></p> <p>No</p>
	<p>Actions required: None</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>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.</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.</p>

Disability

All of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible and accessible by public transport.

New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers.

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.

Gender

We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery.

Age

As identified in Section 3 above young people will positive benefit from the 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. Undertake full consultation on the draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy including direct consultation with organisations representing groups with protected characteristics.**
- 2. Use the consultation process to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing those with protected characteristics..**
- 3. Review this consultation stage Equality Impact Assessment following consideration of consultation responses received.**
- 4. 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.**
- 5. Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.**
- 6. 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	No major change needed – the EIA hasn't identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken
	Outcome 2	Adjust the policy 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 Continue the policy despite potential for negative impact.
	Outcome 4	Stop and rethink the policy when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination.
<p>Our Assessment is Outcome 3 – Continue the Policy</p> <p>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 will be kept under continuing review throughout the consultation process.</p>		

Completed by:	Rob Hartshorn
Date:	4 th June 2018
Position:	Head of Policy and Public Protection