

Swale Borough Council – Built Facilities Strategy 2023

Summary of Recommendations

Number	Recommendation
1 (Protect)	The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present
2 (Provide)	Discuss the options for all leisure facilities i.e., new build or refurbishment and explore the options for location of future community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision
3 (Provide and enhance)	Accessibility to be considered and factored in to ensure all facilities are as inclusive as possible
4 (Provide)	Explore the potential for integrated operational leisure management across both Sheppey Leisure Complex and Swallows Leisure Centre and Faversham Pools to identify economies of scale
5 (Provide)	Re-furbish the Sheppey sports hall and remodel to include activities more conducive to getting more of this specific community more active throughout their lives.
6 (Provide)	Swale Borough Council (through Planning policy) seek to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e. Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls to align with the new Kent and Medway Sports Strategy. Any planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by SBC Planning Services for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA).
7 (Protect and provide)	Open dialogue with all education sites where there is access for clubs/groups but not the wider community on a pay and play basis to try and increase access to physical activity facilities.
8 (Provide and enhance)	Work with partners to replace/refurbish ageing sports halls in the borough, particularly those on education sites where there is potential to develop a formal Community Use Arrangement (CUA).
9 (Provide and enhance)	Explore the options available to Swale Borough Council to address the supply of water space in the Borough to meet the future need. Swale Borough Council to work with funding and delivery partners to identify medium to longer term investment opportunities for additional swimming pool provision.
10 (Provide and enhance)	Prioritise the replacement of Sheppey Pool and if possible, extend the scale of water provision to reduce the borough's overall under-supply. Replacement of this facility could be linked to the redevelopment of the Sheppey dryside facilities.

11 (Provide and enhance)	Continue to invest in/refurbish the swimming pool at Swallows Leisure Centre to retain its quality as the facility continues to age.
12 (Provide and enhance)	Continue to invest in/refurbish the facilities at Faversham Pools to retain its quality as the facility continues to age
13 (Provide)	Working in partnership, consider the potential for investment in new fitness facilities at Faversham Pools to broaden the offer for the county.
14 (Provide and enhance)	Establish dialogue with England Hockey to the work with partners to identify an indoor sports hall space that could be adapted for use by hockey for indoor training.
15 (Provide and enhance)	Dialogue is established with England Gymnastics, Faversham Gymnastics Club and Bourne Gymnastics & Trampoline Club to further explore the potential of facilitating club-led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision.
16 (Provide and enhance)	Dialogue is established with England Indoor Bowls Association and local clubs to monitor the need for increased provision of indoor bowling rinks in the borough.
17 (Provide and enhance)	Dialogue is established with Schools and England Badminton to review whether the schools want to sub-lease their sports hall facilities directly to the badminton clubs to enhance the provision of badminton courts in the borough.
18 (Provide and enhance)	Invest in the development of additional/replacement facilities to address identified gaps in consultation with Active Kent and Medway. Developer contributions/funding as set out in national planning policy guidance (National Infrastructure Levy – NIL), towards the development of new/improved facilities should be collected on an ongoing basis wherever possible, to contribute to capital investment for physical activity and leisure.
19 (Provide and protect)	Where appropriate, Swale Borough Council and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.
20 (Provide)	Swale Borough Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Active Kent and Medway (Kent Sports Partnership).
21 (Provide and enhance)	Swale Borough Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore

	opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion.
22 (Protect)	There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments

Sport England Definitions

- **Protect:**
 - Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements, or equivalent or better provision will be provided as replacement;
- **Enhance:**
 - The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities; and
- **Provide:**
 - Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.