

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 1 December 2016

**BUILT FACILITIES – WAVENEY STRATEGY DOCUMENT (REP1384)****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. To present to Overview & Scrutiny Committee the results of the Waveney Built Facilities Assessment.
2. To seek a recommendation to Cabinet for the adoption of the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document as a key driver for investment and strategic support for facility development.
3. To seek a recommendation to Cabinet for approval to deliver against the action plan set out in the Strategy Document.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Stephen Ardley Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships and Lowestoft Rising
<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Claire Henwood Director of Community Sport & Leisure 07903 468039 claire.henwood@sentinellt.co.uk

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2016 Waveney District Council and Sentinel Leisure Trust commissioned NAA to produce a built sports and recreational facilities assessment and strategy for Waveney District Council. The overall objective was to assess the need for indoor sports and recreational facilities and set out the strategic direction for provision up to 2026 and beyond.
- 1.2 The strategy (which is available to view on the Council's website, a link to which is given at the end of this document) is based on an audit and assessment, which has gathered and developed the evidence base. This has applied the Sport England methodology of Assessing Needs and Opportunities (ANOG) guidance, which is the industry-wide accepted methodology for developing an evidence base for indoor and built sports and leisure facilities. This is described in section three of the strategy.
- 1.3 This evidence data has been combined with consultations to obtain views on what is important (and why) to organisations in the district. This has involved organisations who have a role and interest in the provision and management of facilities, or views on future development of indoor sports facilities. The scope for this consultation included public sports facilities, schools, commercial organisations sports clubs' national governing bodies of sport and Town and Parish Councils.
- 1.4 Site visits and meetings with over twenty organisations involved in the operation of the facilities in the district were also undertaken. The purpose of these was to understand how things work on the ground, for example the programming and use of the facilities, issues in operation and views on future needs. These all form part of the assessment which is summarised in section four of the strategy and set out in full in appendix three, and should be read as a precursor to this strategy.
- 1.5 Assessing the current and future need for sports and leisure facilities and ensuring this is based on requirements up to 2026 is only part of the story - facilities are the means to the end. The ultimate objective is to increase participation in sport and physical activity and create an active and healthy lifestyle for residents across Waveney District.
- 1.6 Consequently, it is important to understand who across the District participates in sport and physical activity. So which sports/activities do people participate in and how often? How far do people travel to participate and what are the motivations and barriers to increasing or starting some participation in both sport and physical activity?
- 1.7 To gain this understanding the strategy work has involved the review of data for Waveney District based on Sport England evidence and findings on participation and non-participation in sport and physical activity, as well as a review of headline data on the health and well-being of Waveney residents. This forms the people profile as context for the sports facility assessment. The findings from this profile are set out in appendix two of the strategy.
- 1.8 Also as context for the facilities strategy, it is important to understand the objectives of the District Council, its vision for sports and leisure facilities across the District and the key drivers for change which will impact on the delivery of the strategy. These findings are set out in appendix one and summarised in section two of the strategy.
- 1.9 At an early stage in the project some key features of Waveney District emerged. This relates to firstly the projected changes in population across the District over the period of the strategy and secondly the settlement pattern of the district. These findings are described also in section two of the strategy.

- 1.10 Finally, as overall context, the Sport England Strategy “Towards an Active Nation” 2016 – 2021 was published in May 2016 and mid-way through the Waveney Strategy project work. The direction being set by the new Sport England strategy is considered and how it may impact on Waveney District. The detail regarding the new focus on increasing physical activity, and getting people to be active and in a wider range of activity than just sport, the programmes of work and the investment strategy to deliver it are emerging and the new direction has been incorporated into the strategy.

### **Sentinel Leisure Trust**

- 1.11 Sentinel Leisure Trust (SLT) are the study project managers on behalf of Waveney District Council. The background to SLT is that the Council reviewed its strategic direction for leisure services in 2006, was followed by an assessment with regard to its own stock and a view of the wider leisure facilities available for community use within the district and catchment area. This approach was in line with Sport England guidelines.
- 1.12 The re-branding of Sports Development was undertaken in 2016 under the Sentinel community banner, which is an ‘outreach’ service and now a sub-regional model, it was evident that a distinction was needed within the Sentinel group and company profile
- 1.13 The sports facility types included in the project brief are: sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness centres and gyms, studios, indoor courts – bowling and tennis, gymnastics, and village halls.
- 1.14 The assessment includes all providers of these facilities, the District Council and venues operated by Sentinel Leisure Trust, state and independent schools, sports clubs, Town and Parish Councils and commercial operators.
- 1.15 The audit includes all the facility types in the district. However, to be included in the supply and demand assessment, there has to be public/community use of the venue based on the amount of time and type of access there is for use by the public, clubs and the local community.

## **2 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN**

The strategy relates to the East Suffolk Business plan in the following ways:

- 2.1 **Enabling Communities:** Healthy and engaged people; People who feel included and proud of where they live
- 2.2 **Community Health:** Enabling people to take responsibility for their own mental and physical health and well-being, helping them to live healthy lives, while remaining safe within their homes and communities
- 2.3 **Leisure:** Increased access to quality leisure, cultural facilities and activities that support and promote healthier lifestyles
- 2.4 **Customers:** Putting customers first in planning and design services; and making improvements to services following customer feedback
- 2.5 **The report supports specific planned actions for the whole of East Suffolk:**
- Increase physical activity, participation in sport & recreation across all age groups, and implement additional local health initiatives;
  - Fund and support community-led initiatives to improve health and wellbeing.

## 2.6 The report supports specific action planned for Waveney:

- Deliver a community sports & leisure hub on Oakes Farm, south of Carlton Colville;
- Support the delivery of the Halesworth Campus providing new leisure & care facilities.

## 3 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The document action plan will inform how Waveney District Council investment is best directed, alongside how we strategically support any additional work.

3.2 Reporting will take place as part of the Sentinel Leisure Trust and Waveney District Council Partnership Board process.

3.3 The strategy will form part of future business cases for any investment needed in leisure services. In addition, the strategy will provide direction for future new developments by WDC's leisure partner, Sentinel Leisure Trust.

3.4 In addition, the report – and the leisure strategy report that will follow – will provide support to future funding applications to national and regional funding bodies, such as Sport England.

## 4 OTHER KEY ISSUES

### What does the report demonstrate?

4.1 Overall the assessment indicates the facilities mix in Waveney is fit for purpose and meets the needs of local residents. Some of the headline findings are:

- **85% of our sports halls are located in schools:** this presents a problem with community access. Discussions are key to ensure continued access. If access is not secured, then alternative arrangements will need to be made by WDC.
- **87% of swimming demand is met by local pools inside and outside the district:** Pools in Waveney operate at 63% of total capacity used.
- **There are 12 health and fitness venues across the district with 486 stations:** There is limited need for further development.
- **There are 3 purpose built bowls facilities across the district:** each with different needs to move forward. Some assistance will be required in accessing external funding to meet future needs.
- **There are 5 squash courts on 3 sites:** any loss should be resisted.
- **There are 2 dedicated gymnastics centres in the district:** each with waiting lists. Work needed on capacity building in this area.

## 5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation delivered district-wide – including sports clubs, town/parish councils and Village Halls. These have included face to face, email, group and presentation format consultations. See Appendix 3 Waveney Site Visits for full details

5.2 Waveney District Council Planning – key consultee throughout

5.3 This report has been prepared having taken into account the results of an Equality Impact Assessment, a Sustainability Impact Assessment and a Partnership Impact Assessment.

Any requirements have been considered within the strategy and will be monitored as part of the action plan.

## 6 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 To have a coordinated and evidence based approach to Waveney built sporting facility provision and to focus investment where gaps are identified.

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

1. That Waveney District Council adopts the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document.
2. That Waveney District Council endorses the Action Plan set out in the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document.

### APPENDICES

<b>Appendix A</b>	Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document, 10 October 2016, available to view on the Council's website on the following link: <a href="http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/council-meetings-and-decisions/agendas-reports-and-minutes-of-council-meetings/waveney-district-council-meetings/2016-wdc-meetings/december-2016-meetings/">http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/council-meetings-and-decisions/agendas-reports-and-minutes-of-council-meetings/waveney-district-council-meetings/2016-wdc-meetings/december-2016-meetings/</a>
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### BACKGROUND PAPERS

Type	Available From
East Suffolk Means Business – East Suffolk Business Plan 2015 - 2023	<a href="http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/east-suffolk-business-plan/">http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/east-suffolk-business-plan/</a>