



Committee Title: Leisure Strategy Action Plan 2023-24

Date: 18 September 2023

REPORT TITLE:	Leisure Strategy Action Plan 2023-24
REPORT OF:	Tracey Lilley – Director of Communities & Health

REPORT SUMMARY

The Leisure Strategy 2018-28 is one of the key strategies for the Council to ensure that its leisure facilities now are not only fit for purpose now, but for the future. The Strategy and annual action Plan set the vision of what the Council needs to achieve, the challenges it faces and how the priorities and outcomes have been identified. The Annual Action Plan sets out what has been delivered in 2022-23 and the planned activity for 2023-24

RECOMMENDATION

R1: To agree the Leisure Strategy action plan for 2023-24 and to note the progress in 2022-23.

SUPPORT ING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 As part of the Council's due diligence in delivering a successful leisure strategy, members and officers need to have a complete picture of the current associated costs, risk profiles of the Borough Leisure facilities and identify opportunities for income generation.
- 1.2 In light of the coronavirus and its long-term impact, the cost-of-living crisis it is important that the strategy is flexible and reactive when it needs to be.
- 1.3 Comments received from Sport England as part of the Local Development Plan consultation, stated that a Leisure Strategy is required that assesses Council owned sports and leisure facilities in order that the Council can continue to work with partners to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the residents of Brentwood. The strategy should not only consider how the Council can provide services, but also how other partners can. The strategy should also use current sports facility evidence to identify strategic priorities to then inform what will be included in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Following this feasibility work, the Council will then be able to determine which projects will be funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and those funded by planning obligations.

- 1.4 As part of the Council Asset Management Strategy there is also a need to maximise income where possible from its asset portfolio.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Leisure Strategy 2018-28 was agreed by Members, and it was also agreed that an annual action plan would come back to the relevant Committee to inform members of the progress made on the implementation of the Strategy.

2.2 The Strategy is split into six workstreams:

- Built facilities
- Open Spaces
- Play Areas
- Sport
- Health and wellbeing
- Leadership, Management and Oversight

The annual action plan in Appendix A, sets out the work that has been delivered in April 2022- March 2023 and the proposed planned activity between April 2023 – March 2025.

2.3 The Leisure Strategy is aligned with Public Health England, Sport England and the Mid and South Integrated Care Board (MSE ICB), Essex County Council's sport and health priorities.

2.4 The development of the Basildon and Brentwood Alliance, Brentwood's Health and wellbeing Board and the Council's Asset Management Strategy are also closely linked to the Strategy.

2.5 The Council also works closely with Find Your Active Essex to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing together with the Council's leisure operator Everyone Active to promote activities and programmes for the community.

2.6 The Borough's Health and Wellbeing Board and the Brentwood and Basildon Alliance and its sub-groups look at reducing health inequalities for our communities.

2.7 The Leisure Strategy also looks at where strategic investment needs to be made into leisure and community facilities and that with any new facilities adopt some key principles: - carbon neutral, BREEAM excellent so that we maximise energy efficiency and reduce utility and lifecycle costs to enable more financial viability.

2.8 In light of the insolvency of Brentwood Leisure Trust it is also important that there is robust contract management in place with the Council's leisure operator and that any issues and areas of concern are identified early.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 The Leisure Strategy is one of the key strategies for the Council. To deliver a successful Leisure Strategy, Members and Officers need to have a complete picture of the costs of the current provision, how it measures in value for money terms, the future options available to them, together with any risk profiles associated with its leisure facilities.

3.2 The Leisure Strategy Working Group identified that without a Leisure Strategy in place the Council has no clear path on how it will deliver its desired outcomes or identify the priorities that will support delivery.

3.3 The key decision for Brentwood Borough Council is how to best provide the level of leisure provision for both current and future Brentwood residents, bearing in mind that it has existing but ageing facilities and that the Council will also be faced with ongoing budgetary and development growth pressures.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 As part of the Council's Operational Risk Register, the associated are split out into the six workstreams.

4.2 Any new facility development will have Leadership, Management and Oversight workstream risks

5.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

5.1 Engagement is had with key stakeholders such as the NGBs and the leisure operator.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources & Section 151 Officer
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

One of the key drivers for the Leisure Strategy is to reduce the Council's current revenue and capital costs on its leisure facilities and ensure that they are affordable, sustainable and fit for purpose to meet future requirements. The Council needs to ensure that all costs and income are identified and agreed at all stages of the delivery of the Leisure Strategy and that the appropriate procurement processes are adhered to.

7.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance & Monitoring Officer
Tel & Email 01277 312500 / Claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

Councils have legal duties for promoting wellbeing, both to individuals (Care Act 2014) and to the population across their areas (Local Government Act 2000). Intrinsic in this are new public health duties for improving the health of their populations including "giving information, providing services or facilities to promote healthy living and providing incentives to live more healthily" (Department of Health 2012). There is a strong legislative framework within which local authorities should invest in provision of sport, leisure, physical activity and open space services and infrastructure although many leisure services and facilities are discretionary functions.

8.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health
Tel & Email 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (s.149 of the Equality Act) the Council needs to have due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Leisure Strategy will promote accessible leisure facilities that all residents can enjoy supporting their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

Improving the health and wellbeing those living, working and visiting the borough can benefit the local economy in a multitude of ways and supporting the most vulnerable in our community. The regular review of the action plan will help to ensure that the Council is on track towards achieving goals set within the workstreams set out in the report.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Kim Anderson

Title: Corporate Manager, Community, Leisure and Health

Phone: 01277 312500

Email: kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Leisure Strategy Annual Action Plan 2022-23

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Leisure Strategy Review and Action Plan - Community and Health Committee	9 March 2021