



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CABINET REPORT**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Leisure and Sport Facilities Strategy – assessing Northampton’s needs to 2026</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	10 February 2010
<b>Key Decision:</b>	YES
<b>Listed on Forward Plan:</b>	YES
<b>Within Policy:</b>	YES
<b>Policy Document:</b>	YES
<b>Directorate:</b>	Environment & Culture
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Paul Varnserry
<b>Ward(s)</b>	Non-specific

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval of the proposed strategy for the provision of leisure and sports facilities across Northampton, attached at annex 1.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet approves the attached Facilities Strategy, produced by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP), as the basis for future development of such facilities.
- 2.2 Cabinet notes that the Strategy will form part of the robust evidence base for the Local Development Framework (LDF), and that further consultation of the Strategy and proposals within it which are proposed to be adopted by the LDF will take place as part of the LDF process.

**3. Issues and Choices**

**3.1 Summary**

- 3.1.1 The proposed strategy for the provision of leisure and sports facilities is an important milestone for Northampton Borough Council in pursuit of its aim to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities. The strategy identifies

the projected demand for leisure and sports facilities in the Borough to 2026 and aims to pull together relevant information for public agencies with an interest in public health in developing their plans.

3.1.2 The strategy is intended to inform planning policy and associated planning decisions and provide a robust evidence base for aspects of the Local Development Framework.

3.1.3 The longterm projection of future leisure and sports requirements also provides a context within which the Borough Council can consider its role in providing these facilities.

### **3.2 Background**

3.2.1 The development of a leisure and sport strategy was initiated by the council in November 2008 and consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) were appointed to undertake this work. But the need to undertake a strategic business review of these services and the way they are provided led to the revision of the brief of that commission part way through, resulting in the determination of a three phase approach, as follows:

Phase 1	Baseline assessment	Completed May 09
Phase 2	Strategy development	Completed Dec 09
Phase 2a	Management options - evaluation	Due to complete Mar 10
Phase 3	Management options - implementation	Due to complete Feb11

3.2.2 The first phase of the leisure and sport facilities strategy was completed in May 2009. The work undertaken established a base line for sport and leisure facilities in Northampton. It built on previous key reports and considered the contextual aspects of Northampton and its predicted population growth to 2026. It analysed the supply and demand of provision in the borough in order to identify any additional infrastructure that may be required. In particular, it summarised the need for:

- New facilities within the Borough
- The continued provision of existing facilities
- The continued provision of school swimming pools
- Facilities for emerging sports such as adrenalin sports
- Facilities for people of retirement age

### **3.3 Strategic business review – leisure and sport**

3.3.1 The strategic business review of leisure and sport was undertaken in two further concurrent phases (phase 2 and phase 2a), as follows:

#### **3.3.2 Phase 2 – development of the leisure and sport facilities strategy**

The outcome of this phase of the strategic business review is the subject of this report. It has determined the council's strategy for facility provision across Northampton. It has:

- Taken account of the national, regional and local context for sport and other policies and publications which enables planners and policymakers to take informed decisions on enhancing and extending local provision

- Identified the role of each facility within the context of Northampton being a desirable place to live, work and play as well as achieving national targets in increasing participation in sport and physical activity and health improvement
- Identified the investment requirements for each of the existing facilities to enable them to fulfil their role
- Identified opportunities for facilities to be rationalised
- Specifically, identified the development options for Lings Forum
- Identified the role of Northamptonshire's schools in providing sports and swimming facilities
- Identified the key stages of the strategy delivery plan through until 2026
- Identified potential funding opportunities from a range of sources to deliver the strategy

### **3.3.3 Phase 2a – management options appraisal**

The Borough Council has an important, but not exclusive role in providing Leisure and Sports facilities between now and 2026. The Borough Council needs to consider how it can play its part in delivering the appended facilities strategy.

### **3.4 Choices (options)**

- 3.4.1 Cabinet can choose to agree to the proposed strategy. In so doing, Cabinet will ensure the Council has a robust policy in relation to providing leisure and sports facilities that supports effective planning and regeneration decisions in the medium term.
- 3.4.2 Cabinet can choose not to agree this strategy if they are not satisfied that it completely fulfils the objectives set out in paragraph 3.3.2.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 Phase 2 of the strategic business review of leisure and sports development proposes a robust leisure and sport facilities strategy that sets leisure and sport in Northampton within a strategic context that is aligned to plans for regeneration and growth in the area. The strategy also clearly sets out the contribution leisure and sport will make to improving the quality of life of local communities.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 The original project was commissioned through a tender process at a cost of £43,000. Revisions of the brief gave rise to a cost increase of £7,500, bringing the total cost of the project to date to £50,500, which has been funded by a contribution of £19,500 from Northamptonshire County Council and the balance from LABGI.
- 4.2.2 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report. Any financial implications flowing from actions arising from the Leisure and Sports

Facilities Strategy will, as appropriate, be the subject of separate reports to Cabinet.

#### **4.3 Legal**

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. Any legal implications flowing from actions arising from the Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy will, as appropriate, be the subject of separate reports to Cabinet.

#### **4.4 Equality**

- 4.4.1 In line with best practice, an equalities impact assessment has been undertaken of the proposed strategy. The council has stringent standards in relation to equalities and any changes introduced will be fully consistent with these standards and, as appropriate, will be subject to further equality impact assessment.

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

- 4.5.1 The strategic business review has involved consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and such views have been used to inform the outcomes of the process to date.

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

- 4.6.1 The proposals contained in this report will significantly contribute to the priority outcomes of 'improving health to enhance the well-being of our communities' and 'a well managed organisation that puts the customer at the heart of what we do'.

#### **4.7 Other Implications**

None

### **5. Background Papers**

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Leisure & sport facilities strategy (May 2009) – (baseline assessment)

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