

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	SOUTHAMPTON OUTDOOR SPORTS CENTRE IMPROVEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION FEEDBACK REPORT
DATE OF DECISION:	7 TH FEBRUARY, 2022
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR HANNIDES, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND CAPITAL ASSETS

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director of Place	
	Name:	Kate Martin	Tel: 023 8083 4670
	E-mail	kate.martin@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Property Division	
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	E-mail	nigel.midmer@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY		
Not applicable		
BRIEF SUMMARY		
<p>The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider the detailed review of the Public Consultation, that has recently been carried out to identify views on a proposed improvement plan for the Outdoor Sports Centre (OSC), the subsequent analysis and approval of the scope of works, sufficient to support progress. To note the project background and the latest status update. To note and agree the proposed way forward and the outline timescales.</p>		
RECOMMENDATIONS:		
	(i)	To note the outcomes from the OSC Public Consultation, see Appendices 1 and 2.
	(ii)	To agree the draft Masterplan of Improvements outlined in the Public Consultation as the scope of works.
	(iii)	To agree way forward on the project and the outline timescales. See paragraph 24, heading titled 'Key Milestones'.
	(iv)	To delegate authority to the Exec Director Place, following consultation with the Exec. Director Finance and Commercialism and the Head of Supplier Management to approve to undertake a procurement process in order to appoint a contractor for the main works and establish the costs of the construction works to deliver the OSC improvement plan. This is sought for a procurement process prior to the final sign off at full council expected in the summer on the full scheme and its detailed costs.

	(v)	To approve a further report to be brought forward to full Council for financial consideration.
	(vi)	To delegate authority to the Head of Property to take all necessary actions required to progress the proposals in this report within existing budgets.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	The Draft Masterplan of Improvements, the background to the project and the questionnaire that was available to the public is included in Appendix 3. The analysis of the Public Consultation, see Appendix 1, supports the Draft Masterplan. Responses in Appendix 2 outline helpful feedback which will inform subsequent detail design. A high percentage of responses to the consultation support the proposals, and therefore fundamental changes are not proposed to the scope of works.
2.	The work to progress the OSC project to the next stage will include developing and submitting the planning application, submitting funding applications and preparing detailed cost estimates. This will enable a report to be considered at full Council in the summer seeking approval to spend the funding allocated in the capital programme and proceed with the final stages of design, procurement and ultimately construction. Implementation of the project will be subject to successful funding applications.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3.	No action – The condition of OSC will continue to deteriorate and the funding options currently available to be applied for may not be available in the future. All the benefits of improved facilities in terms of numbers of people participating and the health and social benefits associated would not be realised.
4.	Minimal action (minor repairs) – The approach to the OSC over the past 20 years has been to undertake minor repairs combined with a reliance on lifecycle fund expenditure by the Council leisure provider, Places for People. Continuing this approach would be uneconomic and severely hinder meeting the Council's strategic objectives and the benefits of improved facilities. The external funding opportunities as above would not necessarily be available in the future.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

5.	<p>The need to invest in improvements at the OSC has been recognised for a number of years. Following a feasibility study, funded jointly by Southampton City Council (SCC) and the Football Foundation a Draft Masterplan of Improvements was agreed by stakeholders, to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New 'hub' offering changing facilities, gym, café and three new indoor tennis and netball courts • New artificial grass football pitches • Improvements to the hockey pitches • Improvements to the snow sports centre including a new ski lodge • Transformational use of the north of the site with a new 'family zone' providing an outdoor gym, skatepark, children's play area and more
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New enlarged grandstand and clubhouse for events and officials at the athletics track • Changes and improvements to cricket pitches • Improvements to cycling provision across the site • New additional car parking • There will also be general improvements throughout the site (e.g. paths, seating, lighting, environmental suggestions) • Further detail is expanded upon below plus Appendix 3.
6.	The Council is continuing to consult with users to explore the details relating to the project requirements to assist with the preparation for submitting the planning application, securing funding, procuring and planning the delivery of the works via a main contractor.
7.	Engagement has continued with all key stakeholders and National Governing Bodies of Sport to contribute to the Public Consultation and keep potential funders informed of progress. This is critical as they are faced with increasing demand from other Local Authorities for funding and so timely progress of the Council's project is essential.
8.	The Council has made a successful application for a grant of £300,000 from British Cycling towards cycling improvements at the OSC. A pre-requisite of the funding provision is that these improvements are required to be undertaken in a phased way with strict deadlines. Phase 1 includes works to the Bike Park and Woodland area, both of which are scheduled to commence in March 2022, whilst Phase 2 is required to be completed by June 2023.
9.	In support of the grant, an associated city-wide partnership agreement with British Cycling is also being developed by the Council's Sustainable City Team. This will ensure activation of the improvements and the creation of an OSC Steering Group.
10.	An extensive 12-week public consultation process was concluded on 31st October 2021. The consultation was based on the Draft Masterplan of Improvements, this follows previous consultations and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and key clubs and potential funding partners.
11.	The full analysis of feedback is in Appendix 1, which is structured with key findings across the first 40 slides, this is then followed by the full comment analysis and further demographic/ characteristic breakdown analysis.
12.	The proposals for site improvements reported the highest levels of agreement (96%) alongside overall proposals for the new 'Hub' (95%) and the Family Zone (93%) support.
13.	This is one of the Council's largest responses to any public consultation, with 2,544 responses incorporating nearly 4,800 free text comments. There were also over 3,400 YouTube hits to see the video provided as part of the consultation.
14.	The free text comments have been read and categorised into around 400 different themes, these include comments and suggestions which are contained in Appendix 2. The Insight and Consultation Team then analysed those themes and compiled all the unique points for each theme, Officer responses to these comments and suggestions are also contained in Appendix 2.

15.	<p>From the responses the team were able to understand information such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The basis of the respondent's interest in the consultation e.g. as someone that visits or uses the site - 1,926 respondents identified out of 2,544. • The type of use the respondents make of the OSC e.g. Athletics – 436 respondents identified. • Additionally, the consultation gathered data about the individuals participating such as age, gender, and ethnicity. 																																							
16.	<p>All unique suggestions and points that were raised throughout the consultation were considered, providing an added level of detail and reference for the comment analysis.</p>																																							
17.	<p>To summarise the Draft Masterplan of Improvements, that formed the content of the Public Consultation the level of support for each of the key areas is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="446 761 1244 1321"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Agree / strongly agree</th> <th>Disagree / strongly disagree</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OSC Overall</td> <td>93%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Site improvements</td> <td>96%</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The new 'Hub'</td> <td>95%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Family Zone</td> <td>93%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New snow sports facilities</td> <td>92%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Athletics</td> <td>91%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cycling provision</td> <td>91%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The tennis and netball court</td> <td>90%</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The hockey pitches</td> <td>88%</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The football pitches</td> <td>79%</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car parking</td> <td>78%</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cricket provision</td> <td>72%</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Agree / strongly agree	Disagree / strongly disagree	OSC Overall	93%	3%	Site improvements	96%	1%	The new 'Hub'	95%	3%	Family Zone	93%	3%	New snow sports facilities	92%	3%	Athletics	91%	3%	Cycling provision	91%	3%	The tennis and netball court	90%	5%	The hockey pitches	88%	3%	The football pitches	79%	12%	Car parking	78%	11%	Cricket provision	72%	10%
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18.	<p>The main message throughout the consultation is positive, with all proposals agreed upon by a high proportion of respondents. Overall support for the project is very high - 97% of respondents agreed that they would like to see improvements at the OSC and 93% agreed with the proposals put forward overall. Having a high number of responses to the consultation (2545 total) also highlights the level of public interest in the project.</p>																																							
19.	<p>Support for the proposed football pitches (79%), car parking (78%) and cricket provision (72%) were the proposals with the lowest overall levels of agreement. The specific proposal with the lowest level of agreement, and highest level of disagreement, was the reduction of cricket pitches from five to four, with 66% of respondents agreeing and 16% disagreeing.</p>																																							
20.	<p>Additionally, throughout the responses there were a number of regular themes such as accessibility, cost of use, safety, storage, lighting and signage, these and all comments and input received will all be considered in future and ongoing aspects of developing the design alongside stakeholders and user input.</p>																																							
21.	<p>In addition to any action(s) proposed in Appendix 2, there are a number of suggestions for improvement for areas that will not form part of the proposed project. Appendix 2 suggests that these areas could be the</p>																																							

	<p>subject of further consideration by the Council working with partners and stakeholders These areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An indoor Athletics facility • The Pleasure Park • The View • Improved/additional Bowling Greens • Management of the car parks including of a 'pay and display' type charging mechanism, plus financially managing the EV charging • Mini golf
22.	<p>Following the public consultation there has been further stakeholder engagement with key representatives/users of each of the areas. Through a series of workshops, attended by stakeholders, clubs, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs) and funding partners, the indicative designs have been developed to incorporate 'user asks'.</p>
23.	<p>As the project progresses towards developing the detail required to submit a planning application, the project team will continue to work with key stakeholders to determine the level of provision.</p>
24.	<p>Key Milestones</p> <p>If the council is to benefit from the opportunity to apply for funding from the Football Foundation and to deliver works to be funded by British Cycling, then there is a need to move forward with an aggressive programme. The target is to secure approval at Council in the summer to spend the funding in the capital programme and to take forward the next stage of this project. The milestones of the project are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February/March 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report on the public consultation to Cabinet ○ Tender for the appointment of a main contractor on a pre-construction service agreement (PCSA) to develop the design in detail and subsequently procure the contract sum ○ Submit Planning Application ○ Commence Phase 1 works on site to Bike Park • Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit Football Foundation application for financial contribution towards the project ○ Confirm the costs associated with the works • Summer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Application determined ○ Council approval to spend (subject to funding applications) ○ Football Foundation Panel meeting ○ Award of main contract for Phase 2 of the works • Autumn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football Foundation Board Decision ○ Commence Phase 2 Main Works on site
25.	<p>The OSC is operated under the terms of the Council's main leisure contract with Places for People Ltd (PfP) and an associated lease. The Council will need to put in place a formal agreement with PfP to access the contained within the boundaries of the OSC in order to undertake the works. Assuming that the improvement plan proceeds, the terms of the leisure contract will need to be renegotiated and agreed in order to take account of the disruption</p>

	through the works phases and the financial and operational impact of the new facilities. This work is being led by the Council's Supplier Management Division.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital</u>	
26.	The project is currently included in the capital programme with an estimated value of £16.85M for the main scheme. There is approval to spend on a small proportion of funding to develop the business case and detailed costings for the full scheme. The team are aiming to seek all the remaining financial approvals required in the summer at Council.
27.	The project is to be part funded by grants and contributions from funding partners. Commitments from funding partners are conditional upon the council's commitment to the project and can only be secured later in the schedule. These commitments will be incorporated into the business case and considered as part of the business case for the full scheme in the summer.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
28.	All of the properties at the OSC are owned by SCC. The contract includes repairs and maintenance responsibilities and has been in place since 2010 and is due to conclude in 2025. Ground maintenance activities are undertaken by the Council.
29.	The project management and bid development resource is being provided by consultants working within the Property Division of the Council.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
30.	The statutory power for undertaking the works that are the subject of the report i.e. The Council has various statutory powers under the various Public Health Acts 1875-1890, Public Health Act 1890-1961 and Local Government Acts 1972-1976 to both provide and maintain public recreation facilities. Further, subject to certain prohibitions which are not applicable here, section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities the power to do anything that individuals may do.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
31.	The terms and conditions of grants will also need to be reviewed throughout the process of applying for funds for this project.
32.	A draft ESIA document has been prepared as part of the project governance and will continue to be updated as the project develops. The current version is attached as Appendix 4.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
33.	The project has a detailed risk register which is kept regularly updated and reviewed. Once a contractor is appointed, they will also have a detailed risk register related directly to the delivery of the project. A summary risk register will be added to the report in the summer.

34.	There is a risk that external funding is not secured. The Council needs to ensure that the early stages of this project are supported/delivered to provide confidence to funders that, when submissions are made, they successfully contribute to the funding of the project.
35.	Any funding applications to Sport England will not be considered until completion of the Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance (SOPG). This process is complimentary to the OSC project and is running in parallel. Completion has been impacted by the pandemic, resolution is required early in 2022. A SOPG process will ultimately assist the Council in their prioritisation of leisure related projects.
36.	All funding applications require timely support from relevant officers from across the council to enable successful applications. A schedule related to this and any additional resourcing issue associated will be included in the summer 2022 Council report.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
37.	The Draft Masterplan of Improvements, and responses in Appendix 2, will continue to take into account the Corporate Plan 2021-2025 addressing wellbeing. The Council's draft Playing Pitch Strategy and the ongoing SOPG work with Sport England will contribute to strategic direction for the City. These documents are all in the process of being developed.
38.	The Project also supports the 2025 City of Culture bid, the SCC Physical Activity and Wellbeing Strategy (2017-2022), the legacy from 2022 UEFA Women's European Football Championships, plus the Council's own Greener City Charter and transport initiatives (such as Active Travel).

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Bassett, Coxford & Shirley
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	OSC - Consultation Analysis Report Final 301121
2.	OSC - Considerations of the Public Consultation feedback–Officer Response
3.	OSC - Questionnaire_ Draft Masterplan of Improvements

Documents in Members' Rooms

1.	OSC - Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA)
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
Data Protection Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out. A DPIA was carried out as part of the WT Partnership engagement.		Yes
Other Background Documents Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	