

Appendix A (Essential Background)

Background & Context

1. The quantity, quality, availability and accessibility of a sufficient number of various sports facilities (both now and in the future) is important for the city in terms of encouraging participation in sport and physical activity, and for general health and well-being.
2. In December 2013 the Bristol:Sport4Life Strategy was endorsed by the former Mayor and Cabinet as a city-wide strategy for sport and active recreation for the period 2013-2018, based on a vision that Bristol is a successful city of sport and active recreation where people are healthy and motivated to participate for life.
3. Initial background assessment work on the draft SARFS was undertaken in 2013/14 but this work did not progress to a formal strategy. The 2013/14 assessment work has been updated in 2017, alongside a comprehensive consultation with all relevant partners.
4. The SARFS will contribute towards the objectives in the new Corporate Strategy 2018-2023. It will be used to help secure external funding towards facility enhancements.
5. There are no financial commitments arising from the development of this strategy. Any future investment decisions for sports facilities will be subject to an agreed business case and funding.
6. There is potential to access external funding towards strategic sports facilities in Bristol under the Sport England Strategic Facilities Fund. Access to this is subject to Bristol having an up to date sports facility strategy in place and other criteria.
7. It will link with the newly adopted Bristol Playing Pitch Strategy and contributes directly towards the Bristol:Sport4Life Strategy (Attractive City theme).
8. The current financial challenges see the Council under increasing pressure to deliver more cost effective and efficient services. For sports facility provision this will mean working more closely with the multitude of providers in the sector to ensure the city's facility provision meets current and future demand and that as many facilities as possible (regardless of ownership) are accessible and available for community use.
9. The SARFS focuses on a range of sports facilities (See Appendix A)
10. There are a number of key drivers for developing the SARFS inc. changes in the education sector, an increased number of providers, changes in national planning policy, the financial climate, the projected increase in population and the increasing demand on sports facilities, the need for a clear evidence based strategy in order to secure external funding, the need to prioritise capital and revenue funding in the city and the need to inform the assessment of planning applications. For further information (See Appendix B)
11. The SARFS will form part of the evidence base upon which planning policy relating to sport and recreation will be produced. The National Planning Policy Framework requires that planning policies should "be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and

opportunities for new provision” (NPPF, para 73).

Methodology

12. In developing the draft SARFS, Sports Officers have followed the Sport England methodology to ensure a comprehensive overview of Bristol’s sport facilities has been developed (See Appendix C).
13. A needs assessment has been undertaken in consultation with Clubs, National Governing Bodies (NGB’s) for sport Sport England, to establish the quantity, quality, availability and accessibility of all the relevant sport facilities across Bristol (regardless of ownership) in order to fully understand and help evidence the strategic need for provision.
14. On-site quality assessments have been undertaken on the majority of facilities, both public and private, in accordance with sports specific criteria set out in Sport England’s guidance.
15. An equalities impact assessment forms part of this strategy work.

Findings

16. The strategy and findings will form part of the Council’s evidence base for sport and leisure. It will help frame the priorities for future investment and the continued provision and development of sport facilities across Bristol.
17. The evidence base created will be utilised by the local planning authority when considering planning applications in consultation with Sport England, who in turn will consult with NGB’s for sport as appropriate.
18. The analysis within the assessment work and strategy will assist in determining the priorities for future work and investment, although new provision and enhancements or developments will be subject to sources of funding (including external sources) being available.
19. In accordance with the findings from the needs assessment and stakeholder consultation, potential capital projects have been identified in the event funding becomes available. Progression of any potential projects will be subject to funding being available and both council and sport’s governing body criteria being met.
20. For key findings see Appendix D

Aims & Objectives

21. The main aims of the strategy are to identify the needs and priorities for sports facilities in Bristol, to protect, enhance and provide facility provision to meet these needs and establish clear strategic priorities and actions for sport and active recreation facility provision (See Appendix E)

Vision

22. Building on the drivers, aims and objectives and updated consultation process, the vision for the Sport and Active Recreation Facility Strategy (2018-2023) is:

Sports and physical activity facilities in Bristol will be inspirational, internationally recognised, of high quality and will underpin the drive to make the City a place where opportunity to be physically active is locally accessible and affordable to all.

Major Facility Proposals

23. Notwithstanding the need to continuously consider all sports and all facility proposals, the work to date has identified a need in Bristol for two types of major facility developments:
1. Swimming pool provision
 2. Multi-court sports halls / mini arenas (Appendix F)

Swimming pool provision

24. Swimming pool provision in Bristol, while technically adequate to cater for the City's needs, is dependent upon a number of facilities that are either approaching or have already passed the expiry date for their useful life.
25. It is proposed that the City considers new/enhanced pool provision in East / Central Bristol. This could either be as part of a redeveloped Easton Leisure Centre or at another, as yet unidentified, location. The feasibility of this should be assessed in tandem with the evaluation of the potential development of multi-court sports halls.
26. This should also be assessed in conjunction with the need to progress other broader swimming pool related objectives. For Jubilee this includes determining if at the end of the existing contract in 2022 a sustainable delivery model can be developed or, depending on the new/enhanced pool provision mentioned above, alternative options are considered.
27. The feasibility of this should be assessed in tandem with the evaluation of the potential development of multi-court sports halls.

Multi-court sports halls / mini arenas

28. Arising from the 2017 consultation work are both a demand for more indoor sport space and also several proposals / potential developments that could meet that demand.
29. These proposals could develop in to the provision of a network of high quality participation/performance centres/multi-court sports halls that accommodate comprehensive community use, attract national or bigger events, enable franchises to be won, and raise the inspiration and profile of sport.
30. Whilst the scope of this strategy work is focussed on community facilities, most partners, feel that such a network will not only fulfil the basic aims of confirming Bristol as a true UK and European City of Sport but will also, if designed

appropriately and if part of a co-ordinated facility planning and usage structure, help to relieve pressure on existing facilities and create additional capacity within them.

Opportunities

Opportunities: schools

31. There is an opportunity to negotiate with the Education Funding Agency and the 'sponsoring agencies' leading on development of the new secondary schools, to add capital in order to expand the scale of sports halls to the double court specification.

Further considerations include:

- Changing/ancillary accommodation could be designed to ensure that venues operate on a basis that is safe, secure and fully separate from the school, minimising risk and cost.
- To ensure cost effectiveness and affordability, each venue should be appropriately located on the 'periphery' of its school/academy site and designed to allow it to operate on the basis of the lowest possible level of paid supervision; i.e. that an agreed network of clubs, leagues and coaches would be able to gain access via a form of centrally managed entry management system.
- All usage and hire could be managed on a cashless basis; with venues pre-programmed to accommodate the combination of clubs/leagues.
- The system could be based upon the payment of a fixed annual guaranteed hire fee to the school/academy.

Opportunities: existing leisure centre sports halls

32. Should sports hall / indoor sports provision significantly increase in the city, there may be an opportunity to consider changes in provision at current local authority owned leisure sites. This significant indoor space could be re-shaped to allow provision of activities that increase revenue or new facilities that provide other key community services.

- Many leisure centres in the UK have been re-allocating squash court and sports hall space to accommodate a greater health and fitness offer. Larger gyms and additional studio space are in demand and have the potential to create significant revenue streams for operators. This in turn may allow a greater programme of concessionary provision targeted at key health populations.
- There is an opportunity to better align the sport facility work with wider public physical, mental and social health agendas. One potential practical way of doing this is to consider the co-location of community facilities such as GP surgeries, children's nurseries, chemists, libraries and/or community centres in to these leisure facilities.

Appendices: Appendix A – Sports Facilities Included in the Strategy

Appendix B – Key Drivers for Developing the Facility Strategy

Appendix C – Methodology

Appendix D – Key findings

Appendix E – Aims and Objectives

Appendix F - Multi-court halls facility proposals and opportunities

Appendix A

Facilities included in Strategy (regardless of ownership)
Sports halls
Swimming pools
Athletics tracks
Indoor and outdoor bowls
Squash courts
Indoor and outdoor tennis
Golf courses
Gymnastics centres
Health and fitness suites
Multi-use games areas (MUGAs)
Cycling facilities and wheel parks
Watersports centres of all types
Studios

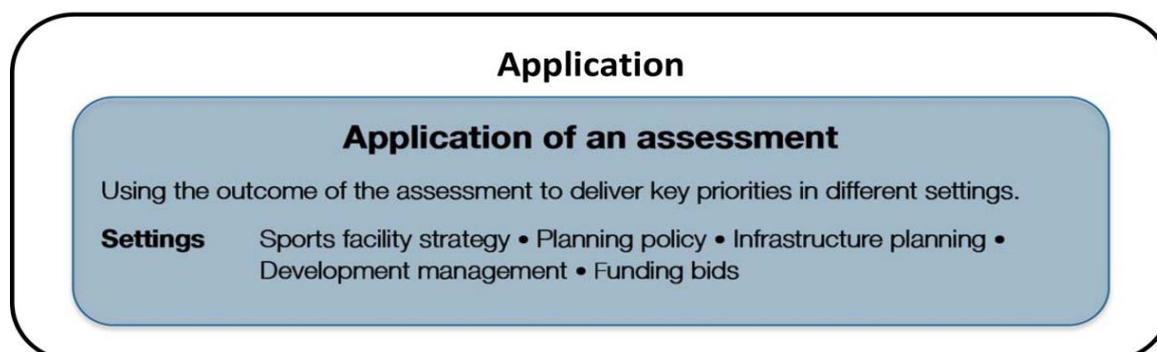
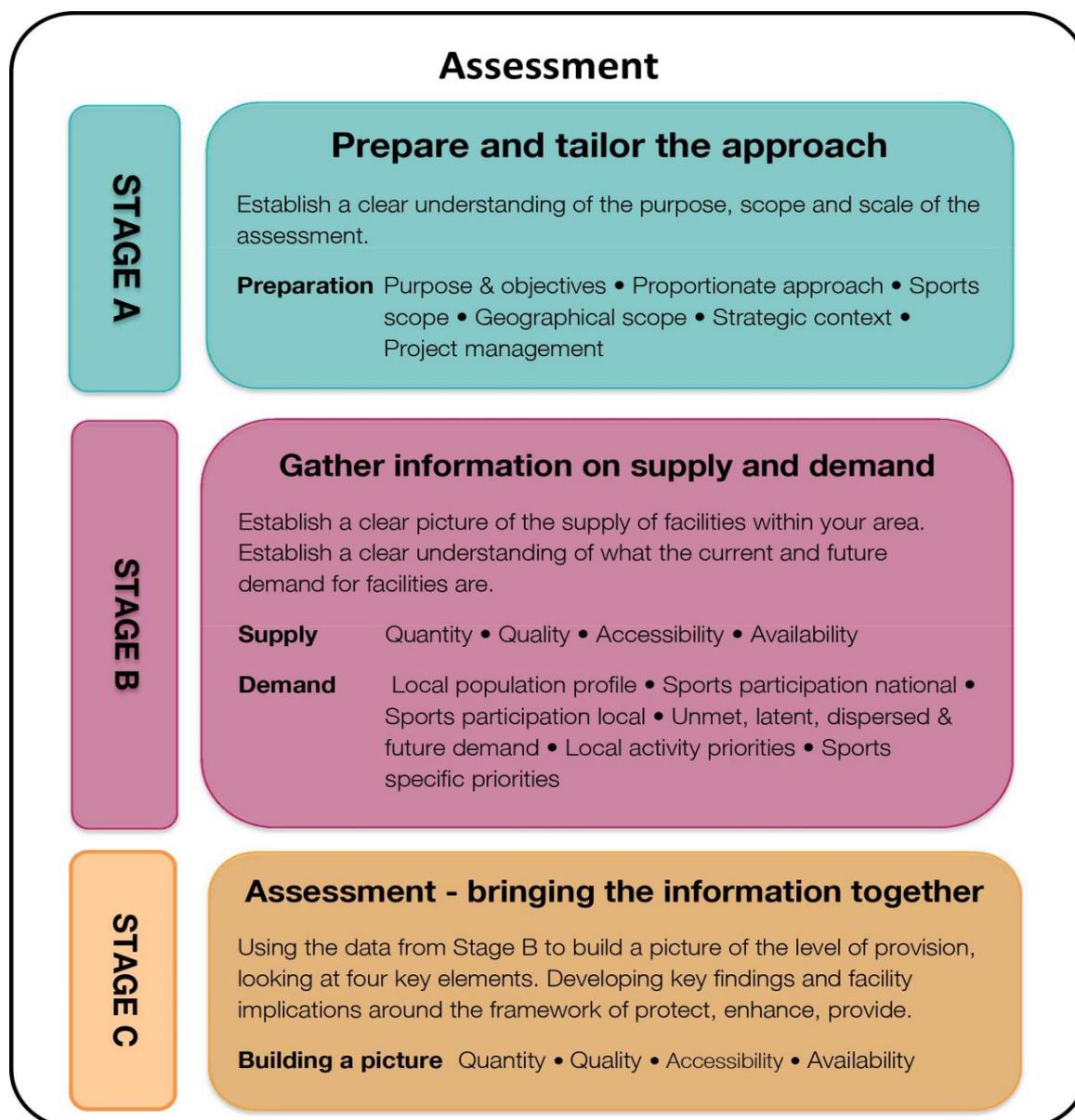
Appendix B

Key Drivers for Developing the Sports Facility Strategy

1.	There have been major changes in the city over the past ten to fifteen years including significant investment in new sports facilities, particularly swimming pools. The education landscape has changed considerably through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the emergence of school academies independent of the Local Education Authority. The professional club sector is also becoming increasingly ambitious to play a wider community role and the HE and FE sector has an increasing interest in sport.
2.	National Planning Policy has changed. There is a need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy with robust and up to date evidence of need.
3.	The council is one of many facility providers in an increasingly mixed economy in Bristol and although it has a major role to fulfil both in enabling and delivery, it is not in a position to deliver and provide for all types and levels of sport. The financial backdrop for the city council to provide facilities is more and more challenging.
4.	Bristol and the surrounding area population is increasing at a higher rate than most other parts of the country. The anticipated population growth will create increasing demand on sports facilities. There is a need to ensure that sports facility infrastructure is secured to meet this increased demand.

5.	The need to have a clear, evidenced based strategy to help secure funding.
6.	The need to prioritise capital and revenue investment in the city.
7.	The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.

Appendix C
Sport England methodology for Developing a Sports Facility Strategy



Appendix D

Key Findings

Large projects	
Major facility proposals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swimming pools: additional provision required in central/east of the city. 2. Multi-court sports halls / mini arenas: a network of participation/performance centres located across the City.
Professional clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol Rovers are looking to renovate or build new stadium. • Bristol Sport is looking to develop training ground and indoor AGP at Ashton Vale.
Further & Higher Education	UWE, University of Bristol and SGS College have their respective facility plans.
Community centres / projects	There are plans to enhance facilities in community led developments including The Greenway Centre, The Park Knowle and Ambition Lawrence Weston.
Sports specific facilities	
Athletics	There is no need for an additional athletics facility in Bristol. Priority should be given to ensuring the long term sustainability of the Whitehall track and improving accessibility/availability issues at both Whitehall and South Gloucestershire and Stroud college.
Indoor Bowls	EIBA at present do not feel there is a demand for any further Indoor Bowls sites in the LA area.
Outdoor Bowls	There is a need to review the sustainability of existing greens.
Squash	England Squash need to undertake feasibility on enhanced and/or new provision to meet growing population demand.
Indoor Tennis	The University of Bristol have proposals to enhance the indoor Tennis offer at Coombe Dingle. Redland Green Club have plans for two covered courts.
Outdoor Tennis	There is an opportunity to enhance existing courts in areas of the city with low participation rates. Project underway to encourage the use of existing publicly accessible stock and to increase informal play but with LTA fob access.

Golf	Provision at Ashton Court could be improved as could disabled access at all courses.
Gymnastics	There is no need for further specialist gymnastic centres. Priority is to enhance existing provision.
Health & Fitness	Additional provision of centres is needed to meet the Core City average. Enhancements are required in the quality and supervision of some centres.
Multi Use Games Areas	Increased provision is required (if the desire is to provide equitable access to MUGAS), particularly in the north west of the city.
Cycling / Wheels Parks	British Cycling support the development of a closed road circuit, the refurbishment/development of two BMX tracks and the creation of a further two new BMX tracks.
Water Sports	NGB's want to ensure facilities for water sports meet their requirements-particularly around disability access.
Dance / Exercise Studios	Bristol has an above average supply of studio space. Further work is required to identify any programming issues with the multiple users of this space.
Climbing walls	Bristol has a unique situation in that it's 6 climbing walls are complemented by an outdoor crag (the Avon Gorge) within the city.
Boxing facilities	Whitchurch ABA will require a new home when Action Indoor Sports closes.

Appendix E

Aims

The main aims of the strategy are to identify the needs and priorities for sports facilities in Bristol and to **protect, enhance and provide** facility provision to meet these needs.

The strategy will set out a clear action plan for future provision which will aim to:

- Address inequalities in levels of provision.
- Positively influence investment decisions by key stakeholders within and outside the city.
- Attract investment in sport and active recreation facilities through the planning system.
- Increase overall participation levels in sport and active recreation.
- Maximise the opportunity to develop sport and physical activity facilities aligned to an emphasis on getting the inactive active and retaining those who already participate.
- Maximise the opportunity to engage with other services and where possible create multi agency hubs via the co-location of services.
- Better integrate collaborative work with education to ensure that when new schools with indoor sports facilities are created or improvements to sports facilities in existing

schools are implemented – this is accompanied by a comprehensive, practical, enforceable community use agreement.

- Work with existing schools in all sectors to increase the practical availability of their sport and physical activity facilities for community use.

Objectives

The objectives of this strategy are:

- Utilise the Assessment of Needs and Opportunities document and the 2017 consultation process to establish clear strategic priorities and actions for sport and active recreation facility provision in Bristol.
- Create an effective sport and active recreation facility steering group to
 - a. agree and implement the strategy
 - b. develop, manage and implement a prioritised action plan
 - c. keep the assessment of need data up to date
- Ensure that the strategy and underlying evidence base is used to inform BCC planning policy and planning decisions.

Secure investment in sport and active recreation facilities through available funding opportunities.

Appendix F

Multi-court halls facility proposals and opportunities

Lead organisation / location	Proposal
Bristol Sport South East Bristol	<p>An indoor arena with (up to) 3,000 seats set up primarily to cater for home competitive matches for Bristol Flyers but also suitable to accommodate events likely to attract this scale of audience across a range of other sports including, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitality Netball Superleague • AJ Bell National Badminton League • Boxing <p>This will be located at Ashton Gate and will be designed and managed so that it can function in a flexible form but primarily as a sports arena venue. Alongside this a second 'mini-arena' adjacent or possibly attached to this with a minimum of a triple court (three basketball) hall.</p>
Secondary schools / New Academies	<p>At present, three schools are at various stages of planning/development and are scheduled to be located at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North of the City:

North, central and south locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East of the City: • South of the City: <p>Subject to funding and space, there may be an opportunity to “piggy back” on the development of these schools, adding significant value to the sport facilities at the schools by building double court halls that are available for community use.</p>
University of Bristol / Coombe Dingle North East Bristol	<p>The University of Bristol has plans to significantly enhance the indoor tennis and sports provision at Coombe Dingle. The new development is likely to see provision for several indoor sports (alongside tennis) and include a double court or larger.</p>
The Park Centre (Knowle West) South Bristol	<p>The Park have plans to redevelop their indoor sports and exercise provision that will see new provision including a sports hall, exercise studio, health and fitness suite and football changing rooms and club room.</p> <p>This large site has potential to accommodate a double court sports hall.</p>
Bristol Storm & Development Partners North Bristol	<p>Bristol Storm and development partners have aspirations to develop a ball court / mini-arena for basketball, volleyball, handball, netball, community and education programme delivery.</p>
<p>There are aspirations for a 4 court sports hall to be added to the Lockleaze/Bonnington Walk sport facility development (North Bristol). This has the potential to be a larger facility and should therefore be considered alongside the above potential developments.</p>	
<p>There is already a multi-court sports hall at City Academy (Central Bristol) that could form part of this proposed network of facilities.</p>	