

Emerging Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 – 2027 & Open Space Strategy 2017 - 2027

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21.02.2017

Vision and priorities for the borough

Community Plan

- A great place to live
- Priorities include - creating good quality community spaces and facilities, investing in parks and making Tower Hamlets greener.
- One Tower Hamlets – a more equal and cohesive borough with strong community leadership

Strategic Plan

- Creating and maintaining a vibrant, successful place and improved local environment
- Strategic objectives include – promoting healthy lifestyles, managing development pressures, more people living healthily and independently for longer and an improved environment

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Priorities include 'Creating a Healthier Place' – impact of environment and local infrastructure, such as leisure facilities, parks and open space on health and wellbeing

- Links between health and development
- Places to meet and socialise
- Minimising air pollution
- Better and more creative use of open space
- More people using public space for healthy activities

Ambitions for physical activity – national, regional & local

- More people take up regular physical activity as a habit
- Improved access to facilities for groups with historically low participation
- More targeted, efficient and effective use of allocated resources
- Communities have facilities that enable members to come together in more inclusive way
- Sporting clubs and institutions - right supply and mix of facilities

Challenges – long term and emerging

- Financial climate, continuing austerity and need for savings – how to direct investment to best effect in order to maximise outcomes
- Population growth, 26% increase (296,300 in 2016 to 374,000 in 2026) - affecting capacity and increasing competing demands
- Pressure on local infrastructure and services, including parks, open spaces and indoor sports facilities
- How do we meet the increasing need for publicly accessible facilities to support physical activities, sport and healthier lifestyles?
- Increasing need for energy efficiency, tackling climate change and sustainability

Demographics & key issues

Accessible facilities



Slightly higher rate of severe disability in the working age population in the borough (4.1%) compared to the average in London (3.4%) underlining the importance of accessibility in optimising and planning of facilities

Economic & social deprivation



Pockets of significant social and economic deprivation within the borough which overlap with areas of low participation in sport and physical activity identified by Sport England

Healthy weight



13.6% of adults are classified as obese, better than the average for England
25.3% of 10-11 year olds in the borough are obese (9th highest in the country) but levels have plateaued over the past three years

Population increase



Population density is expected to increase by 25% during the strategy lifespan with the expectation this will increase pressure on, and demand for, parks and open spaces

Participation challenges



Participation challenges especially for women, ethnic minority groups and older people - highlights the need for indoor sports facilities to be accessible and suitable to increase participation

Health indicators



Gaps between the health of borough residents and the national average - it is also noted that households with the lowest income levels are less likely to engage in physical activity

Refresh of borough's sport and physical activity policies – suite of strategies being developed



Structure and approach of the strategies

- Quantitative assessment of supply
- Analysis of current supply against future demand
- Assessment of quality and value of the existing provision
- Provision across all providers / operators – not just the Council

Indoor Sports Facilities - what we already know



There are identified gaps in provision, both current and for the future – in capacity as well as spatially



We may not be able to fully meet demand due to financial constraints and the high demand for land



There is a need to ensure that facilities are efficient – economically and energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions



Facilities need to be located in the right areas and need to be fully accessible to all

What's in and out for supply and demand

- Facilities – sports hall, swimming pools and health & fitness gyms
- Recognises facilities within buffer zone (15 min walk) from borough boundary
- Outside of scope - leisure management contract and pricing issues

✓ IDEAL SPORTS NETWORK



Use available capital to **reconfigure and consolidate** facilities with a view to revenue saving without loss of capacity.



Have facilities located in locations where people will use them most and where they will **support the ambitions set out in the Local Plan**.



Address gaps in **provision now and in the future**, in particular for swimming pools and sports halls



Focus additional sports hall capacity on school sites to **maximise value for money**, as long as supported by analysis and adequate community access can be secured via development control



Provide dry (gym /sports hall) facilities alongside all swimming pools in order to **reduce the subsidy requirement**.



Ensure indoor sports facilities are **designed to be operationally efficient** (e.g. by enhancing energy efficiency)



Offer state of the art indoor sports facilities that are **fully accessible to all residents**, taking into account cultural, religious and physical inclusion needs

Parks and Open Space - what we already know



There is a deficit of open space in the borough and it will come under increasing demand pressure in the future



There are some parts of the borough outside of catchment areas for parks and open space



Pressures such as population growth and limited available land mean we are unlikely to be able to fully meet projected demand



Quality of spaces varies across the borough and across different providers



FUTURE APPROACH FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



Attract and guide investment to best effect - aligning with Infrastructure Delivery Framework evidencing need for investment to secure funding



Secure new space through planning - maximise opportunities for new publicly accessible open space



Ensure prioritisation of areas with particular need - lack of green space, increased population growth, high levels of deprivation



Use parks and open space more effectively to address health inequalities and encourage healthier lifestyles including sport

Questions for the Health & Wellbeing Board

- **How can we address the key issues & challenges?**
- **What creative and innovative solutions are there?**
- **Indoor Sports Facilities**
 - Increase, and address gaps in provision of facilities both now and in the future.
 - Manage demand in the context of an increasing population
 - Make indoor sports facilities more accessible to local people, taking into account cultural, religious and physical inclusion needs as well as locations
- **Parks and Open Space**
 - Manage demand for parks and open spaces as the population increases
 - Make more creative use of open space, and increase quality to also increase use by local people