

---

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport

8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor K Caan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:** Petition - To request the continued provision of badminton court facilities in the City Centre once the current sports centre in Fairfax Street has been closed down.

---

**Is this a key decision?**

No

---

**Executive Summary:**

A petition and e-petition requesting the Council keep badminton court facilities in the city centre of Coventry was submitted to the Council in March 2018. The petition, containing a total of 93 signatures, stated the following:

“We the undersigned petition the council to request the continued provision of badminton court facilities in the City Centre once the current sports centre in Fairfax Street has been closed down.”

In September 2014, Coventry City Council unanimously approved investment in a new city centre destination sport and leisure facility and approved a ten-year partnership Sports Strategy for the city, underpinned by an Indoor Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and Aquatic Strategy. In September 2016, the next phase of the public leisure implementation programme, the development of a new 50m swimming pool and enhanced public leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre was approved by Council.

It is anticipated that the investment into the Councils public leisure implementation programme will result in the subsequent closure of the ageing Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (CSLC) in Fairfax Street.

The provision of the new city centre facility and 50m swimming pool at the Alan Higgs centre will further contribute to increasing participation in sport and active recreation, also contributing to health and wellbeing outcomes for local people, particularly younger people and families.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport is recommended to:

1. Consider the two petitions, submitted in relation to the continued provision of badminton courts within the city centre of Coventry.
2. Provide recommendations to the Cabinet in relation to these petitions when it considers the report proposing the closure of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

None

**Other Useful Documents:**

1. Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 5 August 2014)
2. City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 5 August 2014)
3. City-Wide Public Leisure Provision Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 6 September 2016)
4. Re-provision of Coventry's Indoor Bowls Facility Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 16 January 2018)

All of these reports are available via the following link:

<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

In addition to those papers above, the following papers are posted for reference on the Coventry City Council website ([www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)) and Coventry Sports Strategy website ([www.covsport.org.uk](http://www.covsport.org.uk)).

1. Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024
2. Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024
3. Coventry Indoor Facilities Assessment Report

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:** Petition - the continued provision of badminton court facilities in the city centre once the current sports centre in Fairfax Street has been closed down

## **1. Context (or background)**

1.1. In September 2014, Council unanimously approved a ten-year partnership Sports Strategy for the city, underpinned by an Indoor Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and Aquatic Strategy.

1.2. The Coventry Sports Strategy 2014 - 2024 is structured around eight Vision Aims and 37 Strategic Objectives. Vision Aim 5 seeks

*“To provide a range of modern, accessible, and high-quality sports facilities”*

1.3. The approval from Council in September 2014 of the addition of £36.7m to the capital programme for 2014/15 onwards, for the development of a City Centre Destination Leisure Facility represented the commencement of a new phase in the public leisure facilities implementation programme.

1.4. The second phase of the public leisure implementation programme was approved by Council in September 2016 for the development of a 50m swimming pool and enhancement of the associated leisure facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre.

1.5. Whilst no formal decision has yet been taken to close Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (CSLC), it is anticipated that the above programme of public leisure re-provision will in time see the closure of the facility, which in 2014 was noted to be no longer considered fit for purpose. Any such decision would result in the closure of the ten court sports hall facility at CSLC, which is currently operationally managed by Coventry Sports Trust.

1.6. Coventry’s Indoor Facilities Strategy recognises the supply of sports halls in Coventry currently exceeds demand.

1.7. Coventry Indoor Facilities Assessment report indicates a total of 88 sports hall sites providing 152 badminton courts. There are 29 sports halls of four badminton court size or larger (with a six court hall at Centre AT7 and a ten court hall at CSLC).

1.8. There are currently 32 badminton courts across six different facilities within or in close proximity to the city centre of Coventry, that each offer in excess of 20 hours per week of community use.

1.9. Consideration will first need to be given to maximising the capacity of the city’s existing sports hall provision as CSLC provides one third of the city’s (fully) publically available sports halls (i.e. stand-alone facilities).

## **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

2.1. Option A) Do not take into consideration the petition in relation the continued provision of badminton court facilities in the city centre once the current sports centre in Fairfax Street has been closed down - submitted to the Council in March 2018.

2.1.1. Coventry Sports Strategy currently recognises that the supply of sports halls in Coventry exceeds demand.

- 2.1.2. **However, Option A is not the recommended option**, as a more detailed understanding of the impact of the proposed closure of CSLC will have on the latent demand and re-programming of Coventry's existing sports hall facilities is required.
- 2.2. (Option B) To consider the petition in relation to the continued provision of badminton court facilities in the city centre once the current sports centre in Fairfax Street has been closed down - submitted to the Council in March 2018.
- 2.2.1. Option B concerns taking due consideration of the e-petition and the written petition regarding the continued provision of badminton courts in the city centre if the decision to close Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre is formally approved by Cabinet.
- 2.2.2. It is recommended that the Cabinet Member considers the petitions and makes recommendations to the Cabinet when it meets to consider the report proposing the closure of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1. Public consultation to inform the early development of the Coventry Sport Strategy 2014 – 2024 took place in 2012. A total of 1,532 completed surveys were received from across the city.
- 3.2. Extensive desktop research and analysis was undertaken in order to consider the findings from the above survey within the context of wider data. This exercise included an audit of indoor sports facilities in the city. The results of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Survey and the desktop research were first published in 2013, and a detailed paper outlining these findings can be viewed at [www.covsport.org.uk](http://www.covsport.org.uk)
- 3.3. The headline figures with specific reference to sports hall provision and Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre were:

#### Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre

- i. The sports that most people take part in are keep fit/gym, football, swimming, athletics and cycling
- ii. Swimming and keep fit/gym were the sports that attracted the most participants from all backgrounds
- iii. The Xcel Leisure Centre and Alan Higgs Centre were the public sports centres that drew the highest levels of satisfaction.
- iv. Cleanliness of changing rooms/toilets, friendliness of staff, enjoyment of the activity, feeling safe and secure, cost and being in a comfortable environment were factors which were most important to respondents when choosing a sports and leisure centre
- v. Over half of the users visiting CSLC travelled there by car

#### Indoor Sports Facility Audit

- i. The quality of indoor facilities in the city varied greatly – from those that were of very poor quality to those that were of very good quality
- ii. Many of the city's indoor facilities were found to be located within schools, which offered varying levels of community use
- iii. Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre (now closed) were both deemed to be no longer fit for purpose

- 3.4. The Coventry Sport Strategy was developed through the review and detailed consideration of the Coventry Sport and Leisure Survey responses; further direct consultation with local, regional and national stakeholders; and extensive desktop research and analysis. This process culminated in eight vision aims designed to encapsulate the sporting aspirations for Coventry over a ten year period. These visions and associated aims were consulted on extensively with stakeholders, partners and local people.
- 3.5. Initial conversations with existing users of the sports hall at CSLC have commenced, and these will continue to ensure we can find suitable alternative venues within the city.
- 3.6. We are working with partners and other facilities within the city to establish where existing groups can be accommodated.

#### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1. It is recommended that key considerations arising from the hearing of these petitions be reviewed and considered by Cabinet.
- 4.2. The Cabinet report proposing the closure of CSLC will be considered by Cabinet within the next 6 months

#### **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

##### **5.1. Financial implications**

There are no financial implications to be considered in relation recommendations in this report.

Should any of the key considerations that are to be reviewed result in a change in the proposals regarding provision of facilities, any financial implications of this will be reflected when the report proposing closure of CSLC is considered by Cabinet.

##### **5.2. Legal implications**

The Council will use its power under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the Act) as power to implement the delivery of the Coventry Sport and Indoor Facilities Strategies. This section states that local authorities have the discretion to provide, inside or outside their area, such recreational facilities as they think fit. The implementation of the strategies will also assist the Council in discharging its duty under section 507B Education Act 1996 whereby the Council is under a duty to secure positive leisure time activities for the improvement of the well-being of young people in its area and to secure facilities for such activities.

#### **6. Other implications**

##### **6.1. How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?**

Provision of The Wave – the new waterpark and leisure centre in the city centre will support the following:

## Council Plan 2016-2024

Developing the city centre for the 21st century by enhancing the quality of public spaces; and bringing the city centre to life with a range of employment, leisure, education and retail opportunities – the Wave will provide a modern accessible sports and leisure facility

Improve health and wellbeing by helping local residents lead healthier lifestyles including better mental health; and – helping people to maintain their independence and supporting them when they need help.

Increasing access to arts, sports and cultural opportunities.

Making the most of our assets by rationalising our property.

## Coventry Sports Strategy – 2014 -2024

1. To inspire more people within the city to take up and regularly take part in sport
2. To provide a wide range of high quality and exciting sporting opportunities and experiences
3. To inspire more people to volunteer, coach and be facilitators of sport
4. To identify and support talented athletes to reach their sporting potential
5. To provide a range of modern, accessible and high quality sports facilities in the city
6. To attract high profile sporting events to the city and to celebrate sporting achievement
7. To grow and promote sport in the city through effective partnerships
8. For sport to make Coventry a better place to live, work and visit

### **6.2. How is risk being managed?**

A detailed Risk Register has been produced and will be maintained throughout the process of the delivery of the Sports Vision and Strategy for Sport in Coventry.

### **6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?**

The Closure of CSLC will be considered by Cabinet, the impact on the organisation will be included within the context of that report.

### **6.4. Equalities / ECA**

It is recognised that CSLC is no longer fit for purpose. Accessibility to the sports hall is poor and the facility is difficult to maintain to the high standard users deserve.

A full Equalities and Consultation Analysis will be produced for the proposed closure of CSLC.

### **6.5. Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

*None.*

## 6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

The Closure of CSLC will be considered by Cabinet. If approved, the Council will engage key strategic partners in the review of future sports hall programming. This will require input from public leisure operators, community sports clubs, Sport England and relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.

### Report author(s):

#### Name and job title:

Stephen Wiles – Development Manager, Facilities, Contracts and Capital Programmes

#### Directorate:

Place Directorate

#### Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7683 1175

Email: [steve.wiles@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:steve.wiles@coventry.gov.uk)

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
<b>Contributors:</b>				
David Nuttall	Service Manager – Sports and Arts Service	Place	24/9/18	
Jon Hunt	Sports Development Manager, City Centre and Development Services	Place	24/9/18	24/9/18
Steve Thomas	Finance Business Partner	People	20/9/18	24/9/18
Faye Cockayne	Engagement and Business Development Manager	Place	20/9/18	24/9/18
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator, Governance Services	Place	24/9/18	24/9/18

Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Phil Helm	Finance Manager	Place	24/9/18	24/9/18
David Cockroft	Director of City Services and Development	Place	25/9/18	25/9/18
Councillor K.Caan	Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure, Sports and Parks)	-	26/9/18	27/9/18

This report is published on the council's website:

[www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)