
Cabinet

12 February 2019

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor Caan
Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration – Councillor O’Boyle

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Acceptance of Sport England Grant Funding towards 50m Swimming Pool at Alan Higgs Centre and future of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre

Is this a key decision?

Yes - this decision will have an effect on communities and businesses across a number of wards in the city.

Executive Summary:

Approval is sought for acceptance of grant from Sport England to support the delivery of a new 50m pool and other sports facilities improvements at the Alan Higgs Centre in Binley and Willenhall. This work will mean there will public water available in the heart of the community and fits a further step in the Council’s ambition to ensure local people have easy access to water where they live. The new 50m pool will also be used by City of Coventry Swimming Club, enabling them to retain their Beacon status. With over £60 million investment in sports and leisure facilities including The Wave and the proposed new indoor bowls facility, the report also seeks approval for the managed decommissioning and final closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (CSLC) in Fairfax Street and to look at future uses. This includes assessment and market testing for future uses of the building which could include securing a lock out agreement with a preferred partner.

The proposals set out in this report will contribute to the aims of the city’s sports strategy which has a clear focus to deliver high quality, sustainable sports and leisure facilities in the city. We know participation in sport and active recreation, which improves health and wellbeing, increases when people have access to good quality facilities.

On 8 October 2018, a meeting of Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport heard a petition linked to the proposed phased closure of CSLC, requesting that the Council keep Badminton court facilities in the city centre (containing a total of 93 signatures).The resolution made at the meeting to hear the petition, included that consideration should be given to the petition within the context of this report.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

1. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services to accept the terms and conditions of the Sport England grant and incorporate the grant within the Capital Programme as necessary.
2. Approve the managed decommissioning and phased closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (“the Property”) as set out in this report. This includes working with users to identify, where possible, alternative facilities for them to use.
3. Approve that following the closure of the Property (Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre) to declare the Property surplus to requirement and also consent to the disposal of the Property by the City Council (if deemed appropriate).
4. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration to agree the preferred method of disposal and to commence the disposal process. The authority granted under this recommendation shall include the power to undertake the necessary due diligence and to enter into such legal agreements.
5. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration to oversee and approve the planned phased closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre.

List of Appendices included:

1. Equalities and Consultation Analysis - Phased closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

The following papers are posted for reference on the Coventry City Council website (www.coventry.gov.uk) and Coventry Sports Strategy website (<http://covsport.org.uk/about-us/downloads>).

1. Public Sports and Leisure Provision – Cabinet Report (Coventry City Council 19 July 2011)
2. Public Leisure Services and Facility Re-Provisioning – Cabinet Report (Coventry City Council, 3 January 2012)
3. Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 - Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 5 August 2014)
4. City Centre Sports and Public Leisure Facility Development - Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 5 August 2014)
5. City-Wide Public Leisure Provision - Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 6 September 2016)
6. Re-provision of Coventry’s Indoor Bowls Facility - Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 16 January 2018)

7. Petition – Keep Badminton Courts in the City Centre of Coventry – Cabinet Member Meeting Report (Coventry City Council, 8 October 2018)
8. Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024
9. Coventry Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024
10. 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

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Report title: Acceptance of Sport England Grant Funding towards 50m Swimming Pool at Alan Higgs Centre and future of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. In September 2014, Coventry City Council unanimously approved a ten-year partnership Sports Strategy for the city, underpinned by a new Indoor Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and Aquatic Strategy.
- 1.2. The Coventry Sports Strategy 2014 - 2024 is structured around eight Vision Aims including aim five “to provide a range of modern, accessible, and high-quality sports facilities”.
- 1.3. The key findings which emerged from the strategy are that:
 - (i) Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre were both adjudged to be no longer ‘fit for purpose’;
 - (ii) Funding being used to support these ageing public sports and leisure facilities could be used to invest in new, modern and more accessible sports and leisure facilities;
 - (iii) Swimming pool provision across the city would need to be considered in light of the proposed closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre.
- 1.4. Aligned to Vision Aim 5 in the Strategy, a strategic investment model was developed to recycle funding that was (and still is, albeit at a reduced level) being used to subsidise ageing public leisure facilities, and to redirect this into the delivery of a modern and strategically located portfolio of public sports and leisure facilities. This programme of strategic provision is already providing a more efficient and attractive public leisure offer, which is better placed to provide for projected future population growth within the city and is increasingly becoming more financially sustainable without the need for local authority subsidy.
- 1.5. The strategic review and rationalisation of public leisure facilities has been shaped into an implementation programme and the development of the aquatic facilities at Centre AT7 (which was achieved at £250k under budget) represented the first phase of this approach using an investment model of recycling revenue funding previously used for grant funding ageing facilities.
- 1.6. Investment in Centre AT7 resulted in an immediate and positive impact in participation levels when compared to Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre. Statistics showed:
 - (i) 1,000% increase in public swims each week, increasing to 5,100 swims per week;
 - (ii) an additional 1,200 health and fitness memberships, representing an increase of 156%;
 - (iii) 83% of these additional memberships being drawn from the communities around Centre AT7;
 - (iv) more than 1,200 children from 20 schools attending weekly swim lessons;
 - (v) more than 1,000 children learning to swim in the Centre’s after school ‘learn to swim’ programme.
- 1.7. In September 2014 Council approved £36.7m to be added to the capital programme for 2014/15 onwards, for the development of a City Centre Destination Leisure Facility (“The Wave”). This was the start of the second phase of the programme, with opening set for later this year. Over a million visitors from the city and region are expected per annum.

- 1.8. Following the decision of Council in September 2014 “to continue to work to explore all opportunities to enable Coventry to keep its 50m pool if technically possible and within the current financial envelope available”, work continued to explore and test the feasibility of providing a new 50m swimming pool.
- 1.9. In August 2016, Council approved the investment of £10.5m into a 50m swimming pool alongside a range of other sports improvements at the Alan Higgs Centre.
- 1.10. Sport England agreed to support the strategic development of aquatic provision in the city, with a total of £3m investment. The first £1.5m was allocated to the development of The Wave.
- 1.11. In January 2018, Council approved the addition of £2.05m to the capital programme for the development of a six lane indoor bowls rink at the Avenue Bowls Outdoor Bowls Club, Gavestone Road.
- 1.12. Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (CSLC) is made up of two parts - with the swimming section dating back to 1966 and sports hall section to 1975. Levels of participation are declining – down 18% to 430,000 usages per annum (over the last five years), as more modern and accessible facilities such as Centre AT7 are opened.
- 1.13. The opening of the 50m Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre along with the ongoing development of associated public leisure facilities in other areas of the city means that formal approval to close and decommission CSLC is now sought from Cabinet.
- 1.14. A petition was heard on 8 October 2018, at a Meeting of Cabinet Member (Public Health and Sport), requesting that the Council keep Badminton court facilities in the city centre of Coventry (the petition contained a total of 93 signatures). It is proposed that work and consultation with any sports clubs and users that are to be displaced without alternative provision as a result of the phased commissioning and closure of CLSC commence upon the approval of the recommendations within in this report, in order to find alternative facility provision within the city where possible.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Options Considered in Relation to Accepting £1.5m of Grant from Sport England towards the Construction of the 50m Swimming Pool and Enhancement of Associated Public Leisure Facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre
 - 2.1.1. **Option 1 – Not accept the grant (not Recommended)**
 - 2.1.1.1. This option would mean not accepting the £1.5m grant offer, along with the associated terms and conditions, from Sport England.
 - 2.1.1.2. The £1.5m would not be added to the Capital Programme for the delivery of the 50m Swimming Pool, meaning that the scheme would need to be significantly value engineered.
 - 2.1.1.3. This would also represent a failed opportunity to secure a contribution to the capital cost of the delivery of the 50m Swimming Pool from an external partner, thus meaning that the Council would have to cover that cost from its own resources

2.1.2. **Option 2 – Accept the Grant (Recommended)**

2.1.2.1. This option would accept the £1.5m grant offer, along with the associated terms and conditions, from Sport England.

2.1.2.2. The £1.5m would be added to the Capital Programme, such that the existing scheme could continue to be delivered on site to proposed standards.

2.2. **Options considered in relation to Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre**

2.2.1. **Option 1 – Do Nothing (Not Recommended).**

2.2.1.1. This option would mean continuing to operate the existing CSLC facilities, alongside the opening of the new and modernised facilities in the city such as The Wave; the new 50m Swimming Pool facilities at the Alan Higgs Centre; and the proposed Avenue Indoor Bowls facility.

2.2.1.2. Option 1 is not recommended for the following reasons:

- (i) CSLC is an ageing facility that is no longer ‘fit for purpose’ and does not meet Vision Aim 5 of the ten-year Coventry Sports Strategy, which seeks “*to provide a range of modern, accessible, and high-quality sports facilities*”.
- (ii) Originally opened in 1966, CSLC would require substantial and uneconomical levels of capital investment to become a modern, accessible and high-quality sports facility.
- (iii) The investment model for the delivery of The Wave, the 50m Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre and the proposed Indoor Bowls facility all assume that there will be no ongoing revenue subsidy within public leisure, such as is currently required for the operation of CSLC.
- (iv) The opening of a new and modern 50m Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre would represent a duplication of provision within the city, albeit of significantly differing quality.

2.2.2. **Option 2 – Full Closure and Permanent Mothballing of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre (Not Recommended)**

2.2.2.1. The Council has clear plans to transform the city centre through the delivery of high quality public realm projects, investment in key infrastructure projects and support for development schemes that bring real benefits to the people and businesses of Coventry. The CSLC buildings occupy a key position within the city centre, located close to key visitor attractions such as the Cathedral and museum quarter. Given the Council’s plans for the city and its priorities for City of Culture 2021, having a permanently mothballed set of buildings is an inefficient use of land and assets and will detract from the wider ambitions for the city

2.2.2.2. The Council would be liable for security and mothballing costs in relation to the CSLC building which would be likely to run into many tens of thousands of pounds on an annual basis

2.2.3. Option 3 – Phased Closure of Coventry Sport and Leisure Centre and the Commissioning of Feasibility for the Future Uses of the Building (Recommended)

- 2.2.3.1. This option would approve the phased decommissioning and closure of CSLC, in line with decreasing demand, subject to no failure of major plant / equipment or force majeure.
- 2.2.3.2. Feasibility work would be commissioned and undertaken in relation to the future uses and / or the potential disposal of the building, taking account of factors such as the city centre location; key planning and heritage requirements; financial implications; and future sustainability.
- 2.2.3.3. Ongoing security measures and monitoring of the building if disposal and / or alternative uses have not been finalised by the time of final closure, would be planned and implemented and be funded from within existing budgets.
- 2.2.3.4. A temporary mothballing strategy for the building if disposal and / or alternative uses have not been finalised within six months of the final closure of the facility, would be planned and implemented and be funded from within existing budgets.

3. Results of Consultation Undertaken

- 3.1. In 2012 public consultation to inform the early development of the Coventry Sport Strategy was undertaken through the citywide Coventry Sport and Leisure Survey. A total of 1,532 completed surveys were received.
- 3.2. In addition to this, 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 incorporated a review of local health and wider research data as well as future city strategic priorities, sporting priorities for National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs), Sport England Active People Survey and market segmentation data. 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 ([download sections](#))
- 3.3. The Emerging Vision for Sport in Coventry was developed through the review and detailed consideration of Coventry Sport and Leisure Survey responses; further direct consultation with local, regional and national sporting stakeholders; and extensive desktop research and analysis. This analysis incorporated a review of local health and wider research data, future city strategic priorities, sporting priorities for NGBs, Sport England Active People Survey and market segmentation data.
- 3.4. Assessment of the city's indoor facilities and outdoor playing pitches were also carried out. These assessments provided a detailed picture of current indoor and outdoor sports provision in Coventry, showing the number, location, quality and use of the city's indoor facilities and outdoor pitches.
- 3.5. The key findings to emerge from these assessments were that:
 - i. The quality of indoor facilities 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's Indoor Facilities Strategy recognises the supply of sports halls in Coventry currently exceeds demand.

- iv. 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).
 - v. 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.
 - vi. Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre and Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre (now closed) were both deemed to be no longer fit for purpose.
 - vii. Funding being used to support these aging public sports and leisure facilities could be invested in new, modern and more accessible sports and leisure facilities.
 - viii. Swimming pool provision across the city would need to be considered in light of the proposed closure of the Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre
- 3.6. Public consultation took place on the Coventry Sport Strategy in 2014. A total of 1,056 survey responses were received during the consultation on the Sport Strategy. The key findings were that:
- i. The strategy was very well received and there was little opposition either the vision aims or strategic objectives. There was agreement to each of the aims from at least 82% of respondents
 - ii. The area attracting most comments and objections across survey responses was the proposed loss of 50m swimming pool provision in the city. The following issues were raised in relation to this:
 - iii. The loss of a 50m pool would destabilise the City of Coventry Swimming Club, specifically including the impact of losing Amateur Swimming Association National Beacon Club Status
 - iv. The reduction in traditional pool water space in the city centre compared to the current model
 - v. Reduced pool capacity for club training
 - vi. The displacement of current pool users
 - vii. The loss of competition facilities in the city
 - viii. The loss of the only 50m competition pool currently in the West Midlands region
 - ix. There was a need to provide sports provision and support for disabled people and to increase participation in sport and active recreation by disabled people or/and people with long term limiting illnesses
 - x. There was a need for high quality facilities for people of all sporting abilities. In total there were 250 comments relating to this, and many of these also referred to the need for facilities in neighbourhoods
 - xi. There was an importance of links to schools and the need for opportunities for young people were highlighted, with 101 comments being received on this subject
 - xii. Respondents wanted to see more done to improve the health of local people through sport
 - xiii. Connecting sport to the city's cultural, heritage events and tourism offer was very well received
- 3.7. Following the results of the above consultations, work has taken place with the City of Coventry Swimming Club on the design of the 50m pool currently being constructed at the Alan Higgs Centre. The final design was approved by the Club and they have been supportive of the process.
- 3.8. The design of the The Wave was drawn up with a group of young people from the Westwood Academy School. The group were involved in the design process from the very beginning and were fundamental in ensuring the waterpark will be accessible.

- 3.9. There has been consultation with Coventry Indoor Bowls Club and the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd and, subject to planning permissions, it is proposed, a replacement rink will be located at The Avenue Bowls Club in Coundon as agreed at Cabinet on 9 January 2018. This will offer better accessibility and facilities for its users.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1. The timetable for implementing the recommendations set out in this report is directly connected to the Practical Completion dates of The Wave; the completion of the 50m Swimming Pool at the Alan Higgs Centre; and the delivery of the Indoor Bowls facility at The Avenue Bowls Club.
- 4.2. Subject to the recommendations within this report being approved and the construction programmes within the control of the contractors, the following will be undertaken in 2019:
- (i) Consultation will commence immediately with clubs and existing users of facilities at CSLC to find alternative facilities within Coventry where possible.
 - (ii) The closure and subsequent decommissioning of the 70 station fitness suite, health spa, crèche and dance studio facilities at CSLC.
 - (iii) The existing splash pool, slides and features at CSLC will be closed to the public and decommissioned.
 - (iv) The 50m swimming pool and associated aquatic facilities at CSLC will be closed to the public and decommissioned.
 - (v) Sports hall and dry-side facilities at CSLC will be closed to the public and decommissioned.
 - (vi) The six lane indoor bowls rink at CSLC will be closed to the public and decommissioned.
 - (vii) Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre will be closed, fully decommissioned and made secure.
 - (viii) Site surveys undertaken, feasibility studies complete and options appraisal produced.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1. Financial implications

- 5.1.1. The one-off costs including those for decommissioning and security will be met through the existing reserve set aside to facilitate the changes outlined. The redundancy and pension strain costs estimated at £0.6m will be met from the Council's existing budget set aside for such costs, such as was the case when Foleshill Sports and Leisure Centre was closed in 2014.
- 5.1.2. In accepting the £1.5m grant funding from Sport England, the Council will be required to add the grant to the Capital Programme and report back to the funding body on performance of the grant. The Council monitors many grants and is well placed to manage with no foreseeable issues.

5.2. Legal implications

- 5.2.1. In the event of a disposal of the Property, Local authorities are generally under a duty to comply with Section 123(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 which requires that "Except with the consent of the Secretary of State a Council shall not dispose of land under this section, otherwise than by way of a short tenancy, for a consideration less than the best that can reasonably be obtained." Disposal at market value, which has been determined by an independent Chartered Surveyor, will satisfy the best consideration requirement.

- 5.2.2. In relation to the decision relating to the phased closure of the Property, the City Council are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and varies between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out in the document appended to this report.
- 5.2.3. This report is seeking Cabinet approval to accept and enter into an agreement to access grant funding being made available by Sports England for the development of the 50m Swimming Pool. As with most grant agreements, there will be provisions that govern when any repayment (or “claw-back”) may apply. These would typically take effect if any funding remained unspent or was not applied against eligible expenditures. Legal Services will work with officers on the best way to manage, control and minimise any such risk going forward.

6. Other implications

- 6.1. **How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)? -**
- 6.1.1. The recommendations contained within this report will contribute to the Council Plan core aims of:
- (i) *Improving health and wellbeing* – through encouraging and supporting engagement in regular sport, physical activity and/or active recreation. Public leisure facilities and their operation have a key role to play in supporting the Council to deliver its public health objectives. The provision of modern facilities such as the The Wave, the new 50m pool at the Alan Higgs Centre and the proposed new indoor bowls rink at The Avenue Bowls Club is intended to broaden and widen interest and participation in sport and leisure, particularly amongst children and families who might not otherwise participate in structured forms of sport and leisure.
 - (ii) *Making the most of our assets* - rationalising our property portfolio – The significant age and largely poor condition of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre have resulted in the facility being judged as no longer fit for purpose. The new sports and leisure facilities offer greater energy efficiency and environmental benefits to that of an aging facility.
 - (iii) *Developing the city centre* – bringing the city centre to life with a high quality leisure opportunities – including by providing accessible, high quality sustainable facilities such as The Wave.
 - (iv) *Raising the profile of Coventry* – through promoting Coventry as a visitor destination and centre for arts and culture, sports and leisure, music and events – by ensuring that sports and public leisure facilities are modern, accessible and fit for purpose.
- 6.2. **How is risk being managed?**
- 6.2.1. A detailed Risk Register has been produced and maintained, which is reviewed regularly and managed by individuals throughout the process.
- 6.2.2. The most significant risks along with the associated control measures have been identified to be:

- (i) The risk of failure to major plant and/or equipment resulting in the potential closure of CSLC prior to its proposed closure date subsequent to the opening of wider facility provision. The control measure has been to commission and put in place an asset management plan in order to identify and prioritise essential repair and maintenance work that will be required to keep the facility open and operational until the anticipated date of closure.
- (ii) Programme / contractual delays on the delivery wider facility provision that may result in CSLC remaining open longer than anticipated. The control measure has been to put in place a client-side project management group that includes representation from Property Services, City Centre and Development Services, Major Projects, all of whom will work alongside the Professional Adviser to the Employer's Representation to monitor and manage sports capital projects.
- (iii) There is a risk regarding the length of time the buildings may need to be mothballed before any disposal or decision about a long term sustainable use can be taken. The control measure will be to both commission asbestos, building and site surveys (undertaken by the relevant experts) and detailed feasibility studies to ensure that the length of mothballing is minimised.
- (iv) The failure to re-provide for the clubs and existing users of CSLC where current facility provision will no longer be available. The control measure is start immediate consultation with existing users and clubs to work to exhaust the latent demand in Sports Halls that is identified within Coventry's Indoor Facilities Strategy.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

6.3.1. The report recommendations would deliver a surplus revenue position for the Council through the reinvestment of recycled savings from the closure and withdrawal of public leisure service provision from CSLC. The recommendations would further deliver a vacant site (asset) for alternative use. Initial modelling work suggests that the provision of new facilities and sustainable operation will result in circa 2.4 million visits to leisure facilities per annum, further contributing to the delivery of a more coherent, consistent and sustainable public leisure offer for the people of Coventry and providing high quality, sustainable sports and leisure facilities in the city. This should further contribute to increasing participation in sport and active recreation, thereby also contributing to health and wellbeing outcomes for local people, particularly younger people and families.

6.3.2. There are no HR implications for the organisation as these proposals will not affect City Council employees.

6.4. Equalities / EIA

6.4.1. Following consultation and analysis of demographic, health, sport and leisure data for and survey responses for the city (and specifically including that of members accessing the current city centre leisure provision), an Equality and Consultation Analysis (ECA) was produced for the proposed phased closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre in Fairfax Street.

6.4.2. The Equality and Consultation Analysis contained as an appendix to the 'Phased Closure of Coventry Sports and Leisure Cabinet Paper (Coventry City Council, 2019) indicated the following potential equalities impacts regarding the protected groups under equalities legislation:

- There was a need to provide sports provision and support for disabled people and to increase participation in sport and active recreation by disabled people or/and people with long term limiting illnesses

- There was a need for high quality facilities for people of all sporting abilities.
- There was an importance of links to schools and the need for opportunities for young people were highlighted
- Those responding to consultation wanted to see more done to improve the health of local people through sport

6.4.3. Through engagement with stakeholders including Coventry Swimming Club, young people, the Indoor Bowls Association and local people, the move to other sites will see a positive impact on protected characteristic groups.

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

6.5.1. It is anticipated that the operation of a modern, accessible high-quality sports facilities will deliver significant efficiencies in water and energy consumption compared to the current facilities at CSLC. In comparison this would deliver an overall reduction in the carbon footprint. Energy saving controls have been incorporated into all schemes to reduce the on-going impact on natural resources. The modern mechanical and electrical installations will provide improved energy use through more efficient plant and better controls, such as passive infrared sensors and time-limited functions. Safe and secure management principles would be adopted by the operators to ensure the safety and perceived safety of its users and those living and working around the proposed developments. The operators would further be expected to deliver carefully selected activity programmes that are reflective of the needs of local users and the neighbourhoods they represent. Provision would be reviewed regularly to reflect changes in requirements and ensure efficiencies in operations.

6.6. **Implications for partner organisations**

6.6.1 The Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024 and Indoor Facilities Strategy 2014-2024 are partnership documents developed through consultation with a range of stakeholders. Approving these partnership strategies for Coventry confirmed the strategic direction and priorities for sport in the city – to develop a more active, inclusive and vibrant Coventry through positive experiences in sport. Approving the strategies has given confidence to external partners and funders that the city has clear objectives and priorities for sport across the ten year life of the strategies. This has assisted partners in applying for external grant funding and has brought greater coherence in the links from sport to wider city agendas (e.g. tourism, health, jobs and economy, regeneration). However, the loss of certain facilities may create some displacement or other such impact for a limited number of sports clubs and organisations. The Council will hear the current petitions regarding loss of provision at CSLC and has already worked extensively and successfully with a range of partners to mediate such impact where public leisure facility provision has previously been subject to changes and, where possible, has sought to support access to appropriate or enhanced alternative facilities. This will continue, as outlined in paragraph 4.11 From a public leisure perspective, current lease, grant and operational arrangements at CSLC are due to expire in October 2019. Any implications for staffing arrangements across Coventry Sports Trust as a consequence of the recommended options would be the subject of proposals presented by the organisation and would be managed independently by CST as the employer of affected staff. These changes will be monitored for the purposes of ascertaining equalities impact.

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