

## LEISURE FACILITIES AUDIT

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To outline the key findings of the Audit of Leisure and Cultural facilities that was carried out in 2012/13. Members' attention is drawn in particular to Section 1 Executive Summary, Section 5 summary of needs and provision assessment and to Section 6 the summary of recommended standards. Members may wish to review these sections ahead of the meeting along with other elements of the report to help identify any matters that require further explanation.
- 1.2 The table of recommended standards is given in Appendix 1. The full report be accessed by via the AVDC website at the following link <http://www.aylesburyvalecd.gov.uk/leisure-culture/leisure-and-culture-facilities-audit/>.

### 2 Recommendation

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.1 That the Committee reviews the Audit of Leisure Facilities and provides comments for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Leisure in conjunction with the Director and the Leisure Services Manager.</li></ol> |
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### 3 Supporting information

- 3.1 An Audit of Aylesbury Vale's leisure and cultural provision was carried out in 2012/13 and followed previous assessments of leisure and cultural provision in the Vale based around the Planning Policy Guidance (now National Planning Policy Framework) requirements.
- 3.2 The Audit covered a wide range of built and green leisure provision, including indoor and outdoor sports, arts and entertainment centres, community buildings and green spaces. For the first time, the Audit also considered commercial Leisure provision and existing and committed provision beyond the district boundaries.
- 3.3 The purpose of the Audit is to guide leisure and cultural provision across the Vale, and in particular to inform provision associated with new housing growth. The Audit took account of the forecast housing growth associated with the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and provided guidance on the gaps in current provision and what would be required based on the forecast growth:
- 3.4 The Council recognises that a high quality and diverse leisure offer contributes to the economic growth of the Vale, the physical and mental health and well-being of residents (as highlighted at the last meeting of this Committee within the presentation of the Director of Public Health) and visitors and to delivering sustainable growth.
- 3.5 The Audit report includes a summary of nationally recommended standards. Where suitable the national standards have been applied to assess the current and future need, including Sport England for sports facilities and Natural England for green infrastructure. The standards form the basis for provision on site or off site through financial contributions elsewhere in the Vale. Creating a schedule of leisure and cultural standards enables developers to take into account the leisure and cultural provision required at

the earliest opportunity of their planning delivery, including their viability assessments.

- 3.6 Whilst a wide range of leisure provision was considered, the audit cannot realistically capture all that the Vale has to offer. The Vale has high quality and diverse leisure and cultural interests which reflect its heritage and landscape such as National Trust properties, equestrian centres and museums, equally some sports such as angling have not been included as there are no standards that cover this.
- 3.7 Similarly the Audit does not capture the huge range of leisure and cultural activities which are on offer, which include AVDC's leisure programme, town centre events organised by the Aylesbury Town Partnership, town and parish councils and the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.8 The main findings in the report are that there are some gaps in provision. This includes 6 badminton courts, a synthetic turf pitch, and 8 outdoor tennis courts in the Aylesbury area, and a community centre, 3 grass pitches and 3 outdoor tennis courts in the Buckingham area.
- 3.9 In some categories sports, such as swimming pools, entertainment and arts facilities, outdoor bowls and athletics, rather than developing further provision, the audit has identified a need for improved management of existing facilities.
- 3.10 The provision of some facilities such as cinemas, snow centre, ice rink and bowling alleys would be commercial decisions, based for instance on drive time catchments. Likewise there are some sports facilities such as cricket pitches where the provision is more closely linked to the tradition of rural communities, than a fixed standard. These are therefore not included in the standards table set out in Section 6 of the Audit report.
- 3.11 Standards are not set for heritage interpretation or public art but these should be sought as integral parts of the design of new developments.
- 3.12 The Audit will be used to inform local standards which will inform leisure provision associated with housing growth in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and other Planning decisions. The findings have been included in the Infrastructure Planning process that underpins both VAP and the future Community Infrastructure Levy work.
- 3.13 Leisure Services will use the findings to guide the future provision of leisure and cultural in, for example, the use of S106 developer contributions. Similarly it also serves to inform parish and town councils who are considering their leisure and cultural provision and wish to understand identified gaps in provision.
- 3.14 The information and conclusions regarding additional commercial facilities have been fed into the draft improvement plan for Aylesbury Town Centre.

#### **4 Resource implications**

- 4.1 The findings of the audit will be used to inform future leisure and cultural provision in the Vale. It can be used to support grant applications for capital projects and therefore serves as a tool to assist the securing of inward investment.

## **5 Response to Key Aims and Objectives**

5.1 The Audit supports the two of the Corporate Objectives in particular:

- Protecting and improving the living experience of the Vale
- Growing the economy of the Vale.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

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None

**Appendix 1: extract from the Audit report: Table of recommended standards**

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
<b>Sports Halls</b>	No part of the district should be outside of a 20 minute travel time.	0.28 badminton courts per 1,000 population; facilities should be delivered in four court units with ancillary hall of no less than 1,500sqm and relevant support facilities.	The minimum acceptable quality standard for indoor sports halls and their associated facilities will be to meet the most <i>current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance – Sports Halls Design and Layouts recommendations for a public use facility.</i>
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	No part of the district should be outside of a 20 minute travel time.	0.19 pool lanes per 1,000 population. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant, reception etc.)	The minimum acceptable quality standard for indoor swimming pools and their associated facilities will be to meet the most <i>current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Swimming Pool Design recommendations for a public use facility.</i>

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
<b>Community Centres and Village Halls</b>	<p>No provision required at Hamlet or Rural Parish 1 level;</p> <p>At Rural Parish 2 level a small community centre with main hall up to 100m<sup>2</sup> with foyer, small meeting room, adequate storage, kitchen, toilet facilities and parking;</p> <p>At Rural Parish 3 level a medium sized community centre up to 250m<sup>2</sup>, as above with addition of meeting room(s), and stage;</p> <p>At cluster and Larger Sustainable Settlement level a minimum 18m x 10m main hall and ancillary facilities suitable for sporting activities to standards set in Sport England Design Guidance Note <i>Village and Community Halls</i> plus small fitness room to relevant Sport England guidance; and a minimum 18m x 10m main hall with fixed or demountable stage and ancillary facilities suitable for arts and performance activities to standards set in Sport England Design Guidance Note <i>Village and Community Halls</i>. These two halls may in practice be the same if either meets the other's specification.</p> <p>For the Aylesbury and Buckingham Sub Market no part of the sub market should be further than one mile from a community centre. The quantitative standard is one centre per 5,000 population, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hall 14m x 10m</li> <li>• Hall/Meeting Room 7m x 6m</li> <li>• Kitchen with server</li> <li>• Toilets</li> <li>• Storage for chairs, cleaning equipment, kitchen requirements, refuse</li> <li>• Parking to meet the full requirements of the range of uses.</li> </ul>		<p>The minimum acceptable quality standard for community centres will be to meet the most <i>current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance recommendations for these facilities</i>, accepting that the facility mix may not be directly the same as the Guidance, together with such environmental standards relating to sustainability, energy consumption and recycling, and building construction as required by the Council at the time of provision.</p>

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
<p><b>Entertainment and Arts Facilities</b></p>	<p>No specific provision required at Hamlet or Rural Parish 1 and 2 levels;</p> <p>At Rural Parish 3 and Cluster level, there should be provision to enable viewing and participation in community based arts and entertainment activities;</p> <p>At Larger Sustainable Settlement level and Buckingham Sub Market level there should be access to facilities for larger scale productions and participation in other arts activities;</p> <p>At Aylesbury Sub Market level there should be access to major event productions and events, and participation in other arts activities.</p>	<p>At Rural Parish 3 and Cluster Areas provision is as set out within the Community Centres/Village Halls requirements;</p> <p>For Larger Sustainable Settlements and the Buckingham Sub Market there should be a Community Hall / Theatre with stage and capacity for 200 people, preferably located within a community school. This facility need may also be met by a Community Centre if the facilities meet the recommended standard;</p> <p>At Aylesbury Sub Market level there should be a multi purpose auditorium with capacity for 1,200, and a secondary theatre with capacity of 200;</p> <p>In terms of arts centres, the standards are for Aylesbury and Buckingham Sub Market and Larger Sustainable Settlements a minimum of four arts workshop areas including wet room and kiln.</p>	<p>For entertainment facilities delivered through Community Centres/Village Halls then the qualitative standards are those set out earlier for these facilities. For Aylesbury Sub Market and arts centres new facilities should be designed to the highest standard for the uses for which the facilities are intended and the best level of audience experience possible at the time of delivery.</p>

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
<b>Heritage and Interpretation</b>	<p>For Rural Parish 2 and 3 levels there should be an appropriately sited multi media information point that covers interpretation relating to local history and heritage and is designed and provided to a high standard;</p> <p>For Larger sustainable Settlements there should be a multi media information point to include interpretation relating to local history and heritage, parish/town map and visitor guide designed and provided to a high standard;</p> <p>For the Aylesbury Sub Market Level there should be the above plus a Nationally Accredited Museum recording settlement history, library link to centre for local studies, visitor guide and town map.</p>		
<b>Synthetic Turf Pitches</b>	<p>No part of the district should be outside of a 6 mile radius of an STP.</p>	<p>0.03 STP's per 1,000 population. Delivery should be as a minimum a full size floodlit STP to the dimensions appropriate for the sport(s) it is being used for and as set out in the Sport England Design Guidance Notes <i>Selecting the Right Artificial Surface</i> and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements appertaining at the time of delivery. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, plant etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.</p>	<p>The minimum acceptable quality standard for STP's and their associated facilities will be to meet the most current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Notes <i>Selecting the Right Artificial Surface</i>, or such replacement or updated guidance, and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements.</p>

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
<p><b>Grass Playing Pitches</b></p>	<p>A variety of accessibility standards for grass pitches have been used in the Study, depending on the specific sport. For football and cricket the geographical hierarchy described earlier has been used to evaluate accessibility. For rugby union this is a 15 minute drivetime.</p>	<p>Aylesbury Urban Area – 0.49 adult size grass pitch per 1,000 population, 0.03 cricket wickets per 1,000 population;</p> <p>Aylesbury Rural Area (including Secondary settlements) - 0.73 adult size grass pitch equivalent per 1,000 population, 0.28 cricket wickets per 1,000 population In terms of provision, delivery should be as a minimum equate to a full adult size football pitch to the maximum recommended dimensions (including run offs) of the Football Association. Provision should be accompanied by the necessary support facilities (changing, showers plant etc.) as set out in the qualitative standards.</p>	<p>The minimum acceptable quality standard for grass pitches and their associated facilities will be to meet the most <i>current (at time of provision) Sport England Design Guidance Notes on Natural Turf Pitches</i> and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements. Pavilion standards shall be as set out in the Sports England Design Guidance Note <i>Pavilions and Clubhouses</i> and any specific sports National Governing Body requirements.</p>



Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
Outdoor Tennis	The accessibility standard used is access to floodlit courts within a 10 minute drivetime.	<p>Aylesbury Sub Market – 0.4 floodlit outdoor tennis courts per 1,000 population;</p> <p>Aylesbury Rural Area (including Buckingham Sub Market and Larger Sustainable settlements) - 0.7 floodlit outdoor tennis courts per 1,000 population.</p> <p>In terms of provision, delivery should be to Lawn Tennis Association recommended dimensions for the number of courts concerned, and provision should be located in <b>four court blocks</b></p>	The minimum acceptable quality standard for outdoor tennis courts and their associated facilities will be to meet the most <i>current (at time of provision) Lawn Tennis Association Technical Guidance</i> . Facilities in four court blocks should be suitable for other sporting uses if required.
Public Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On sites of less than 25 dwellings, developers will explore artistic additions to the development by seeking to employ local artists and crafts people in the construction of features within the site such as signage, gates and door furniture.</li> <li>• Medium schemes (25 dwellings or more or 100 sq m footprint commercial) will contribute towards Public Art proposals, medium sized schemes (25-500 dwellings) will include public art as an integral part of the proposal and</li> <li>• Large schemes (500 + dwellings or 1000 sq m footprint commercial) will also include a public artist as part of the design team.</li> <li>• Provision of Public Art will also be required in relation to public buildings, schools and sports centres. On other developments or mixed use developments, Public Art will be required on sites of 0.5ha or more.</li> </ul> <p>The provision of Public Art should be an integral part of a development scheme, not an after thought. The Council wishes, therefore, to work in partnership with developers, architects, landscape architects and designers, including artists and arts officers, at an early stage of the development process to identify and work up possibilities for art provision. The artists, where appropriate, should work in consultation with the people who will be affected by the site and the installation and facilitate a sense of meaningful contribution.</p>		

Typology	Accessibility Standard	Quantitative Standard	Qualitative Standard
	<p>As a general rule the budget for public art commissions within a project should be between 1% and 2% of the total construction costs. This figure is used as a starting point and ensures that there is always a minimum expenditure on public art within a scheme and its value and scale is directly related to the size of the project. Contributions will also be expected towards the long term maintenance of any commissions, this is usually set at 5% of the commissioning budget or £500, whichever is the larger amount.</p>		
<p><b>Green Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>No person should live more than 300m from their area of natural green space of at least 2ha in size, and that there should be at least 2ha of accessible natural green space per 1000 population;</p> <p>There should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of peoples' homes;</p> <p>There should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km of peoples' homes;</p> <p>There should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km of peoples' homes;</p> <p>There should be 1.4ha per 1000 population as incidental open space (incorporates amenity/landscaped planted areas, green corridors);</p> <p>There should be 2.4ha per 1000 population as major open space (parks, formal gardens and public open space which is broken down to 1.6ha of outdoor sport space (1.2 pitch sport) and 0.8ha for children and young people playing space).</p>		<p>For development purposes – both of existing and future green space facilities – the qualitative standards set out in the nine Strategic principles of the <i>Aylesbury Vale Green Infrastructure Strategy</i> should therefore apply with specific principles being utilised according to the size, nature and location of the development.</p>