

Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre Improvement – Consultation report

Introduction

1. Southampton City Council undertook consultation with residents and stakeholders regarding a proposed vision and improvement plan for Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre between 18 September and 18 December 2015.
2. Southampton Sports Centre opened in 1938, and since then a number of changes, improvements and modifications have been made. However, despite these changes and investment, Southampton City Council recognises that there is considerable interest in establishing a future vision for the Sports Centre and identifying some key areas for improvement in terms of how it could grow and develop to replace, refurbish and enhance its offer for both competitive sports and leisure users.
3. The council is currently facing significant budget pressures, as the main grant from central government has decreased by 30% since 2012/13, and will continue to be cut over the next five years; at the same time, demand for our services, particularly adults and children's social care, continues to rise. Therefore, the council is unfortunately not in a position to fund large scale improvements to the Outdoor Sports Centre, and needs to attract funding from other agencies and partners. In order to do that, a clear vision for the facility needs to be established, with support from residents, users and national governing bodies of sport.
4. The draft improvement plan has been developed following a lengthy period of engagement with; residents who live close to the Sports Centre, sports clubs and organisations that use the facility and the Friends of Southampton Sports Centre (FOSSC), as well as sport national governing bodies. This consultation was intended to present the conclusions of that process to a wider audience in order to conclude the process of engagement and consultation. It was not seeking views on a direct set of proposals but looking to engage the views of a wide range of stakeholders on various ideas and potential changes to the sports centre so that external funding could be sought.
5. The proposal was agreed and that led to a period of formal consultation with key stakeholders and the public in order to establish support for the vision for the future of the Outdoor Sports Centre.

Consultation principles

6. The council takes its duty to consult with residents and stakeholders on changes to services very seriously. The council's consultation principles ensure that all consultation is:
 - Inclusive: so that everyone in the city has the opportunity to express their views.
 - Informative: so that people have adequate information about the proposals, what different options mean, and a balanced and fair explanation of the potential impact, particularly the equality and safety impact.
 - Understandable: by ensuring that the language used to communicate is simple and clear and that efforts are made to reach all stakeholders, for example people who are non-English speakers or disabled people.
 - Appropriate: by targeting people who are more likely to be affected and using a more tailored approach to get their feedback, complemented by a general approach to all residents, staff, businesses and partners.
 - Meaningful: by ensuring decision makers have the full consultation feedback information so that they can make informed decisions.
 - Reported: by letting consultees know what was done with their feedback.
7. The council also aims to ensure that consultations are conducted in a timely fashion, so that there is time for proposals to be influenced by the outcome of the consultation, and time for decision makers to see the full results and understand the views of consultees before taking any final decisions.
8. The city of Southampton also has a compact (or agreement) with the voluntary sector in which there is a commitment to undertake public consultations for a minimum of 12 weeks wherever possible. This aims to ensure that there is enough time for individuals and voluntary organisations to hear about, consider and respond to consultations. It is also in line with national government guidance.

Early listening and engagement

9. A series of ten drop-in sessions were held in November 2013 at a range of community venues within the SO16 postcode area. Sports Clubs who book facilities were also invited to an additional session. The aim of these sessions was to engage local people and sports clubs to identify what they liked and disliked about the Outdoor Sport Centre and to generate ideas for improvements.
10. 155 people attended the sessions at six venues, and 169 ideas were generated as a result. The majority of attendees were adults, and visited the sessions held at the Sporting View with the remaining attendees split fairly evenly at other venues.
11. This engagement provided valuable feedback from the local community and sports users. A series of key themes and ideas emerged, highlighting capital developments, programming and operational improvements. The high priority improvements identified through the engagement process were as follows:
 - Development of Club Hub and Sports facilities to include: changing and toilet provision, meeting rooms, Café/refreshment provision, indoor sports provision (Capital improvement)
 - Creation of Physical Activity Opportunities to include: Marked running/jogging route, cycling circuit, outdoor gym (Capital/ Programming improvement)
 - Infrastructure Improvements: increase and improve car park provision, improve lighting on access routes or footpaths within the site (Capital/Operational improvement)
 - Open Space: develop the existing woodland walks, consider options for dog walking areas and other recreational activities e.g. ropes and zip wires, wheeled sports park, retain the open space (Capital/Operational/Programming improvement).
12. The feedback from this process was used to develop the draft Sports Centre Improvement Plan which includes plans and suggestions from the community feedback. Further consultation then took place on the draft plan with a range of national sports bodies and local stakeholders and partners. This period of consultation reaffirmed the priorities from the initial phase, but also refined the overall priorities to:
 - Development of Hub(s) to include: changing and toilet provision, meeting rooms, Café/refreshment provision, which is fit for purpose and meets the needs of different sports and recreational users of the site (Capital improvement)
 - Sports facilities to potentially include: indoor sports provision, 3G pitch, Multi Use Games Area, Beach Volleyball, Pitch drainage improvements (Capital improvement)
 - Creation of Physical Activity Opportunities to include: marked running/jogging route, cycling road circuit, Skate Park/Wheeled Sports facility, Outdoor gym (Capital/ Programming improvement)
 - Infrastructure Improvements: increase and improve car park provision, improve lighting on access route within the site (Capital/Operational improvement).

Approach and methodology

13. The consultation on the vision for improvements to Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre sought views on a range of development ideas from users of the facility, local residents and visitors to the city. The consultation ran from 18 September to 18 December 2015, a total of 12 weeks.
14. The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire, with paper versions available on request. This approach enabled an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure that residents were aware of the background and context. It also meant that the consultation questionnaire could sit on the same webpages as all the reports, diagrams and the Sports Centre Improvement Plan, which showed the various ideas in more detail. These additional documents also contain details of previous engagement that has led up to, and informed, the proposals. This therefore represented the most suitable methodology for consulting on the future vision for Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre.

Promotion and communication

15. Throughout the consultation, every effort was made to ensure that as many people as possible were aware of the proposed changes and had an opportunity to have their say. Particular effort was made to communicate the proposals in a clear and easy to understand way.
16. The consultation was promoted in the following ways:
- E-alerts, sent to subscribers of the council's email marketing service. These featured hyperlinks to further information about the consultation and the questionnaire itself.
 - Information and media support were provided to the regional media to help them cover the consultation. This resulted in the following coverage:
 - o BBC Radio Solent – news feature and interview with Cllr Kaur (1 October 2015)
 - o BBC Hampshire (web) www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-34391671
 - o (29 September 2015)
 - o Daily Echo – 'Southampton Sports Centre could be set for a £27.4m revamp' - double page feature article and web (2 October 2015)
www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/13798465.southampton_sports_centre_set_for_multi_million_pound_revamp_including_skate_park_3g_pitch_and_cycle_track/
 - o Southampton Athletic Club (web) www.southamptonathleticclub.org.uk/wordpress/the-new-sports-centre-have-your-say/
 - A link to the Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre Improvement consultation web pages was included on the council website 'have your say' page for the duration of the consultation.
 - Emails were sent to a range of support organisations, sports clubs, schools and stakeholders.
 - Active Nation, the delivery partner for the Sport Centre, promoted it with their users.
 - The council's Facebook and Twitter accounts were used to signpost people to the consultation information and questionnaire.

Consultation respondents

17. In total, 1277 people responded to Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre consultation. Responses were received both in the form of online and paper questionnaires. All the questionnaire submissions that had at least one question completed were included in the analysis. It was important to include all responses even if only a single question was answered as this is still valid feedback. However, this does mean that the demographic information outlined may not cover all respondents, as some may not have completed this section.
18. In total:
- o 56% of respondents were local residents who wanted to have their say on the planned changes to Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre.
 - o 27% were members of Southampton sports clubs or community groups.
 - o 2% were respondents from schools/colleges or Universities
 - o 15% of respondents didn't identify with any of these groups and were classed as Other
 - o Within the respondents that did not identify with the given groups, the most common responses were:
 - Residents or sports clubs of areas outside of the Local area (such as Fareham, Portsmouth, Winchester & Andover)
 - Parent or guardian of Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre users.
19. This section shows the demographic makeup of respondents to the main questionnaire, enabling an understanding of which groups were represented in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and also the type of person filling in the survey (taken from the groups above). As consultations are open for anyone to answer, they will not necessarily be representative of the whole population of Southampton. It is however important that as wide a range as possible are engaged and are given the opportunity to share their views.
20. Figure 1 shows the age breakdown of the consultation respondents. The least represented group was the under 10s, with less than 1% of the total respondents falling into this category, which is to be expected as the

questionnaire was aimed primarily at adults. The group which was most represented was the 40-49 year olds, with 27% of respondents coming from this category. The following age groups had an engagement of over 15%: 30-39 and 50-59, with 24% and 16% respectively of the total respondents. This consultation has a more even spread of respondent ages than is typically seen, as the 40-70+ age group tend to participate in greater numbers. As an example, in Southampton City Council's budget consultation for 2014/15, 48% of respondents were between 50-69 years old and 7% for were between the ages of 17 and 29.

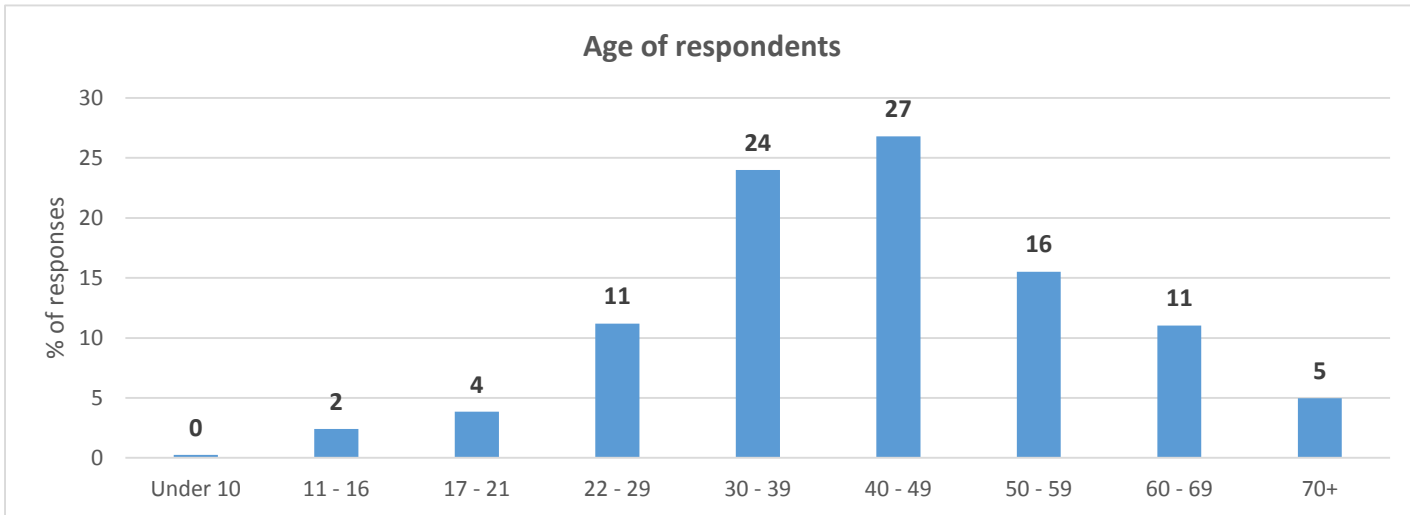


Figure 1

21. Mapping has been undertaken to look at the geographic distribution of respondents to the consultation. As seen in Figure 2, there is a fairly wide interest from across the region.

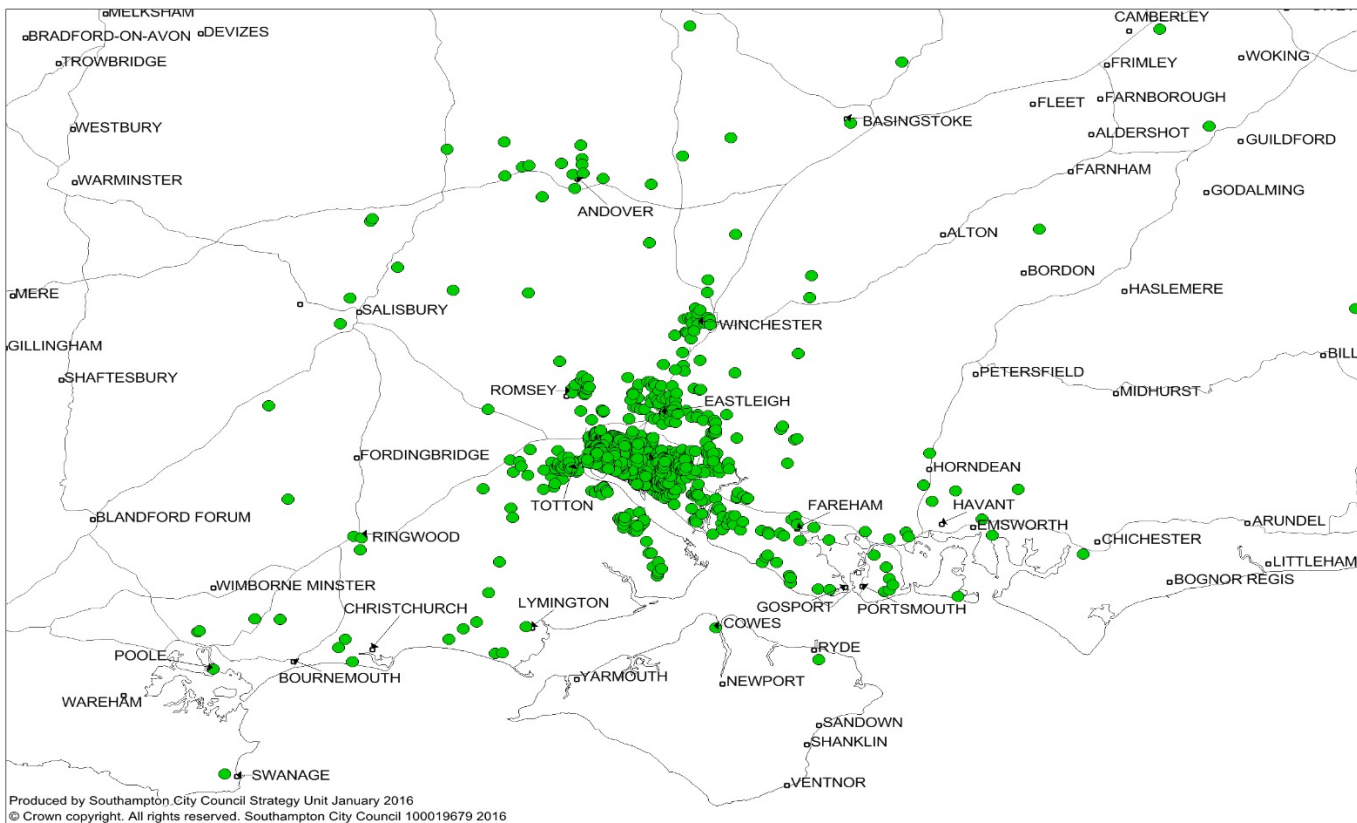


Figure 2

22. The gender breakdown of consultation respondents was 51% male and 49% female. This consultation has a more even representation of gender responses than typically seen, when compared to other consultations. For example, the Libraries Transformation 2014 consultation had a much higher female response (63%) than male (37%), which is more in keeping with what is generally expected, as more females tend to participate than males in consultations.

Current usage

23. As a part of the consultation various questions were asked about respondent's current use of the Sports Centre and other sports facilities, the results to these questions are outlined in this section.

24. Consultation respondents were asked how regularly they used Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre. See Figure 3 for the complete response data.

- a. The most common answers given were 2-6 times a week (24%), once a week (22%) and occasionally (31%)
- b. The least common answers given were every day (3%), once a fortnight (4%) and never (6%)
- c. In total 49% of respondents to the consultation used the sports centre at least once a week

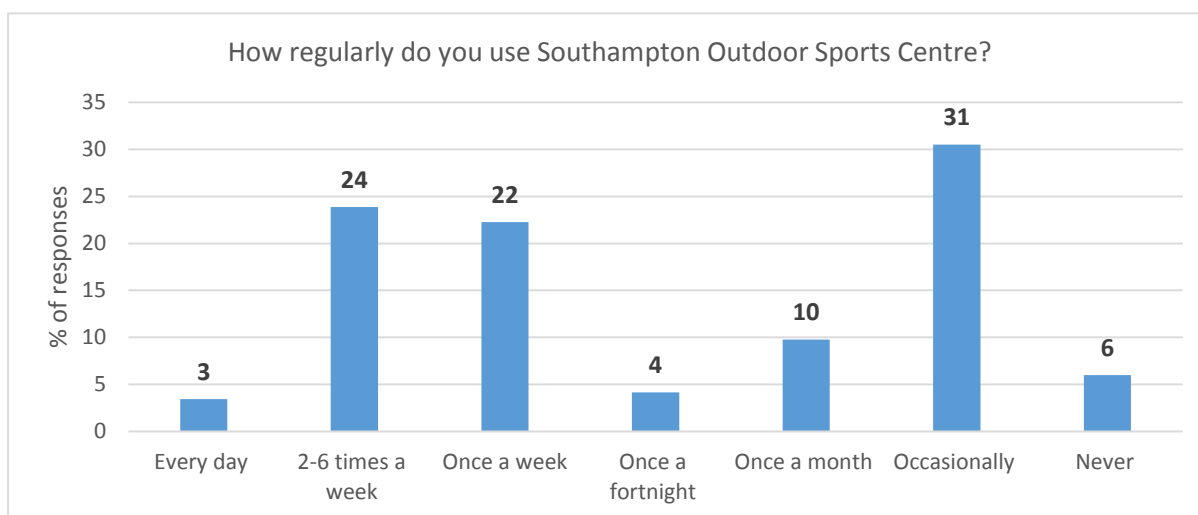


Figure 3

25. Respondents were then asked what activities they regularly took part in. A list was given of common activities and the option of other was also presented. Below is a breakdown of the major activities that were chosen. Figure 4 displays the percentages of each activity. Finally the Other section was broken down further to show the main responses within this section. (Note that the percentages do not add up to 100 percent as multiple choices were available).

- a. For respondents that gave the answer Other, the most common activities were;
 - i. Swimming
 - ii. Walking/rambling
 - iii. Pétanque
 - iv. Children's play area/pleasure park
 - v. Sailing/kayaking
 - vi. Golf

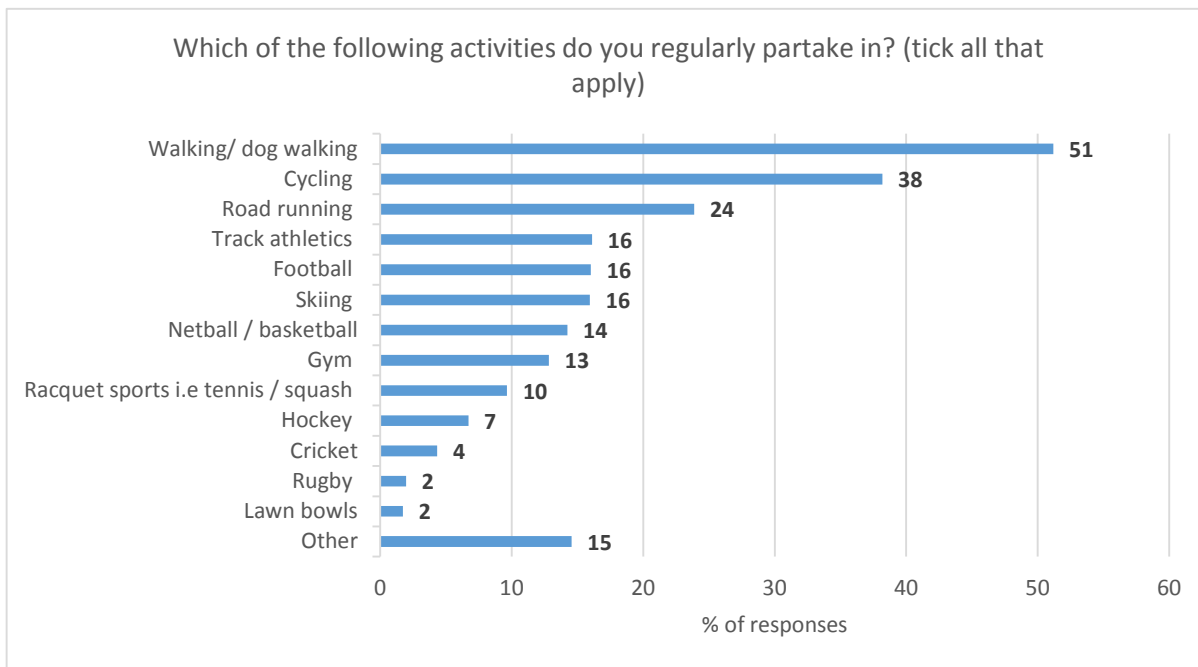


Figure 4

26. Alongside asking respondents what they regularly took part in at Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre, they were also asked to provide other facilities/activities that they used outside of the sports centre. Below is a breakdown of the major activities that were chosen. Figure 5 displays the percentages of each activity. Finally the Other section was broken down further to show the main responses within this section. (Note that the percentages do not add up to 100 percent as multiple choices were available).

- a. For respondents that gave the answer Other, the most common activities were;
 - i. Swimming pool
 - ii. Road running/running track
 - iii. Local parks/commons or New Forest for walking/dog walking
 - iv. Off road/road cycling

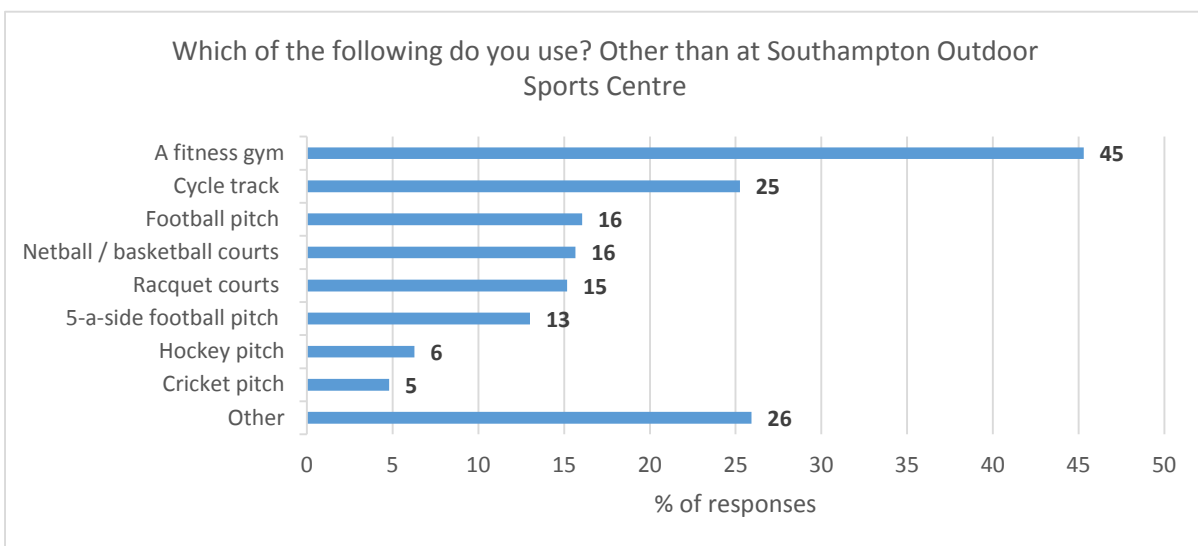


Figure 5

Consultation results

27. Respondents were asked about their agreement with certain statements within the survey. Three key statements were given and, for each of these, consultees could state whether they agreed (strongly or otherwise), disagreed (strongly or otherwise) or were neutral. Below the key statements and the percentages of agreement/disagreement are listed (some of the percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding):

- i. Q1 - Whether the existing Southampton Outdoor Sport Centre facilities would benefit from significant improvement (93% agree, 6% neutral and 2% disagree)
- ii. Q2 - The priority areas, which were listed as: Development of Hub(s), Sports facilities, Creation of physical activity opportunities, Infrastructure improvement. (89% agree, 7% neutral and 3% disagree)
- iii. Q3 - Whether the improvements would mean increased use (86% agree, 11% neutral and 3% disagree)

The data (including strongly agree and disagree) are shown in Figure 6.

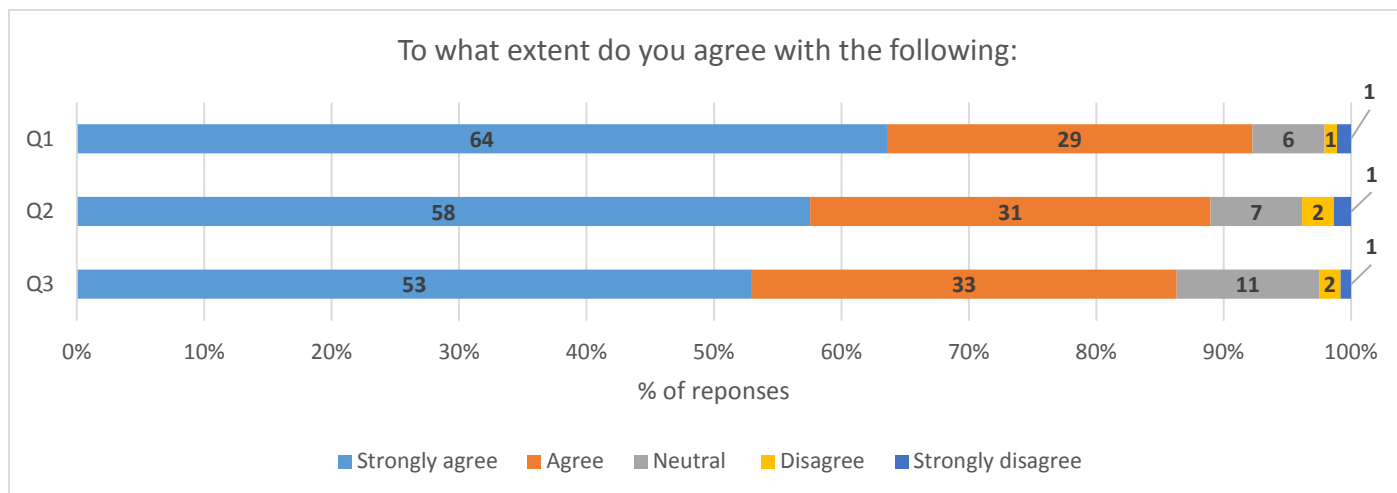


Figure 6

28. Once it had been established whether respondents agreed with the key statements, they were asked who the sports centre should be aimed at. A key finding of the consultation is that the overwhelming majority of respondents feel the facility should be at least a regional centre (85%). The results are given below:

- a. City and regional sports facility – 43%
- b. City, regional and national sports facility – 42%
- c. City sports facility – 15%

29. Figure 7 shows the geographic distribution of agreement around the type of facility which respondents would like the sports centre to be.

- a. The respondents who live in Southampton:
 - i. City and regional sports facility – 40%
 - ii. City, regional and national sports facility – 40%
 - iii. City sports facility – 19%
- b. The respondents who live outside of the city:
 - i. City and regional sports facility – 49%
 - ii. City, regional and national sports facility – 44%
 - iii. City sports facility – 9%

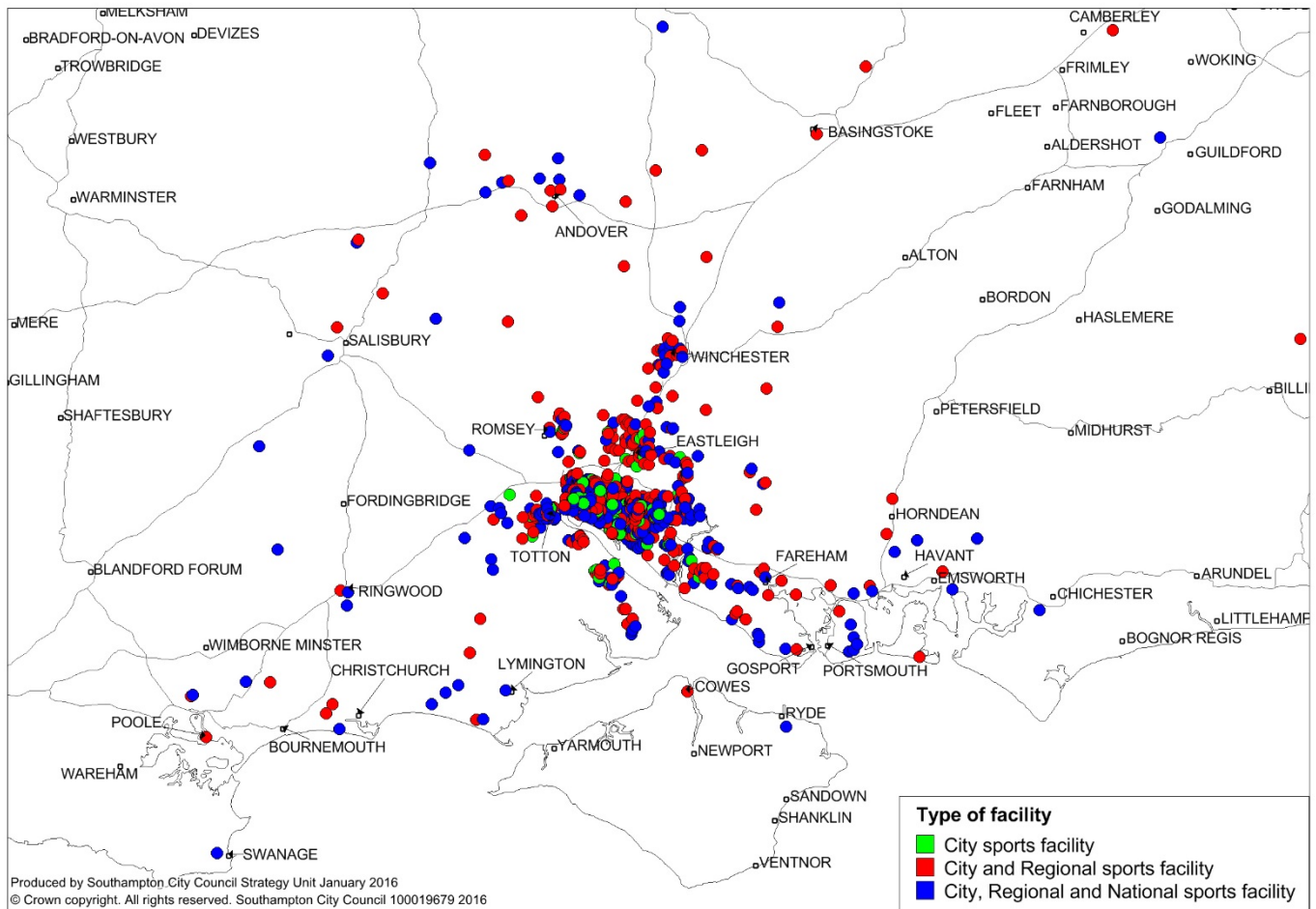


Figure 7

30. Proposals were then described for different areas of Southampton Outside Sports Centre and consultees were asked to assess which of the proposals they agreed with. The first area to be considered was the pavilion. The options and results are given below:

- a. Option 1 – Changing rooms for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space (12%)
- b. Option 2 – Changing rooms for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall (over marked for example to accommodate 4 Badminton courts, 1 Netball, 1 indoor 5-a-side football, 1 Volleyball) (48%)
- c. Option 3 – Changing for hard courts, and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall (over marked for example to accommodate 2 Futsal courts, 4 Netball, 21 Badminton courts) (40%)

31. Alongside providing options and proposals, consultees were given the opportunity to provide further comments or suggestions on Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre. 688 separate comments were noted on the electronic survey and emails and letters were also accepted as part of the consultation. These are (where applicable) within the results given below. Note that the percentages may not add 100% as some comments fell into several categories. The key points highlighted by respondents as areas for development or improvement were as follows:

- a. Increased/Improved cycling facilities – 25% of responses
- b. Improvement of facilities (such as the current buildings, toilets, changing facilities etc.) – 16%
- c. Parking (both positive comments, such as needing an increase in parking spaces, and negative comments, such as increased tarmacked areas could impact the greenery on the site) or access to the site (by a range of different transport methods such as bike, walking or cars) – 16%
- d. Improvement to other sports facilities (sports not directly mentioned, such as football, basketball or pétanque) – 12%
- e. Indoor facilities (such as swimming pools, running tracks, netball courts etc.) – 11%
- f. Inclusive activities (outside of athletics or sporting) – 10%

- g. Improvements to the athletics equipment – 9%
- h. Improvements to the netball courts – 8%
- i. Comments mentioning the boating lake or sports involving aquatics (sailing, boating, kayaking, water park, paddling pool etc.) – 7%
- j. Keeping The View in its current form – 6%
- k. Improvements to Ski slope – 4%
- l. Greater security or safety considerations in the area (such as CCTV or improved lighting) – 3%
- m. Outdoor/indoor gymnasium – 3%
- n. Provision for disability access and sports – 3%
- o. Improvements to hockey pitches – 2%
- p. Other (comments that could not be placed in any of the above groups) – 16%
- q. Common overarching themes (that were not included as separate groups) are given below
 - i. Preserving the historical significance of the site
 - ii. Preserving the ecological importance of the site (with particular emphasis placed on amphibious species, however bird, plant and invertebrate species are also mentioned) and maintaining the green areas
 - iii. Making sure that the sports facility is in keeping with its name (being an outdoor sports centre), however this is in direct opposition with 11% of responses which stated indoor facilities should be considered a priority.

32. Table 1 contains five examples of each category that represented at least 5% of responses.

TABLE 1

Comment group	Comment
Cycling	A competitive road racing circuit would be great, it would get a lot of use and a lot of riders would appreciate a safe, fast and well equipped circuit.
	A closed road circuit is vital for youth and junior cycling development in the South as many facilities have been shut down due to poor maintenance. British Cycling has spent vast sums in the North of England, but this has not been matched for the South of England. A National cyclocross event was held on Sunday 11th and the numbers of people participating and using the facility was incredible. We are from the Portsmouth area and would certainly to the Sports Centre for training, coaching and racing.
	Absolutely believe Southampton would benefit from a closed road cycling circuit - there is nothing of this standard in the area and would be a tremendous benefit to the all ages. We have some great youth cycling talent in the Southampton area and currently they have to travel to train for any road facilities up to almost an hour away. This would be a great addition to the community promoting this important leisure and sporting activity.
	any cycling facilities would be great - really miss using the cycle track!
	Having a Closed Road Circuit would improve facilities. There is a large number of cyclist in Hampshire and may are trying road races. Having a track would allow to enter competition in the local area.
Facilities	A completely new stand by the Athletics track and completely new changing facilities & toilets should be top priority
	As a minimum the facilities for the athletics track need to be upgraded to at least offer on-site (track) changing room / toilet facilities (inc hot and cold running water - current facilities are dreadful.
	I think the sports centre would benefit greatly from some of the more minor improvements such as to the toilet facilities. It just seems very run down and unloved....even the floodlights haven't had bulbs replaced.

	<p>Make toilet and changing facilities fit and comfortable for use - currently they are a disgrace; and make them accessible from the athletics track. Improve the athletics stand and make it a venue for good standard meets - sell advertising around the perimeter to generate revenue. I believe Basingstoke track does this??</p>
	<p>The sports centre can bring further credit to Southampton as a regional sports centre of excellence and I believe this should be the focus, therefore improved parking, indoor hall with catering facilities, appropriate changing facilities should be priorities, modelled on catering for agreed regional event numbers with the current users.</p>
Parking/access	<p>It is important to maintain access and paths for local residents who walk through or around the area for gentle exercise, as well as for the more energetic.</p>
	<p>I am concerned that the Closed Cycle Road Circuit might impinge on freedom of access to the walking footpaths around the northern boundary of the SSC. It may be necessary for safety purposes to fence the circuit - especially if close to footpaths/walkways - but it's important that this doesn't restrict access to footpaths. Also from the map it appears that the footpath is immediately adjacent to the full length of the cycle circuit; it would be better if there was some separation between the two.</p>
	<p>As a local resident my top priority is that sufficient car parking is provided to cope with the planned number of people visiting the site. Parking for local residents is often a nightmare when there is any kind of event happening. Also the main way I use this space is not for playing any particular sport, but as a recreational open space for walking and family outings. I like the little playground which should be retained.</p>
	<p>I think it is a great idea to improve the sport centre. It is a great asset for the city. I think we should aspire to be a regional centre as well - build on the current success of southampton football club to put the city on the map. However, the issue of additional car parking would need to be addressed in order to host large scale events.</p>
	<p>I live on the edge of the sports centre and have been using the centre since I was very young. Improvements are very welcome but please do consider local residents if developing the car park at the end of Thornhill road.</p>
Other Sports	<p>Maintain the petanque pitch which I use once a week - it should not become a car park.</p>
	<p>improved cricket pitches with sight-screens and better facilities for scorers</p>
	<p>Suggestion, an archery enclosure</p>
	<p>I run a rugby league team in Southampton called the Spitfires - we would love to be based out of the Sports Centre but the current facilities are not suitable to do this.</p>
	<p>would be nice to have: Circuit Training (workout) Stations in conjunction and along side the Jogging track. Frisbee golf course (its very popular in USA) Sand /clay pitches for Boules (Bocce, pétanque,)</p>
	<p>Please keep the Outdoor Sports Centre as it's value to the local and wider community is massive. The development plan look great especially the building of an Indoor area for sports like Volleyball and Badminton.</p>
Indoor facilities	<p>Indoor gym, training, warm up facilities in the hub</p>
	<p>Indoor facilities would be paramount to make the Sports Centre accessible all year and not be dependent on weather. This could include a teaching room. A gym would be extremely useful to enhance performance for athletes</p>
	<p>As a regional athletics competitor aiming for National level, I would suggest the provision of an indoor facility and an additional hammer cage and high jump bed would significantly improve the level of competition that we can host and therefore compete in. This in turn pushes us to improve.</p>

	<p>The south coast needs an indoor athletics track, as the closest alternative is Lee Valley, North London. It would attract users from Brighton to Weymouth, and provide a venue for regional and national competition</p> <p>There should be some provision for indoor athletics which could be accommodated under the proposed new stand or in the pavilion. A four lane 60m track with provision for long and high jump could easily be included and would be the only indoor facility within 50 miles.</p>
Inclusive activities	<p>More options / activities for children to get involved in sport, children sports facilities / clubs and nature activity trail for children. Rugby facilities To do something with the old boating lake.</p>
	<p>Facilities with maximum flexibility eg Pavillion which can be used for non-sports activites eg weddings, social events. This will also provide income when not otherwise being used and increase the utilisation by head count.</p>
	<p>Play parks to be improved, kids water park something a bit more exciting and worth visiting. We spend all day there at weekends and holidays and would be great if more for familys to enjoy. You encourage out door play for kids so lets help make it a bit more exciting.</p>
	<p>The current state of the sports centre is looking its age, although it is still functional. Consideration for all users needs to be taken into account and not just the users who generate an income for the sports centre.</p>
	<p>special area for children and adults with special needs to engage in physical activites with their support workers; with suitable adapted facilities for changing , toileting and socialising in a stimulating environment recognising their dignity and diversity. Actively consult with ethnic minorities to encourage inclusivity within communities using sport and activities as a channel to promote good community relations</p>
Athletics	<p>A New/additional high jump bed and hammer net</p>
	<p>I would love to see the athletics facilities match the standard of the athletes that represent the city. GB paralympic athlete and Southampton AC club member and war hero Dave Henson who has lived in Southampton all his life has to train at Portsmouth, enough said.</p>
	<p>Please refurbish the track it's quite off putting seeing rats run from underneath the stand to the portacabin</p>
	<p>Specific development of the athletics area. To allow for higher national competition there needs to be a second discus throwing cage, facility for second high jump bed, second shot put area, indoor training facilities for all athletic disciplines track and field, better facilities for officials and athletic referees. An out of track throwing area.</p>
	<p>The track area should be developed more with provisions for a high jump bed and an extra hammer cage, Southamptons facilities are an embarrassment when other clubs and school teams visit. We need to raise the standards for all the people that use the sports centre.</p>
Netball	<p>All new netball courts</p>
	<p>As a regular netball user we cannot offer facilities to draw in top level games across the UK. With the correct facilities we could attract major tournaments</p>
	<p>Improvement to the netball courts would be great. the lighting in the middle courts is poor, and the courts become slippery when damp. Covered courts, if not indoor would be an improvement as there would be less issue with iced/frosted courts in the winter</p>
	<p>Netball has been played for over 20 years at the sports centre and I would like to see better court facilities and covered courts to all games to be played even in wet weather. The courts need a makeover too, they are extremely slippery in damp conditions. Improve sport for women not just football!</p>

	The netball courts are not fit for purpose. Last winter season hundreds of games were cancelled and the season cut short due to frost on the pitch. A simple court cover would have mitigated this.
Aquatics/boating lake	A splash water park similar to Eling on the old boating lake. Better at parks. Revamp the old cafe near boating lake to a local business.
	I think the boating lake should be allowed to be refilled with water and bring back the boats. That would bring back more enjoyment as everyone has good memories from this as a child. This sports centre went downhill when they ruined the boating lake
	Please refill the boating lake. So many people use the sports centre everyday to walk their dogs. It will give dog walkers a place to go instead of dogs running in sports pitches! My dog loves he walker and the boating lake was the highlight of our walk
	I understand removal of the boating lake is intended and that water features present H&S issues, but any paddling pool/ water feature is such a useful/welcome resource for young families for the summer. Please keep the overall ambiance as a beautiful natural green environment as much as possible. Please consider parking at the old nursery site (Vermont close) to avoid too much traffic on Winchester rd.
	It's a pity the old boating lake was allowed to be run down. I think it's a feature that could be reinstated and would attract a lot of visitors to the sports centre. Perhaps as well as the old paddle boats kayaks or canoes could be used.
The View	Please don't close The View!
	save the restaurant it great and the staff and owner have made a great job of the place will be getting a petition up
	the most important thing is to keep the view bar it is need people love it there we will fight to save it
	we love the pub at the top of the hill great place need to stay as pub . pubs closing all the time we need to save this pub great community pub does a lot for charities given there function room for free save the view
	we do mind any changes in the sport centre but the pub must stay where it sit it does not only serve sport centre but the community it is are heritage

33. Respondents were given the opportunity to select their top five improvements for the sports centre. The majority of results are given below, with all options shown in Figure 8. (Note that these percentages do not add up to 100% as respondents were asked to select multiple improvements). The five most popular improvements were:

- a. Hub to provide Changing for AGP, Athletics Track, and grass football and cricket pitches. To include meeting rooms, bar/café area, exterior balcony, linked to spectator stand – 74% of respondents selected this as one of their top five improvements
- b. Running/walking/activity Trails – 61% of respondents selected this as one of their top five improvements
- c. Pavilion development (whichever is preferred from last question) – 61% of respondents selected this as one of their top five improvements
- d. Car Parking - Options to improve and expand existing and/or creation of new car parking – 58% of respondents selected this as one of their top five improvements
- e. Wheeled Sports/Skate Park – 36% of respondents selected this as one of their top five improvements

Out of the following proposed improvements please pick your top five

34. It is worth noting that the top pre-defined options selected for improvement are broadly similar to the priorities shown in the free text question. This further underlines the importance of key proposals such as facilities, indoor sports and parking. It also reaffirms that the current proposals are very much in line with the views of users and local residents.
35. In addition to asking respondents how often they currently used Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre, the consultees were also asked whether they would use the sports centre more if improvements were made (see point 22). In the original question respondents were asked to give their level of agreement on the statement. It was found that 86% of those who responded agreed, 11% were neutral and 3% disagreed. Another area that can be investigated based on this is which users would use the sports centre more often, by comparing current level of use against possible increased use. See Figure 9 for all of the results.
- All of the groups stated that they would use the centre more often. The highest categories being those who currently use the centre once a month, once a week and occasionally, with 92%, 89% and 88% respectively.
 - The groups that stated that they would use the centre more often the least were those who use the sports centre every day (62%) and those who never use it (71%). Although these were the smallest based on comparison, the majority of respondents within these groups still said they would use the sports centre more often.

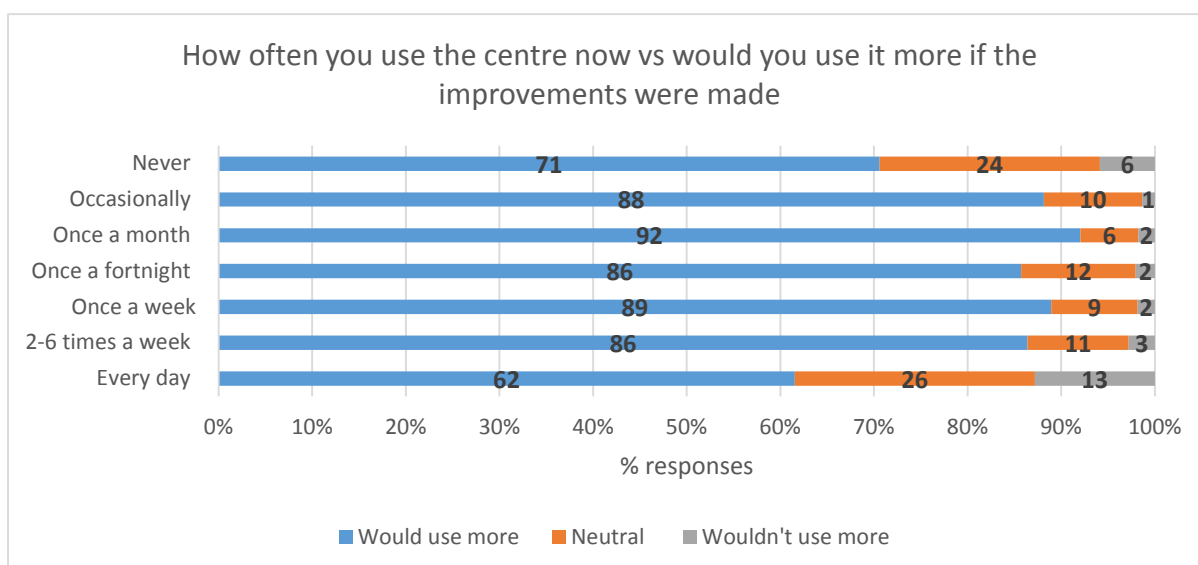


Figure 9

36. Priorities were given, which were listed as: Development of Hub(s), Sports facilities, Creation of physical activity opportunities, Infrastructure improvement. Consultees could state whether they agreed (strongly or otherwise), disagreed (strongly or otherwise) or were neutral. These statements were analysed against the type of respondent, the use of Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre and whether respondents would use the centre more if proposed changes occurred (some of the percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding).

- a. Respondent type;
 - i. Resident of Southampton – 85% agree, 10% neutral and 5% disagree
 - ii. School/College/University* – 94% agree, 7% neutral and 0% disagree
 - iii. Member of Southampton Sports Club/Community group – 92% agree, 4% neutral and 5% disagree
 - iv. Other – 95% agree, 4% neutral and 2% disagree
- b. Use of the centre;
 - i. Every day* – 62% agree, 17% neutral and 22% disagree
 - ii. 2-6 times a week – 86% agree, 11% neutral and 4% disagree
 - iii. Once a week – 91% agree, 5% neutral and 3% disagree
 - iv. Once a fortnight* – 84% agree, 12% neutral and 4% disagree
 - v. Once a month – 93% agree, 2% neutral and 4% disagree
 - vi. Occasionally – 93% agree, 5% neutral and 2% disagree
 - vii. Never* – 86% agree, 9% neutral and 4% disagree
- c. Agreement that if improvements were made they would use the facility more
 - i. Would use it more (taken from strongly agree and agree) – 95% agreed with the priorities, 3% were neutral and 2% disagreed
 - ii. Neutral – 61% agreed with the priorities, 31% were neutral and 8% disagreed
 - iii. Wouldn't use it more (taken from strongly disagree and disagree) – 17% agreed with the priorities, 30% were neutral and 53% disagreed

37. This analysis shows in particular that individuals who are a part of a sports club or a school/college/university are most likely to agree with the priorities of: Development of Hub(s), Sports facilities, Creation of physical activity opportunities, Infrastructure improvement. Also people who use the Sports Centre once a month or occasionally are more likely to agree, there is also significantly higher agreement from those who feel they would use the Sports Centre more if improvements were made.

38. The results for which proposed option for the changes to Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre is preferable are below. The options presented are: Option 1 – Changing rooms for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space, Option 2 – Changing rooms for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall (over marked for example to accommodate 4 Badminton courts, 1 Netball, 1 indoor 5-a-side football, 1 Volleyball) and Option 3 – Changing for hard courts, and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall (over marked for example to accommodate 2 Futsal courts, 4 Netball, 21 Badminton courts). These statements were analysed against the type of respondent, the use of Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre and whether respondents would use the centre more if proposed changes occur (some of the percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding).

- a. Respondent type;
 - i. Resident of Southampton – 14% - Option 1, 52% - Option 2, 34% - Option 3
 - ii. School/College/University* – 19% - Option 1, 37% - Option 2, 44% - Option 3
 - iii. Member of Southampton Sports Club/Community group – 10% - Option 1, 37% - Option 2, 53% - Option 3
 - iv. Other – 11% - Option 1, 50% - Option 2, 39% - Option 3
- b. Use of the centre;
 - i. Every day* – 21% - Option 1, 61% - Option 2, 18% - Option 3
 - ii. 2-6 times a week – 13% - Option 1, 37% - Option 2, 51% - Option 3
 - iii. Once a week – 11% - Option 1, 38% - Option 2, 51% - Option 3
 - iv. Once a fortnight* – 20% - Option 1, 46% - Option 2, 34% - Option 3
 - v. Once a month – 18% - Option 1, 55% - Option 2, 27% - Option 3

- vi. Occasionally – 10% - Option 1, 57% - Option 2, 33% - Option 3
- vii. Never* – 11% - Option 1, 60% - Option 2, 29% - Option 3
- c. Agreement that if improvements were made they would use the facility more
 - i. Would use it more (taken from strongly agree and agree) – 10% agreed with option 1, 48% agreed with option 2 and 42% agreed with option 3
 - ii. Neutral – 26% agreed with option 1, 43% agreed with option 2 and 31% agreed with option 3
 - iii. Wouldn't use it more (taken from strongly disagree and disagree) – 42% agreed with option 1, 38% agreed with option 2 and 21% agreed with option 3

39. The analysis shows that most of the groups of consultees preferred Option 2 except, School/College/University, sports club users and those who use the Sports Centre between one and six times a week who prefer Option 3.

Feedback on the consultation process

- 40. The council is committed to making the whole consultation process as transparent as possible. As a part of this, any feedback on the consultation process itself is summarised here.
- 41. Overall, out of the 1,277 people who took part in the consultation, nine commented on the consultation process itself, representing less than 1% of total consultation responses.
- 42. The comments made regarding the consultation process focus on the fact that the questionnaire provided a select list of potential improvements rather than the whole range discussed during the earlier stages of the consultation. Some consultees would have liked the opportunity to select a bottom five priorities as well as the top five. Other comments were about the fact that some respondents felt they did not want consultation as they were happy with the Sports Centre as it is. Finally, some felt the consultation was pushing the adoption of indoor facilities which was at odds with the original vision for the Outdoor Sports Centre.
- 43. Comments were also given about the need for equality, and provision for inclusive sports, rather than a male-centric view.
- 44. The comments made regarding equality process are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

More provision should be made for girls, women and older people. There is too much focus on boys and young men.

Please make excellent provision for women sports. Men dominate the facilities and have much better opportunities. This is unfair and needs to change.

Sort out the terrible netball facilities. In a city this size, with a netball league the size it is, it's disgusting that the facilities are so poor. The courts are, quite frankly, dangerous the minute they get damp. Even cities like Plymouth can provide adequate indoor netball facilities. Why can't Southampton? When I first moved here I was shocked at the poor facilities and attitude towards a sport that is incredibly popular with the city's female population. There are copious amounts of facilities for male dominated sports. Why are you ignoring the women?

Conclusion

- 45. Over 1200 stakeholders have engaged with the consultation process and have given their views on the future vision for Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre. As Figures 1 and 2 of this report have outlined, there was a good range of engagement with the consultation both demographically and geographically.
- 46. 93% of respondents agree the existing Southampton Outdoor Sport Centre facilities would benefit from significant improvement.

47. 89% of respondents agree with the suggested priority areas, which were listed as: Development of Hub(s), Sports facilities, Creation of physical activity opportunities, Infrastructure improvement.
48. The overwhelming majority of consultation respondents that feel the facility should be at least a regional centre (85%).
49. A large majority of respondents who currently use the Sports Centre once a month or less state that they would use the facility more if improvements were made.
50. Out of the three options for developing the pavilion, Option 2 - providing changing for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall (to accommodate a wide variety of activities, including, for example 4 Badminton courts, 1 Netball, 1 indoor 5-a-side football, 1 Volleyball) was the most popular, with 48% of respondents selecting it as their preference.
51. The top pre-defined options selected for improvement are broadly similar to the priorities shown in the free text question. This further underlines the importance of key proposals such as facilities, indoor sports and parking.
52. In conclusion, this consultation allows Southampton City Council's Cabinet to understand the views of residents and stakeholders on the future vision for the Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre. Therefore it provides a sound base on which to adopt a vision for the facility and seek funding to deliver that vision.

** denotes small sample size*