

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

<b>Name or Brief Description of Proposal</b>	Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre Pre-Construction Services Agreements, Technical design and Construction Draft Masterplan of Improvements – <i>DRAFT ESIA</i>
<b>Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)</b>	
<p>The 150acre Outdoor Sports Centre (OSC) is often described as a “green lung” in the west of the city and attracts a variety of sports clubs and recreational users ranging from dog walkers to informal joggers. The site is managed on behalf of SCC until 2025 by Active Nation, under a sub-contract from Places Leisure, via a service specification. It is estimated the number of visits to the site is around 200,000 per annum.</p> <p>Since the OSC opened in 1938, a number of changes, improvements and modifications have been made. It was recognised recently that there was considerable interest in establishing a future vision for the OSC by developing key areas for improvement to enhance and widen its offer for both competitive sports and leisure users. Over recent years, a number of community engagement activities have taken place to inform a Draft Masterplan of Improvements. As a result, there has been several opportunities for the public to participate in the planning of the improvements and to be able to refine and improve the content of the scheme.</p> <p>In November 2013, this engagement provided valuable feedback where key themes and ideas came to light. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Hub building and sports facilities to include changing and toilet provision, meeting rooms, café/refreshment provision plus indoor sports provision.</li> <li>• Creation of Physical Activity Opportunities to include running/jogging route, cycling circuit, outdoor gym.</li> <li>• Infrastructure Improvements: increase and improve car park provision, improve lighting on access routes or footpaths within the site.</li> </ul>	

- Open Space: develop the existing woodland walks, consider options for recreational activities e.g. wheeled sports park.

The resulting Draft Masterplan of Improvements covered key topics including car parking, recreational activities, sports facilities, and the ski centre. In 2015, this improvement plan along with a proposed vision for the OSC went through a 12-week public consultation where local residents, sports clubs and organisations, Friends of Southampton Sports Centre (FOSSC) and a wider audience could review and comment on the proposals. With over 1,200 responses, 89% of respondents agreed with the suggested priority areas for improvement with a large majority, who currently use the OSC once a month or less, stating that they would use the facility more if improvements were made.

In 2017-18, feasibility work was extended to include further elements of the scheme including a detailed evaluation of the football elements and a new 'Hub' building. This work generated a list of recommendations which were then incorporated into the Draft Masterplan of Improvements and there was further engagement and consultation which followed.

An extensive 12-week public consultation process was concluded on 31st October 2021. The consultation was based on the Draft Masterplan of Improvements, this follows previous consultations and ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and key clubs and potential funding partners. To summarise the Draft Masterplan of Improvements, that formed the content of the Public Consultation the level of support for each of the key areas is as follows:

	Agree / strongly agree	Disagree / strongly disagree
OSC Overall	93%	3%
Site improvements	96%	1%
The new 'Hub'	95%	3%
Family Zone	93%	3%
New snow sports facilities	92%	3%
Athletics	91%	3%
Cycling provision	91%	3%
The tennis and netball court	90%	5%
The hockey pitches	88%	3%
The football pitches	79%	12%
Car parking	78%	11%
Cricket provision	72%	10%

The main message throughout the consultation is positive, with all proposals agreed upon by a high proportion of respondents. Overall support for the project is very high - 97% of respondents agreed that they would like to see improvements at the OSC and 93% agreed with the proposals put forward overall. Having a high number of responses to the consultation (2545 total) also highlights the level of public interest in the project.

The outcomes of the Draft Masterplan, if delivered, range from health outcomes, opportunities to tackle inequalities, provisions for target groups such as women and girls and support city wide initiatives such as Active Travel and the Green City Charter.

In particular, the Southampton Physical Activity and Sports Strategy (PASS) seeks to 'work with our partners to deliver more physical activity and sport opportunities in our parks and open spaces, targeting inactive groups and this project is intended to meet this objective.

### **Summary of Impact and Issues**

When the facility mix from the Draft Masterplan is finalised, and the improvements concluded, there will be significant positive impact on health, activity and wellbeing levels for residents.

The summary of the impact from the consultation is very positive. Further detail is described in the table headed Potential Impact below, where detailed commentary is provided in the accompanying Appendix documents to the briefing paper (presented 6th December).

### **Potential Positive Impacts**

- It is a requirement of the operator to monitor risk assessments and equality and diversity commitments by site hirers. All of the formal affiliated sports hosted at the OSC will continue to be undertaken in line with their respective National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). The affiliated clubs are to comply with areas such as equality and diversity commitments, Safeguarding protocols for children and vulnerable adults.
- NGBs also require risk assessments to be undertaken and Active Nation, as operators, are obliged within their service specification to ensure appropriate procedures are appropriately followed.
- Use of the Bike Park is now operating through an affiliated British Cycling club structure such as including safe guarding policies and inclusive coaching programmes. This will improve their governance and operating standards.
- A key part of the Draft Masterplan is improved lighting and car parking. It is expected that this will have a positive impact on use of the site.
- As a result of the age and condition of the buildings at the OSC accessibility is challenging. The new buildings, including changing rooms and toilets will incorporate high levels of accessibility in their design, specific consultation will be undertaken with Sport England and Activity Alliance in this respect. Accessible car parking spaces and parent and child spaces will also be provided, along with a 'changing places' facility to accommodate accessible toilet needs to be met.
- The Family Zone will accommodate a wide range of new users for parents with young children.
- Improved opportunities for activities such as skateboarding and cycling, improved lighting throughout the centre and CCTV will widen the range of opportunities for all ages particularly young people. There will also be development programmes working with local clubs and associations.

<b>Responsible Service Manager</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Approved by Senior Manager</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

### Potential Impact

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Age</b>	<p>Improvements will have a positive impact on the age range of users from Toddlers and parents using Family Zone to improved facilities for older people.</p> <p>In general, the younger age groups stated in the consultation that the changes would have a positive impact more than older age groups.</p> <p>Respondents to the Public Consultation between the ages of 35 – 44 selected that there would be a positive impact on them and their family to the highest extent (96%).</p> <p>Respondents to the consultation who were 18-24 said their use would increase to the highest extent (92%).</p> <p>84% of young people who responded to the consultation under the age of 18 said that their use would increase as a result of these improvements.</p> <p>Respondents to the consultation over 75 selected that their use were unlikely to change (28%).</p>	<p>A wide range of improvements are planned across the centre that will appeal across all ages. Designs are developing across all areas and further work will be undertaken to address these impacts. Each sport and club will be encouraged to develop their own sports development plan to include actions to encourage participation from those across the community who have been traditionally underrepresented. For example, for older people the national governing bodies promote the development of walking netball and walking football.</p>

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
<b>Disability</b>	The existing buildings on the OSC are challenging in terms of access for those with a disability.	<p>Access issues will be considered across all aspects of the project, there will be additional dedicated car parking facilities, there will be improved changing and toilet facilities and there will be a lift within the hub building to provide access to the social and fitness facilities currently planned for the upper floor.</p> <p>Consultation has continued with local users, clubs, educational organisation to ensure that the designs are accessible, along with architectural reference to access and 'secure by design' consultants. This consultation will continue.</p> <p>With the reduced scope to the family zone, there will not a 'changing places' facility in the northern area of the OSC. However, there will be this provision within the hub building.</p>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	No identified impact.	The hub changing facilities will be designed to comply with the national governing body guidelines as they currently stand. Individual changing rooms will be available. Football Foundation guidelines have been complied with and engagement is continuing.
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	No identified impact.	
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	There is a need for improved toilet facilities for all at the centre and also there is a need for baby changing facilities.	The new hub will incorporate public toilets and also baby changing facilities available to club and casual users of the centre.
<b>Race</b>	No identified impact.	The hub changing facilities will be designed to comply

<b>Impact Assessment</b>	<b>Details of Impact</b>	<b>Possible Solutions &amp; Mitigating Actions</b>
		with the national governing body guidelines as they currently stand. Individual changing rooms should also be available.
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	No identified impact.	
<b>Sex</b>	No identified impact.	The hub changing facilities will be designed to comply with the national governing body guidelines as they currently stand. Individual changing rooms should also be available.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	No identified impact.	The hub changing facilities will be designed to comply with the national governing body guidelines as they currently stand. Individual changing rooms should also be available.
<b>Community Safety</b>	Lack of a central social point in the OSC, the Public Consultation highlighted concerns about safety arising from poor lighting and other anti-social behaviours.	There will be improved lighting, CCTV and social facilities such as in the Hub for casual users, schools and the local community. The parking facilities will also be closer to the hub building which may also make users feel safer. The Police have been consulted during the planning process and will be with updated the designs.
<b>Poverty</b>	Cost of participation can be a barrier to participation.	The Centre will remain free to use for informal recreation and it is anticipated that the Council will continue to approve prices levied by the contractor for activities and facilities the OSC. The Council will work with the operator to ensure that prices are affordable and competitive. Further work is to be completed to review these issues.
<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b>	Availability of affordable facilities and opportunities to participate either in formal or recreational	The wide variety of improvements at the OSC are designed to attract

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	<p>sport and leisure activities can play a key role in health and wellbeing.</p> <p>78% of respondents to the consultation said that if the changes outlined in the consultation were implemented, there would be a positive impact on their level of physical activity.</p>	<p>participation in formal and informal activity. The results of the consultation.</p>
<p><b>Other Significant Impacts</b></p>	<p>No identified impact.</p>	