

New Sport & Leisure Centre passes key milestone

The Winchester Sport & Leisure Centre reached another critical milestone after the Planning Committee recommended approval for the scheme when it met on 31 October.

Clr Lisa Griffiths, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing said:

“This is absolutely fantastic news for the project and I am really delighted that a resolution was passed to grant planning approval. This outcome reflects all of the effort and work that has gone into our thorough and inclusive engagement and resulting high quality design. There is still some more detailed work that needs to be done but this is such a positive outcome for the project and we look forward to starting work to deliver this fantastic facility.”

“We could not have achieved this without the input from residents, clubs, council officers and consultants - we are hugely grateful and thank each and every one of you for your input and support.”

Mike Lawless, Director of LA architects, said:

“As the Architects and Lead Consultant on this project, LA is delighted that the Winchester Sport & Leisure Centre has passed this key planning milestone. The



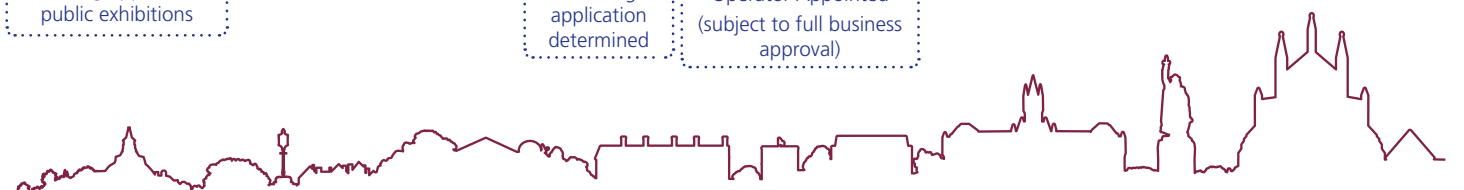
journey from the start has been one of engagement and dialogue with the people of the Winchester District in the development of the design that will now move forward. We will continue to develop a high-quality, elegant and sophisticated leisure centre for all people, and one that encourages as many forms of activity and social interaction as possible.

As part of the planning application process key stakeholders, including the

South Downs National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council and Sport England, were consulted. They have all made helpful comments which have helped to shape the project.

The Council's partners, including the University of Winchester, The Pinder Trust and Hampshire County Council have all provided valuable input throughout the design process.

Timeline



SPORT & LEISURE CENTRE – FACILITIES

The Sport & Leisure Centre will comprise a modern, inclusively-designed, fully-accessible building set in a park setting that will enable the District's communities to engage in a wide range of indoor and

outdoor sporting and leisure activities. Here are the first interior images of the site and an overview of the facilities users can look forward to.

Eight-lane 50m swimming pool

with park views and accessible changing village



Eight-court multi-use sports hall

a flexible, functional space for competitive sport or community activities



Eight-lane 50m swimming pool

with a 250-seat spectator area



50m swimming pool

The eight-lane 50m pool with boom will allow the pool to be divided into two along with a moveable floor to change the water depth offering lots of programming flexibility. It will cater for community use and gala competitions and feature a 250-seat spectator area.

Teaching and training pool

This 20 x 10m pool can have warmer water temperatures and has a moveable floor to change the water depth for learners and classes, including aqua aerobics, and lane swimming.

Splash pad

This area will provide a fun, water-confidence area for young children.

Multi-use sports hall

This eight-court hall will feature a sprung timber floor and is designed to Sport England standards. Removable rebound boards and blinds for the natural glazed area will create a flexible, attractive and functional space suitable for competitive sport and community activities.

Clip 'n Climb

An exciting, challenging, fun-packed climbing facility with 10 climbing stations extending through the Centre's two floors.

Squash courts

With a moveable wall, two of the four courts can be combined to create a flexible space for doubles matches or for activity classes or community use.

Hydrotherapy Suite

This specialist and unique hydrotherapy pool will be for people with long-term health conditions as well as customers for physiotherapy, sports injuries, pain relief or relaxation.

Treatment /personal therapy rooms

These eight rooms will be suitable for physiotherapy and beauty treatments.

Fitness suite

This large, flexible, state-of-the-art fitness space will have 200 activity stations and enjoy views onto the park and surrounding area.

Studios

An excellent and exciting new programme of activities and classes can be accommodated in the Spinning Studio and two further large studios.

Café

A well-equipped and sophisticated café which spills out onto an external terrace providing a great environment, with an adjoining area which can be subdivided into a party or club room.



UPDATES

Contractor to support local jobs for local people

Willmott Dixon has been selected to build the new Sport & Leisure Centre, subject to the project's business case being approved early next year. Its strong commitment to corporate responsibility, including creating local jobs for local people, is part of what appealed to the Council when making the appointment.

The contractor's proposed Employment and Skills Plan for the project includes career information events and training weeks for apprentices and graduates. As part of the plan, 12 roles will be created for people who are currently out of work or whose current jobs may be at risk, such as those working on other building projects that are coming to an end. This could include a wide range of roles: on site or in a management team.

A Building Lives Academy will be established on site. This will give individuals out of work

an opportunity to get a flavour of working in the construction industry. This involves a four-week programme where people will receive a Level 1 construction skills qualification and gain some employability skills before undertaking a two-week onsite work experience placement.

Matt Dubber, Construction Manager at Willmott Dixon, said:

"Leaving a positive legacy and being part of every community in which Willmott Dixon builds, is part of our corporate DNA, and one of the reasons we were chosen to deliver the new Winchester Sport & Leisure Centre. Delivering outstanding social, economic, and environmental sustainability all forms part of our aspirations, and this is demonstrated in the proposed Employment and Skills Plan."

Access to and around the Sport & Leisure Park site

Regular visitors to the Garrison Ground and drivers who use Bar End Road may have spotted that a new timber deck has been constructed across the highway verge. This will allow easier access to the area while the construction of the leisure centre takes place. We have installed this in advance of any works starting on site as it is constructed over a drainage ditch. This will help avoid the possibility of the ditch filling up and becoming waterlogged before the deck is built.

We have also undertaken some vegetation clearance in preparation for the construction of a new section of path within the Garrison Ground to connect this area with King George V playing fields. This was done to ensure there was no impact on the slow worm hibernation season – the

construction of the path will then take place in early 2019. The path will have a hard surface and ensure a quick and convenient route to the playing fields can be achieved, both while the leisure centre is being built and afterwards.

The Council is also investigating the possibility of a connection to the South Downs Way, and to the wider area including as far as Winnall, in the North East corner of the site. We are in discussions with the Allotment Society about this as a long-term aspiration of the Design Framework. This would be a fantastic way to open up non-vehicular access to the site for the residents of Highcliffe and Winnall as there is also a pedestrian path that runs all the way up to the Tesco store at Winnall that could be accessed from here.

What's happening next

We are in the middle of a procurement exercise to select an operator to run the Sport & Leisure Centre, and will be reporting to our Sport & Leisure Park Cabinet Committee with the outcome of this process in early 2019.

We will then follow up with a further report to the same Committee with the full business case for the project. At this point Members will make the final decision as to whether or not the project will start in Spring 2019.

Our vision A centre that:

- Reflects sporting needs and aspirations for the people of our District.
- Is flexible to provide for current and future sporting needs and trends.
- Is deliverable and affordable.
- Is in a park setting providing additional sporting and leisure opportunities.
- Provides an excellent water based offer for community use.

Our objectives

- To provide accessible public sport and leisure facilities to improve the health and happiness of the District's residents.
- To increase participation in sport and active recreation.
- To improve the quality and energy efficiency of Winchester's main leisure facility.
- To provide a Sport & Leisure Park that is financially sustainable.

