

## **Overview and Scrutiny Review Matrix**

**Review Topic:** Sports Hub

**Timescale**

**Start: October 2024**

**Finish: January 2025**

### **Review Rationale:**

To determine whether there was a strategically and financially sound business case for the Sports Hub, and whether reliable and consistent advice was given to members about the project to assist them in their decision-making roles.

### **Terms of Reference:**

To determine whether the Sports Hub project was value for money.

To determine whether the project would have delivered on the council's strategic objectives.

To determine whether the project was well managed.

To determine whether reliable and consistent advice was given to members about the project to assist them in their decision-making roles.

To determine whether the council's decision to abandon the project in its original form was a strategically and financially sound decision.

To establish whether the council intends to deliver any elements of the original project at Monks Lane (bearing in mind planning permission remains and project funds are being carried forward).

To determine what lessons can be learned from this project.

### **Review Membership:**

Councillor Carlyne Culver  
Councillor Jeremy Cottam  
Councillor Paul Dick  
Councillor David Marsh  
Councillor Chris Read

**Chairman: Councillor Carlyne Culver**

**Scrutiny Officer: Gordon Oliver**

### **Information Required**

#### **Documents/Evidence:**

Sports Hub business case and all associated costs  
Playing Pitch Strategy including Stage E Review 2022 and documentation relating to the planned 2024 review  
Sports Hub planning application and associated papers  
Western Area Planning Committee agenda pack (15 December 2021)  
Executive decision 4149 (16 December 2021)

District Planning Committee agenda pack (2 March 2022)  
WBC 'Defendant's Detailed Grounds of Resistance' presented to the High Court (22 September 2022)  
Executive decision 4332 (23 March 2023)  
LRIE task and finish group final report presented to OSMC (as Scrutiny Commission was formerly known) on 28 July 2020

**Witnesses:**

*Internal*

Councillor Howard Woollaston, former Executive Member for Internal Governance Leisure & Culture  
Councillor Nigel Foot, current Executive Member for Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside  
Shannon Colman-Slaughter, Service Director – Finance and Property  
Matt Pearce, Former Service Director – Communities & Wellbeing  
April Peberdy, Service Director - Communities  
Sarah Clarke, Solicitor – Service Director, Strategy & Governance  
Simon Till, Team Leader (Development Control), Development & Regulation

*External*

Sport England  
Newbury Community Football Group  
Alan Pearce  
Paul Morgan  
Newbury Rugby Club  
Lynne Doherty, former Leader of WBC  
Consultants who worked on the project who have since left WBC – acknowledging that they would not be obliged to attend to give evidence

**Measures Available**

**Desired Outcomes:**

To meet the objectives outlined in the terms of reference and produce a document of findings for Scrutiny Commission.