

West Berkshire Council

Equity Impact Assessment

March 2023

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Place – Sport and Leisure
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Proposal to remove Downland Sport Centre from the Leisure Contract
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Downland Sport Centre is currently included in the Leisure Contract
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>The proposal is to remove Downland Sport Centre from the Leisure Contract as it is geographically remote, with a small range of facilities and, consequently, attracts limited membership and use. If the Downland Sport Centre is removed from the contract, it is intended that outreach provision is further developed in the area to bridge the gap created and specifically target identified groups. This would ensure that the leisure offer was more focused and impactful.</p> <p>Potential benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue saving from reduction in management fee to Everyone Active. • Avoidance of any requirement for future capital investment. • Improved health and well-being of targeted groups within outreach programme. • More appropriate leisure provision to meet the priorities of the Leisure strategy. <p>Whilst there is a risk that the proposal may impact negatively on the health and well-being of local residents, it is not believed that it would disproportionately impact any specific groups, in fact, it is intended that the outreach programme will be more effective as it will be developed to target identified groups. The opportunities offered by the facility are limited so the impact is not thought to be significant, and this could be mitigated, to some extent, with the delivery of an outreach programme.</p>

Completed By	Jessica Harrison
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The Downland Sport Centre is remote and limited in its current offer for community use and, as such, attracts relatively little footfall This amounts to 0.5% of attendances across the contract. The cost to the Council is disproportionately high, when compared to the other six centres, given the attendance levels.</p> <p>If the facility was removed from the Contract, a net revenue saving of approximately £30,000 per annum could be realised together with the avoidance of additional capital investment.</p> <p>Demographically, the area of Ridgeway, in which the Centre is situated, is one of West Berkshire’s least deprived areas, although it does face a higher prevalence of poor health conditions including obesity and hypertension. It is also one of our most deprived wards for the Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards domain. It is clear that there are some health needs in this Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) relevant to physical activity. Removing the facility from the Contract could reduce opportunities for residents in the local community to access leisure facilities which could result negatively on the health of the local population. That said, the opportunities offered by the facility are limited so the impact is not thought to be significant, and this could be mitigated, to some extent, by developing an outreach programme.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The proposal is to remove the Downland Sport Centre from the Contract. This would provide a net revenue saving of approximately £30,000 per annum and would avoid any need for future capital investment. The Downland Sports Centre does not meet the current requirements for community use, due to size, condition, accessibility, and age. Therefore, the current offer and impact is limited. The gap in Leisure centre provision could be met by developing an outreach programme.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>To date, consultation has included only Everyone Active. Wider consultation with the community will give a better understanding of the impact of removing Downland Sport Centre from the Contract and whether certain groups are at risk of being disproportionately affected and what impact that might be.</p> <p>According to the Public health profile: Ridgeway Ward, West Berkshire on Leisure domain: the northern LSOA of Ridgeway scores 1 (where 10 is most deprived). <u>Health deprivation and disability</u>: scores 9 (where 10 is least deprived). The northern LSOA of Ridgeway has a <u>higher</u> than West Berks average prevalence of: Obesity, Harmful or hazardous drinking and Current smoking. There is a need for opportunities to be physically active in that area and this could be met by an outreach programme.</p> <p>Whilst removing the facility from the Contract might result in additional car usage for the local population to access leisure opportunities, the remote geographical location of the Centre means that transport by car is already essential. Future options may result in improvements to the environmental performance of the building.</p>

Alternatives considered / rejected

Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.

- Continue to operate facilities as they are.

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Due to the need to travel to this venue by car we do not believe that any age group would be more disadvantaged by the removal of the leisure centres.		Jessica Harrison Principal Sport and Leisure Officer	
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Downland Sports Centre does not meet the current requirements for community use, due to size, accessibility, and age. The centre is not fully accessible; there is no lift, and no accessible change facility.		Jessica Harrison Principal Sport and Leisure Officer	
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The immediate area does face a higher prevalence of poor health conditions including obesity and hypertension. It is one of West Berkshire's most deprived wards for the Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards domain. It is clear that there are some health needs in this Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) relevant to physical activity.	Outreach work could be developed to provide opportunities for groups	Jessica Harrison Principal Sport and Leisure Officer	
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Demographically, the area of Ridgeway, in which the Centre is situated, is one of West Berkshire's least deprived areas,		Jessica Harrison Principal Sport and Leisure Officer	
Displaced communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Care experienced people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Everyone Active report on the number of care experienced people who access the leisure centres. In the July to Sep 2024, there were no known care experienced users of the centre.		Jessica Harrison Principal Sport and Leisure Officer	
The Armed Forces Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	
Person Responsible for Review	
Authorised By	