

Sports Hub timeline

Playing Pitch Strategy adopted – February 2020

Number one priority is Faraday Road and relocation thereof
'Proposed mitigation [for Faraday Road] is a combination of a new 3G pitch at Newbury Sports Hub / Newbury RFC site, replacing one grass rugby pitch used by the rugby club with a 3G pitch capable of accommodating non-contact rugby training and football use for matches and training. Additional mitigation is provision of a grass pitch or pitches at one or more sites.'



LRIE Task and Finish group reported – 28 July 2020

Recommendations include improving project management.



Appeal for Newspaper House (to build flats) dismissed – 8 October 2020

Dismissed on flooding grounds. Planning application 19/01281/OUTMAJ. Western Area Planning Committee rejected application Wednesday 5 February.



Executive – 14 January 2021

Determines to proceed negotiations with Newbury Rugby Club



Public consultation March-April 2021



Executive decision EX4010 – 29 April 2021

'We have committed to a project by virtue of the approved Playing Pitch Strategy (jointly with Sport England (SE) and sport governing bodies)' and 'The process has focussed on meeting the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy'



WBC delegated authority to Alliance – April 2021

To enter agreement with rugby club to take lease of land to provide a 3G pitch



Sports Hub business case – 23 May 2021



Joint statement between WBC and Sport England – July 2021

"... we are jointly supporting the development of proposals at Newbury Rugby Club as an enhanced replacement to meet the community's needs for Faraday Road Stadium, in line with the Playing Pitch Strategy."



Sport England consultation responses – 4 October and 12 November 2021

The first one, dated 4 October 2021, was an 'objection', if the scheme was to be treated as a replacement for Faraday Road. Consultation response two, dated 12 November 2021, was 'no objection' if the scheme was to be treated as stand-alone.

**Sports Hub project board – 9 November 2021**

Minutes stated 'Corporate Board also wanted the narrative of the project strengthened more to link in with the PPS. [Officers] to look at extracting the benefits and creating a stronger link to the PPS.'

**Western Area Planning Committee – 15 December 2021**

Page 44 of the agenda pack: 'The Playing Pitch Strategy includes the specific objective of providing a replacement football facility for the Faraday Road Ground' and 'WBC and Sport England have submitted a joint statement which states that they are both jointly supporting the development proposals at Newbury Rugby Club as an enhanced replacement... for Faraday Road Stadium, in line with the Playing Pitch Strategy.'

The update report said: '...it is clear from the report and recommended conditions that the requirements of the Playing Pitch Strategy are the relevant material consideration in the case of this application.'

**Executive decision EX4149 – 16 December 2021**

'To approve the allocation of £3.351M to complete the development of Newbury Sports Hub and thereby achieve the delivery of the number one priority in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS).' 'The Newbury Sports Hub provides an enhanced replacement for the Faraday Road Stadium. If the Newbury Sports Hub project is not brought forward, an alternative replacement site will need to be found before the LRIE regeneration project can be progressed.'

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission – 25 January 2022**

Upheld the decision of the Executive to award the contract. At 1:4:45 in the recording chairman Cllr Law says, 'I understand it to be a replacement for the pitch'.

**Intention of claimant to make legal challenge – 31 January 2022**

Between the Western Area Planning Committee meeting on 15 December 2021 and the District Planning Committee meeting on 2 March 2022, Alan Pearce made the council aware of his intention to make a legal challenge. He did this in a planning objection letter of 31 January 2022, published on the council's website on 4 February 2022.

**District Planning Committee – 2 March 2022**

Page 20 of the agenda pack: '... there is no formal link between the current application and any separate development plans or planning application that may emerge in the future in relation to the Faraday Road Stadium, London Road Industrial Estate or its replacement' and '... members are advised that this application should be determined on its individual planning merits.'

Planning permission granted – 16 March 2022



Judicial review hearing – 18 August 2022



High Court case WBC defence – 22 September 2022

Page 15 of Defendant's Detailed Grounds of Resistance': 'In short, officers correctly advised members that the application for the Proposed Development was indeed a "stand-alone" proposal with "no formal link" to FRS.'



Playing Pitch Strategy Stage E Review – 27 September 2022

Number one priority is still Faraday Road and relocation thereof



High Court judicial review hearing – 19 January 2023

Judgement handed down – case dismissed – 3 February 2023



Executive decision 4332 dated 23 March 2023

'RESOLVED that Executive approve the allocation of £3.878M to complete the development of Newbury Sports Hub and thereby achieve the delivery of the number one priority in the Playing Pitch Strategy...'



WBC capital budget for 2024/25 agreed – 29 February 2024

The Sports Hub is the third largest item in the capital budget



Scrutiny Commission task and finish group

First meeting 11 November 2024

Report to Corporate Board on 18 February 2025

Report to Scrutiny Commission 13 March 2025