

Have Your Say....

Review of Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities

What's happening?

In order to get more people active in County Durham, our new sport and leisure strategy aims to deliver modern well equipped sports centres offering wider activity options, investment in and better support for grassroots sports clubs and associations and better value for money. We have therefore undertaken a review of our indoor facility provision to address the number of under used facilities and to meet the challenge of a 25 per cent reduction in the sport and leisure budget, following major reductions in Government grants. For the council's leisure services this equates to a saving of £3.5m over the next four years with nearly £1.5m of that within the next financial year (2011/12)

We must find a way forward which meets the need to save money but also, and more importantly, offers fair and relevant access to a broader range of sports and activities to residents of all ages and abilities.

What has the review considered?

All 19 leisure centres owned and/or operated by Durham County Council have been included in this review. In identifying the number and location of facilities recommended for closure, a number of factors have been taken into account. These include:

- The county's high level of leisure centres per head of population and the high proportion of leisure spend compared with other local authorities.
- The location of leisure centres in relation to the county's principal towns.
- Financial implications including the cost to the council per user at each site and the amount of investment required at each centre for the upkeep of buildings, equipment and facilities.
- Ensuring our residents have fair access to facilities which offer the following: swimming pool, health and fitness facility, sports hall and aerobics/dance studio.
- Travel time. Currently 97.3% of residents live within 10 minutes driving time of a facility – these proposals reduce this by less than 3% to 94.7%.
- Using Sport England criteria for the geographical spread of leisure facilities has determined that the county has too many sports halls and a poor distribution of swimming pools.

This review will save the Council £1.1 million.

Which centres are affected?

Durham County Council has therefore agreed to support consultation on the potential closure of the following 6 leisure centres:

Abbey Leisure Centre, Pity Me
Coxhoe Leisure Centre
Deerness Leisure Centre, Ushaw Moor
Ferryhill Leisure Centre
Glenholme Leisure Centre, Crook
Sherburn Leisure Centre

We are now therefore commencing a three month period of consultation which will seek viable alternatives for the future operation of these facilities.

What will the future provision look like?

If it is determined that these centres will no longer be run by the Council then this would leave the County with the following indoor facilities :

Woodhouse Close LC, Bishop Auckland
Meadowfield L/C
Seaham L/C
Teesdale L/C
Louisa Centre, Stanley
Freeman's Quay
Belle Vue Leisure and Swim, Consett
Spennymoor LC
Chester le Street LC
Newton Aycliffe LC
Peterlee LC
Shildon LC

Of these, 9 will have swimming provision. It is our intention to maintain these facilities to a higher standard whilst we will be providing a new £14.7m wet and dry facility in Consett as part of our plans. We will continue to work hard to engage more with other providers to ensure access to sport and leisure facilities is maximised - this includes providing opportunities to expand activities for all ages, such as community legacy gyms, walks, cycle routes and sportsability clubs. We will also ensure the use of mobile resources to reach neighbourhoods with specific challenges, using a team of specialist staff to target those with health conditions.

We will also focus on delivering the ambitions of the Sport and Leisure strategy. This aims to increase participation by making better use of outside space and community based programmes, supporting and expanding club activity, linking school participation to community settings and working more closely with the voluntary sector. This consultation will also help us gather residents' views and ideas which will help inform proposals for future investment in the service.

This consultation has two key aspects part one explores business proposals for future operation and part two explores your views.

Part One

Business proposals and/or ideas for future operation

The consultation is seeking proposals from third party operators to retain and run facilities at these sites either in their existing formats or in new ways. Every effort will be made to identify and develop any viable proposals. Discussions where appropriate, will take place with town and parish councils, voluntary organisations, sports clubs or any others who express an interest.

If you are interested in putting forward or discussing a potential business proposal for the future operation of any of the sites, please provide us with some brief details of your proposal and contact details by filling in and returning the form below. Please send to **Indoor Facilities Review Consultation, Durham County Council, Sport and Leisure Services, Northumbria House, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS**. Once received, we will contact you to arrange a suitable time to discuss your proposal in more detail.

Although the consultation is open until the 26 May 2011, we would strongly encourage you to contact us at the earliest opportunity.

Name:.....

Organisation you represent:.....

Telephone Number:.....

Email address:.....

Short description of your proposal (if necessary, continue separately)

Part Two

Tell us what you think

We understand that these facilities are valued by customers and local communities and that you may have concerns about the gap in leisure provision left by any future closure of these facilities. We would therefore like your comments on what you would like to see in the local area to reduce the impact of potential closure. **Closing date for comments 26 May 2011.**

1. Which leisure centre do your comments relate to: (please tick ✓)

Abbey Coxhoe Deerness Ferryhill Glenholme Sherburn
 Other (please specify)..... All

2. In what capacity are you responding to the questionnaire? Are you a:

Leisure centre member Casual user
 Local resident Local club (please specify).....
 Local business (please specify)..... Other (please specify).....

3. We'd like to know what your concerns are, should this or other leisure centres close. Please consider each of the following statements and rate them using the following criteria:

Very Fairly Not very Not
 concerned concerned concerned concerned
 at all

Closure would:

● impact on the quality of the remaining sport and leisure provision in the local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● impact on the variety of the remaining sport and leisure provision in the local area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● affect the distance I would have to travel to another similar facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● result in the loss of specialist activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● result in the loss of a venue for other social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● reduce access for schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● reduce access for sports and recreational clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● lead to an increase in health problems related to inactivity (either as an individual or whole community)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● impact on opportunities for out of school activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Other (please specify).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. We will do our best to manage the impact of any closures by developing a range of alternative sport and leisure provision in the area. We'd like to know what's important to you. Please rate each option below.

Very Fairly Not very Not
 important important important important
 at all

● Availability of sport and leisure activities in other community venues such as community centres, schools, church halls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Access to outdoor recreational activity eg cycling, running and walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Outdoor play equipment for children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Parks and open spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Outdoor pitches, courts and multi-use games areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Activities for children and young people eg holiday programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continued

	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important at all
● Gym/weights facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Exercise classes eg aerobics, yoga	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Organised sports coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Recreational sports eg badminton, 5-a-side	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Specialist health programmes eg GP referral, weight management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Investment in local sports clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Disability sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
● Other (please specify).....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What do you currently use the centre for?

(please tick ✓)

Fitness suite/gym use	<input type="checkbox"/>	Table Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exercise classes eg aerobics, yoga, aquafit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Martial Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>
5-a-side football	<input type="checkbox"/>	Team sports eg netball/basketball/football coaching	<input type="checkbox"/>
Racquet sports: badminton/squash/tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifestyle classes eg GP referrals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming (general)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Children and young people's activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming Lessons	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 50's activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gymnastics/Trampolining	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disabilities activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify).....	

6. How likely are you to continue this activity/s if your centre was to close? If they were:

	Very likely	Fairly likely	Fairly unlikely	Don't know
Delivered within your local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivered at another leisure centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Given the need to make £3.5 million savings in sports and leisure across the county and the efforts being made to maintain or provide alternative provision, do you support the closure of the six centres?

Yes No Don't know

Please provide your reasons below

We'd also like some information about you.

We want to make it easy for everyone to tell us what they think. Our aim is to be fair and your answers to the following questions will help us find out the views from a wide range of people and understand any differences in the answers of particular groups. Your answers will be confidential and used for this consultation only.

You only need to answer if you feel happy to do so.

1. Are you: Male Female

2. How old are you?

3. Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person? Yes No

(This may include any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity which has a substantial effect on your day to day life. Long-standing means that it has lasted, or is likely to last, for over a year.)

4. What is your religion or belief?

Christian Muslim Hindu Sikh Jewish Buddhist None
Other (✓ and write in below)

.....

5. How do you describe your sexuality?

Heterosexual/Straight Gay Woman/Lesbian Gay Man Bisexual
Other (✓ and write in below)

.....

6. Ethnic Origin

What do you do with your completed questionnaire?

Please put your completed questionnaire into the customer comments box at any of our leisure centres, or customer access points or return to the address below as soon as possible but **by no later than 26 May 2011**. All your comments, together with any business proposals, will be considered. A report on the future of all six leisure centres will be put together which will be considered by the council's Cabinet. Once a final decision has been agreed, it will be displayed on our website, in leisure centres and communicated via the local press.

Thank you for your input.

Durham County Council,
Sport and Leisure Services,
Northumbria House,
Aykley Heads,
Durham
DH1 5TS

www.durham.gov.uk/sport

Full copies of the Review of Indoor Sport & Leisure Facilities cabinet report and the Sport and Leisure Strategy 2011 - 2014 are available on the council's website or a hard copy is available to read at all our leisure centres and 12 customer access points. Alternatively, contact us on 0191 372 9181 or email: sportandleisure@durham.gov.uk

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

sportandleisure@durham.gov.uk
0191 372 9181