

A Regional Facilities Strategy for Sport England North East – Process model

- 1.1 As requested by Sport England, PMP has prepared a summary sheet on the process/methodology used for preparing the draft Regional Facilities Strategy (RFS). This is to be provided to Regional Sports Board Members in advance of the presentation and discussions that will take place on Tuesday 13th May.
- 1.2 The Strategy has been developed in two phases. The majority of the phase one work was undertaken in February 2008 and the majority of Phase two work in March 2008.
- 1.3 At the start of the study, a briefing meeting was held between PMP and Sport England's Regional Planning Officer and Head of Investment, to clarify the scope of the study, agree the methodology, timescales and project management procedures.

Phase one

- 1.4 Phase one consisted of the following:

Desk based analysis of existing community facilities

- Analysis of existing facility provision using Active Places data and the strategic planning tools available in Active Places Power. This was undertaken for the 10 facility types that feature in Active Places namely:
 - sports halls
 - swimming pools
 - athletics tracks
 - synthetic turf pitches (STPs)
 - health and fitness
 - indoor tennis
 - indoor bowls
 - golf courses
 - ski slopes
 - ice rinks.
- The above facility types were assessed in terms of:
 - quantity of provision - number of facilities, number per 1000 population and, where possible, supply and demand balance
 - type of provision - facility sub types
 - other - age of stock, ownership and management
- Using the above facility data, comparisons were made between:
 - the North East region and overall national provision
 - the North East region and other Sport England regions
 - the region's four sub-regions – Durham, Tees Valley, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland.
- A regional analysis of sports halls and swimming pools was also undertaken using Active Places Power Plus data (formerly the FPM).

Assessment of sport specific facility needs

- A regional assessment of existing sport specific facilities, with an emphasis on regional and sub-regional facilities covering 30 Sport England priority sports was undertaken. This was developed through a combination of:
 - consultation with the Regional NGB Officer; and or
 - consultation with the National Facilities Officer
 - a review of national and regional facilities strategies (where they exist)
 - a review of other relevant NGB strategies and documents.
 - For each of the sports, existing facilities and any gaps in provision were identified together with preferred locations to fill these gaps. Any proposals for new/improved facilities were also identified along with NGB priorities for the future.
- 1.5 A report was produced at the end of February detailing the findings from the phase one work. This was distributed to the following partners:
- Local authorities
 - Sport England regional staff
 - Universities
 - CSP Directors
 - NGB officers
 - Regional Development Agencies.
- 1.6 The findings produced from the first phase of the work were used to inform consultation with partners and to inform strategy development in phase two.

Phase two

- 1.7 Phase two consisted of the following:
- Consultations/presentations/meetings with key stakeholder groups including:
 - NGB forum
 - Chief Leisure Officers Facilities / Procurement Sub Group
 - Heads of Sport from the five Universities
 - Regional Development Agencies
 - Regional 2012 co-ordinator
 - The four CSP Directors.
 - a review of relevant regional and sub regional strategies (that were not reviewed in phase 1) and identification of their implications for future facility provision within the North East

SUMMARY OF PROCESS MODEL

- a review of the demographic profile of the region and the impact of future population changes, taking into account areas of major housing development and major regeneration schemes
 - an assessment of the opportunities presented by major capital investment in the education sector including BSF, City Academies programme, the Primary Capital Programme & development linked to Further Education institutions
 - an assessment of options and identification of priorities for future funding of sports facilities at regional, sub regional level and local level
 - an assessment of likely trends in sports facility provision up to 2020 and the implications for facility provision within the region
 - an assessment of the impact and needs of projected growth in sports participation between now and 2020, taking account of findings from the Active People survey and NGB talent development strategies and plans.
- 1.8 The draft RFS was produced in early April detailing the findings from both phases of the work. The Strategy outlines the baseline position in terms of the region's current stock of sports facilities and provides a long-term policy framework for future sports facility development.
- 1.9 To date, the draft strategy has been distributed to Sport England regional staff and the four CSP Directors. It is intended to go out to full consultation with partners once the document has been considered by the Regional Sports Board on the 13th May.