



Leisure Facilities Strategy

If you haven't already done so, please read [the introduction to this survey and the draft strategy](#) before answering the following questions. The vision within the draft leisure strategy is: 'Shropshire will be a county where healthier, active lifestyles are encouraged, supported and facilitated for everyone'.

To find out more about the draft Leisure Facilities Strategy please email: leisure@shropshire.gov.uk

1. Do you agree with the vision?

Yes

No

If not, please explain why...

Baschurch Parish Council do not agree with the vision because, whilst it is aspirational, it is not providing any substance in the way of funding or expertise.

Three core principles underpin the delivery of the vision:

- Support for the creation of a high quality and sustainable indoor leisure facility mix, which provides accessible and inclusive activities for all Shropshire residents, leading to increased participation and active lifestyles, thereby meeting community need
- Recognising the importance of leisure facilities as relevant community spaces, accessible to all and offering opportunities for the delivery of a wide range of activities, services, support and entertainment to local communities and people
- A commitment to work with a wide range of partner organisations and individuals as co-creators and co-deliverers* of leisure facilities so that they best reflect the differing needs of local communities.

* Including existing leisure operators (independent trusts, schools), town / parish councils, voluntary sector, etc.

2. Do you agree with the three core principles that underpin the vision?

Yes

No

If you don't agree with any of the core principles, or have concerns, please explain below...

Baschurch Parish Council agree with the core principles but a number of the terms used in draft strategy are woolly and much of the responsibility is off-loaded to 'partners' with no real indication as to how the partners are going to be funded separately or working together nor is there a plan for how their success is going to be measured. There is particularly no mention of what steps Shropshire Council might take to initiate building facilities with such partners should their occurrence be lacking.

The strategic priorities set out within the draft strategy are:

- Strategic priority 1 - to work with partners to support the people of Shropshire to live longer, healthier and better quality lives through sport and physical activity, with a focus on young and older people
- Strategic priority 2 - to support the resilience of local communities and the development of place by strengthening local communities through sport and physical activity
- Strategic priority 3 - to support economic growth by developing opportunities for people to reach their full potential by providing employment, volunteering and tourism opportunities
- Strategic priority 4 - to take a cross county-based approach to the delivery of high-quality facilities through targeted investment, partnership opportunities, community empowerment and commercial acumen in order to reduce levels of subsidy
- Strategic priority 5 - to aim to reduce our carbon footprint in line with the commitment of Shropshire Council to the Declaration of Climate Emergency to become carbon neutral by 2030.

3. Please select the option that best fits your opinion on each priority below:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/no opinion
Strategic priority 1	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strategic priority 2	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strategic priority 3	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strategic priority 4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strategic priority 5	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. If you disagree or strongly disagree with any of the strategic priorities, please explain below.

Baschurch Parish Council, strongly agree with all of the strategic priorities set out within the draft though the means by which these laudable priorities will be achieved is lacking; notable any commitment to investment in expert people such as coaches and organisers to fill the glaring gaps in the current provision and to make the most use of the facilities which exist. It looks like a wish list looking for some 'free' miracle workers.

5. Please choose the statement that best fits your opinion below:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/no opinion
The draft strategy provides a context for the strategy and development of leisure facilities in Shropshire.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How the draft strategy fits with other strategies and plans is clear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The draft strategy gives a useful insight into the future needs of Shropshire's population.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is adequate information about Shropshire Council's leisure facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The changes in approach (how the strategy differs from the last strategy) are clearly explained.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The actions that will be undertaken to implement the strategy are clear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The draft strategy clearly sets out the objectives for each priority.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/no opinion
The strategy explains how communities and partners will be engaged in a place-based approach.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. If you have any comments to make concerning the statements above (and content of the draft strategy) please do so here...

As made clear by our responses to question 5 we strongly agree it provides 'a context for the strategy and development of leisure facilities in Shropshire' and pertaining to the changes from the leisure strategy of 18-23 which 'would have led to the closure of a number of facilities' to this strategy 2019 – 2038, we strongly agree there should be changes.

We are also very clear the major reason for a change of direction is the general health of the people of Shropshire has demonstrably deteriorated for adults and for children in line with the loss of access to leisure facilities, due to closures and loss of support, and a loss of providers of leisure activities. The long term health conditions of people in Shropshire is lamentable poor in that it has a significantly higher prevalence of hypertension, depression obesity and dementia in the older people and obesity in younger people in obesity and mental ill-health than in England and the West Midlands. The lack of access to leisure facilities will, no doubt, have exacerbated the situation over the last six months due to the impact of Corvid-19.

Baschurch Parish Council strongly agree there is information about SC's leisure facilities and that there will be investment in the existing facilities but there is a lack of information as to their use and the peak times of their use. There was reference to there being an adequate provision of Sports Halls in the County but it is inadequately explained what the impact of restricted community access to most of these halls has on their regular use. Many day time users, and Shropshire has a population of 24% over the age of 65, are unable to use a Sports Hall belonging to a School during the day and during the dark winter period; even if the Halls are accessible to the community during the summer school break during this period of most need they are not accessible. Moreover, we would suggest it is very difficult for a commercial provider to build on such limited access to halls. We wish SC to address this situation with a concrete plan.

Relative to the other section of part 5 of the survey we are unable to agree the Leisure Facilities Strategy gives 'useful insight' or that it 'clearly sets out the objectives for each priority'. The reason for this is because the wording of the vision ' Shropshire will be a county where healthier, active lifestyles are encourages, supported and facilitated for everyone' is amorphous; it is aspirational in tone but lacks any substance which would be given if the words such as 'delivered' or 'invested' or 'organised' were used. The sense of good intentions but no real plan for delivery is also apparent in the core principles: 'support for the creation' gives no information about who is doing the creation and how this is going to be organised and funded; 'recognising the importance of leisure facilities' is valid but this is after a significant loss of such facilities and insufficient mention as to replacement; and 'commitment to work with ...partner organisations' is passing the buck because there is not even the offer of co-ordination let alone of expertise and guidance. The 'partner' list is extensive and there is no indication as to how Shropshire Council will enable/assist these disparate groups to arrive at a concerted and intelligent use of facilities.

This is very much a strategy to 'grow grass roots' activities but it relies on existing structures which may not be effective especially in the areas of most need – this is a real weakness in this strateav. It is not clear how long it will take in the preferred 'overarching

commercial approach to investment whereby larger and more sustainable facilities subsidise smaller and more rural facilities where there is a clear identified need' will take to build. What is the SC's plan for the interim? In view of the rather dreadful statistics as to the health of Shropshire people a delay is not acceptable given 'a clear identified need.'

It is a bit ridiculous that the 'commercial approach' relies so heavily on groups which are, for the most part, volunteer in nature and purpose. This is an opportunity to employ young people and invest in their future as providers of leisure activities making use of the facilities.

It is not very encouraging to see the SC relying on the car as the major measure of access to leisure facilities, especially in view of Strategic Priority 5 which aims to reduce 'our carbon footprint'. The information that 14.9% of people do not have a car is makes measurement of how long it takes for them to get to a facility by car nonsense. In Baschurch Parish the time taken to get to a hub by public transport which does not factor in the distance from the bus station to the facility, is between 25 and 50 minutes. There has been no discussion of evening provision of public transport to the leisure hubs which is very poor.

Measurement of access to leisure facilities in terms of access by car runs counter to reducing use of energy, and pollution.

All in all the Leisure Facilities Strategy – Summary for Consultation has all been a very static assessment of leisure in that SC seems only interested in the number and condition of existing facilities. It lacks comment on the provision of expertise both in raising the level of active lifestyles in our communities to make the best use of these facilities.

7. Overall how satisfied do you feel with the contents of the draft strategy?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know/no opinion

8. If you selected dissatisfied or very dissatisfied, please explain what you don't like within the draft strategy?

See 6 above

9. What do you like best about the draft strategy?

Baschurch Parish Council, are most satisfied with the recognition that under the previous plan there would be a hemorrhaging of facilities and their use in the county and that the Shropshire Council is seeking to rectify the matter and invest in the upgrading of existing facilities and will consider building new facilities in areas which lack access to the existing Leisure facilities within the time frame of travel considered acceptable. Baschurch Parish Council believes many of its residents are unable to easily access Leisure facilities, especially in winter.

10. Is there anything missing from the strategy (any gaps)?

See 6 above

11. Please add any further comments you wish to make about the draft strategy below.

1 / 2

50%

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