

Norwich Action Plans Swimming Pools

	Action Plan/Swimming Pools	Action Required
<p>PROTECT</p>	<p>SW 1 City of Norwich to protect the existing supply of swimming pools for community use to 2026.</p> <p>The needs assessment for swimming pools has identified that across the Norwich Council area based on the population growth, location of new housing and aging of the core resident population, the existing supply of swimming pools will be very full by 2026.</p> <p>The estimate is that as a city wide average the pools will be 82% of pool capacity used at peak times, (75% in 2014) This is some 12% above the Sport England benchmark of pools being comfortably full at 70% of capacity used at peak times. There is a need therefore to protect and retain the number and SCALE of the existing supply of pools.</p> <p>The need to protect pool supply is underlined by several factors: the size of existing swimming pools on school sites; the differential level of demand and how full some pools are compared with others; the age/quality of some school pools; maintaining access to the community use of school based swimming pools.</p> <p>Also there is the same issue with pools as with sports halls, namely that the Norwich demand can be comfortably met by the Norwich supply. The issue is the interaction of pool locations/catchment areas and location of demand <u>across Greater Norwich</u> and the comparatively more modern pools at Riverside and UEA Sportspark. Plus both extensive sites are pay and</p>	<p>The City Council development management policy DM8 identifies sites for sports uses through the site allocation plan and to protect existing (pitches) and built sports facilities from development for other uses unless this would lead to an improvement in overall sports provision. The needs assessment endorses this policy. Any subsequent review of planning policy based on the needs assessment should retain this policy to protect and retain existing swimming pools.</p> <p>Work with UEA Sportspark to ensure there is an up to date community use agreement in place to protect and retain the existing level of community use outside of school hours. Establish with Sportspark if there is scope (very unlikely) to increase the capacity of the pool by changing the programming and providing more pool time for the most popular activities. In short more use of what already exists.</p> <p>Consider with the other Councils' the development of a professional leisure management use, bookings and lettings system, which is co-coordinated across all school swimming pools sites.</p>

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<p>swim venues.</p> <p>This is creating a “draw effect” for residents of Broadland and South Norfolk where these two pool sites are the nearest pool to where their residents live. The impact is greater for import of Broadland demand and this increases up to 2026. These pools are estimated to be at full capacity for public/club use at peak times.</p> <p>Furthermore the estimate is that by 2026 some 40% of the Broadland demand for pools is met outside Broadland, mainly to UEA Sportspark and less so Riverside. Whilst 30% of the South Norfolk demand is met outside the authority but far less than Broadland going to Sportspark and Riverside.</p> <p>For all these reasons the existing stock of pool sites/total water area needs to be protected and retained.</p> <p>There is a tipping point/judgment call as to whether protection of the existing sites and enhancement of the existing provision can create the overall supply and demand balance. OR based on the age, condition and potential limitations of access to school based pools there is cost/sports effective case for re-provision of some existing pools. The margins and judgment are fine and up to date condition surveys are required to make the assessment. Options on all are set out under the enhancement and provision headings.</p>	
<p>SH2 – Support improvements at existing swimming pools where this would: lead to: increased capacity; and improve the quality of the venues so potentially</p>	<p>Undertake a feasibility study of the Hewett School swimming pool to establish the cost and schedule of works to make the pool are and ancillary facilities fit for purpose for the next 20 years.</p>

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<p>ENHANCE</p>	<p>offering greater flexibility of use and improve viability for community use.</p> <p>The needs assessment has identified an aging school stock and which has increasing demands on its use. Detailed feasibility studies are required to determine the possible options to either increase the size of the existing venue or replace with enhanced provision depending on age, condition and site opportunities.</p> <p>Norwich is better placed than the other authorities in having two school pools which are 25m x 4 lanes, Hewett School and Norwich High School for Girls.</p> <p>Hewett pool opened in 1960 and had a modest modernisation in 2006. It is indispensable to the Norwich swimming pool stock. It is very widely and highly regarded by clubs for the extensive access they get. The school has no capital funds <u>of the scale required</u> to undertake modernisation, there is a need to replace the roof structure, as one extensive example. If the pool was to close because it is no longer fit for purpose, the overall supply and demand balance for pools across Norwich could not be met.</p> <p>The Hewett school example is spelt out to illustrate the fragile supply and demand balance and reliance on a major school pool to meet much of the Norwich swimming clubs use and provide for learn to swim programmes. It is more cost/sports effective to modernise the Hewett School pool to make it for purpose for the next 20 years than finding the capital cost of replacing a 25metre x 4 lane pool (subject to feasibility study).</p>	<p>Funding for capital works to be considered as integral part of the outlined CIL Capital Modernisation Fund for provision or improvements to school based community sports facilities.</p> <p>It is not possible to identify the capital costs of any major modernisation of an existing swimming pool because it is site and project specific and does require a full condition survey to establish these costs. Plus any costs with re-configuration of the building to make it for purpose for the remainder of its life.</p> <p>As context however the capital costs of providing a swimming pool of the Hewitt pool dimensions of 25m x 4 lanes (25m x 8.5m is £2.9m and for 25m x 6 lanes (25m x 12.5m) is £3.9m. Both at October 2013 prices with a projected 1.8% annual increase thereafter.</p> <p>As part of any redevelopment establish a new CUA which set out the type and programme of use for club use. Learn to swim programmes (and possibly public recreational swimming).</p> <p>Investigate with Norwich High School for Girls, and City Academy (acknowledging the pool is only 85 sq metres of water and can only be used for learn to swim programmes), the opportunities to –coordinate more effective programming/use of pools across all school sites for club use and learn to swim programmes. Any new CUA to review establish with individual schools the actual hours of community use to see if more use could be made of the existing capacity.</p>

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<p>PROVIDE</p>	<p>SP3 – Consider re-provision or new swimming pools halls where the most cost/effective approach is RE-PROVISION of existing swimming pools.</p> <p>The needs assessment has not identified a need to provide NEW pools to meet growth in demand, especially if more of the Norwich demand could be met at the Norwich venues as Norwich has enough waterspace and at locations to meet its own demand.</p> <p>The assessment has estimated that the existing pool stock is VERY FULL and the increase in usage up to 2026, will impact on the condition of the pools. This could create a case for RE-PROVISION of an existing pool if the cost benefit assessment is that new provision is a more effective solution than modernisation of the existing school based pools.</p> <p>In terms of locations for re-provision the city centre is an evident location to address the issue that 32% of the Norwich population in 2014 does not have access to a car. So to meet planning polices and increase accessibility, any new site location should be city centre based and/or on public transport routes.</p>	<p>Consider re- provision of swimming pools if the enhancement of the existing pool stock at Hewett school is not cost/sports effective to do. Any new pool should be at least 25m x 4 lane and preferably 6 lane, plus include a learner/teaching pool of around 80 -100 sq metres of water, so as to provide another venue for learn to swim programmes.</p> <p>Costs options already set out. In addition the cost of a 25m x 6 lane pool with a teaching/learner pool of 13m x 8m is £4.6m at October 2013 prices and a projected 1.8% increase thereafter.</p> <p>If the management review of access to all school based pool sites cannot be achieved to make more effective use of the current pool supply for all programmes of swimming activity – make more use of what already exists – then consider the initial provision on of a new pool The objective being to reduce the estimated used capacity of the pools across all sites and create a better supply/demand balance and some headroom of spare capacity across the city at al pool sites.</p> <p>Any new pool provision should be a community based pool catering for all swimming disciplines and activities, so a 25m x 4 lane pool and with a learner/teaching pool. The priority location for a new pool is city centre, based on increasing accessibility. Costs already set out above.</p> <p>Any new swimming pool project should be planned, designed, costed and procured based on the Sport England Guidance for affordable community swimming pools.</p>

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		<p>A joint use agreement setting out the type of use and a full programme of community use should be committed to as an integral part of the project development and progressed through the planning process.</p> <p>Consider favourably any proposals by existing providers, commercial and UEA Sportspark to increase the amount of waterspace at the existing venues and through the planning process negotiate increased community use.</p>