

Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy

Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy 2006 – 2016



Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy

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Section 1

1.1 Introduction and context

The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy considers the current availability of swimming facilities within the city and potential future amendments to such provision. It has been prepared in conformity with PPG17 - Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, which requires local authorities to undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Other strategies are being prepared to address other elements of the city's sport and recreation provision.

The geographical scope of the strategy is restricted to an analysis of the overall stock of all swimming facilities within the city boundary, their availability for formal and informal public use, the perceived quantity of provision and particular shortfalls that might reasonably be expected to occur in Plymouth by the year 2016, if no action were taken between now and then.

1.2 Alignment of the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy with Plymouth's 'City Strategy'

The vision for Plymouth as expressed in the City's Sustainable Community Strategy, is that:

By 2020, Plymouth will be one of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone, where all can be "healthy, wealthy safe and wise"

The four visionary goals articulate the city's ambition to be:

- **HEALTHY** - a healthy place to live and work (improving health and well-being)
- **WEALTHY** - a city that creates and shares prosperity (enhancing its economy and sharing the benefits with all its community)
- **SAFE** - a safe, strong city (reducing crime, making people feel safe, making the most of its environment)
- **WISE** - a location for learning, achievement and leisure (raising aspirations and attainment, promoting creativity and leisure)

Key customers are considered to be: children and young people, older people and those living in the most deprived wards.

These four goals are underpinned by eight **strategic objectives**:

- **Improving health and well-being;**
- Developing a prosperous economy;

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- Promoting community safety;
- Raising educational achievement;
- Promoting inclusive communities;
- Developing an effective transport system;
- Maintaining a clean and sustainable environment;
- **Stimulating culture and leisure activities.**

The two strategic objectives highlighted identify the most obvious alignment for the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy. However, the City Council and its partners recognise that sport and physical recreation activities can also contribute to other agendas such as social inclusion, education and community safety.

1.3 Alignment of the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy with Plymouth City Council's 'Corporate Plan'

This plan sets out five **Corporate Objectives**:

- **Building Plymouth's future** (This objective requires each service and strategy to identify how it specifically contributes to the City Strategy): **The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy recommended actions and policies will specifically assist the city in relation to its strategic objectives for 'health and well-being' and 'culture and leisure activities'.**
- **Providing excellent and efficient services** (This objective means that each service or strategy must identify how it can become or remain excellent – and become yet more efficient): **The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy has been specifically constructed to assist with and support the making of key decisions in relation to the future provision of sports facilities in the city.**
- **Putting the customer first** (For this objective to be met a service or a strategy needs to clearly identify its customers, what the service looks like to them – and how excellent customer satisfaction can be achieved or maintained): **The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy proposes performance indicators against which improvements in service delivery can be measured.**
- **Ensuring access for all** (Services and strategies must demonstrate that they are working to close existing inequality gaps if they are to meet this objective): **Inequalities in relation to access to local swimming facilities are identified in the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy. As such it proposes specific actions to reduce such deficiencies in service delivery.**
- **Improving our capacity to deliver together** (This objective requires each service or strategy to ensure that in partnership with others it is being delivered with the appropriate standards of, for example: financial and human resource management, etc.): **The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy identifies its relationship to the wider sports agenda and thus its local role. It is recognised**

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that the sports facility requirement of the local community needs to be met by access to and ongoing improvement in the stock of facilities that are collectively managed by local providers. This strategy should enable each provider the opportunity to make its own specific contribution and to make informed decisions on its role within the city.

1.4 Key Objectives of the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy

The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy key objectives are:

- To provide Plymouth with the right number of swimming pools, of the right quality, in the right place.
- To see a clear, coherent and equitable approach to facility development, enhancement, maintenance and management.
- To provide an adopted local standard for Plymouth in relation to the swimming facilities it should seek to provide for its local residents.

These key objectives are also in harmony with the intention of the key aims of the Amateur Swimming Association National Facilities Strategy for Swimming (December 2002):

- “to promote a strategic approach to the development and management of all existing and future swimming facilities
- to meet the recreational swimming needs of the community in general.”

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Section 2 – Where we are now?

2.1 Current swimming facility provision

The stock of facilities in Plymouth as shown below and in Table 2 is owned or managed by a number of different agencies. These include:

- Plymouth City Council
- Schools
- Higher education establishments
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Commercial sector

Current indoor and outdoor swimming pool provision in the city is as follows:

- Plympton Swimming Pool
- Marjon Sport And Leisure
- Cannons Health Club
- Central Park Leisure Pools
- Club Moativation
- HMS Drake
- Plymouth College
- Plymouth Pavilions
- Devonshire Health & Racquet Club
- Mount Wise Open Air Pools
- Tinside Lido

Excludes small school, small hotel and small private facilities.

2.2 Description of current facilities

Plympton Pool

Built and opened in 1991, this is a local authority indoor heated community pool. The 25 metre pool, with integral 'splashdown' area and adjoining paddling pool, allows for a varied programme of activities. There is an open plan seating area for spectators.

Marjon Sport And Leisure

A 25 metre indoor heated pool within the College of St Mark and St John at Derriford. The pool is available for public use beyond college needs.

Cannons Health Club

An indoor heated pool situated within a private health club.

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Central Park Leisure Pools

A local authority indoor heated pool originally built in 1965, but extensively refurbished in 1984 and 1996. The centre now contains a standard 33.3 metre 6-lane pool divided by a movable bulkhead, Olympic diving pool and individually heated learner pool. The Amateur Swimming Association National Facilities Strategy (December 2002) rates the diving pool as one of its six World Class training Centres. The latest addition to the facility is the 'Studio', a fitness area opened in 2005 and equipped with sixteen spinning bikes. There is a terraced seating area overlooking the pool for spectators. In common with the other local authority indoor pool at Plympton, Central Park offers a varied pool programme with activities to suit all ages and abilities.

Club Motivation

A 15 metre indoor heated pool within a private fitness club at the Moat House Hotel.

HMS Drake

A refurbished 25 metre indoor heated pool within a Royal Navy base. The pool is primarily used by service personnel and service clubs. In accordance with MoD policy, access beyond armed service needs is conditional upon a licence agreement. At present (August 2006) a nearby primary school is the sole non MoD user.

Plymouth College

A former outdoor 25 metre pool, it was converted to become an indoor heated facility in 2002. The pool is located within a private day and boarding school. Beyond school needs the pool is regularly used by a local swimming club and also provides an occasional venue for some University of Plymouth clubs.

Plymouth Pavilions

A public indoor heated fun pool with two water slides and jacuzzi. There is also a sloping beach area. Given the shape and vocation of the pool it does not offer formal lane swimming.

Devonshire Health & Racquet Club

The private Devonshire Health and Racquet club offers two heated swimming pools, one indoor, one outdoor.

Mount Wise Open Air Pools

Recently refurbished as a result of substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The pools are unheated. The complex consists of a 25 metre main swimming pool, paddling

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pool and activity pool. The pools have outstanding views across the Sound. There is no charge to enter pools complex or to use the pools.

Tinside Lido

Tinside Lido reopened in August 2003 following a £3.4 million refurbishment, which involved replacing the pool tank and constructing a new plant room. The lido, which is part of an Art Deco Grade 2 listed building, offers a large outdoor salt-water pool, three fountains, sunbathing terrace, panoramic views and evening light shows. In common with the Pavilions it does not offer formal lane swimming.

2.3 Demand for Swimming Pools

The demand for swimming pools has been considered in two ways:

- By using the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator to compare the predicted requirement for pool space with the actual availability of pool space for the whole city;
- By considering the availability of publicly accessible swimming pools in terms of travel time to identify issues in particular areas of the city.

The Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) helps to estimate the amount of key community sports facilities required to meet the needs of a local population.

It uses information on facility participation and applies these to the actual population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculation is sensitive to the needs of the people who actually live there.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand into actual facilities. For swimming pools it uses square metres of water.

It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities.

The SFC can be used for both strategic planning and for individual developments. In both cases it can be used to show:

1. Current facility needs of an area;
2. Future needs for facilities, based on changes in total population;
3. The impact of sports development programmes and changes in participation rates.

The current Sports Facility Calculator predicts a current requirement for Plymouth of 2509m² of pool space for general public use, based on a 2006 population figure of 246,354.

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2.4 Assessment of actual Plymouth pool space

The total water area of the eleven facilities under consideration amounts to some 5170m², more than double the requirement predicted by the Sports Facility Calculator, which is 2509 m². However, a simple total is potentially misleading, given that some of these facilities are reserved for members and guests or only operate during a particular season etc.

In order to determine a more representative figure for publicly available water space, a weighting system has been developed, which incorporates access criteria. The effect of the weighting is to revise the amount of water space available, measured in m², for pools that have less than 100% public access.

The weighting criteria used are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Type	Weight
Pools that have open public access	1.0
Private pools for members and guests	0.5
Educational facilities with some programmed public/club use	0.3
Seasonal outdoor pools	0.25
MoD facility with access restrictions	0.125

The effect of these weighting factors is to reduce the amount of pool space considered as available for general public use from 5170m² to 2398 m² as outlined in Table 2.

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Table 2

Current Provision – Swimming pools

Site Name	Ward	Area m ²	Weighting	Revision m ²
PLYMPTON SWIMMING POOL	Plympton St. Mary	212	1.0	212
MARJON SPORT AND LEISURE	Moor View	250	0.3	75
CANNONS HEALTH CLUB (PLYMOUTH)	Sutton and Mount Gould	160	0.5	80
CENTRAL PARK LEISURE POOLS	Peverell	429	1.0	429
CLUB MOATIVATION (PLYMOUTH)	St. Peter and the Waterfront	105	0.5	52
HMS DRAKE	Devonport	191	0.125	24
PLYMOUTH COLLEGE	Compton	254	0.3	76
PLYMOUTH PAVILIONS	St. Peter and the Waterfront	594	1.0	594
DEVONSHIRE HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB INDOOR	Moor View	250	0.5	125
DEVONSHIRE HEALTH & RACQUET CLUB OUTDOOR	Moor View	200	0.5	100
MOUNT WISE OPEN AIR POOLS	Devonport	325	0.25	81
TINSIDE LIDO	St. Peter and the Waterfront	2200	0.25	550
	Supply	5170		2398
	Sport England Calculator (2006 Population Demand)			2509
	Deficit / Surplus			-111
	Or expressed as 4 x 25m Pool units			-0.52

Excludes small primary school, small hotel and small private facilities.

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2.5 Summary of current shortfall/surplus

After the weighting exercise the total available pool space in Plymouth amounts to some 2398m² (Table 2), which equates to approximately 11.3 four-lane pool units (212 m² is taken as 1 four-lane 25m pool unit in the SFC).

Local authority/public sector operators provide 1866m² or 77.8% of this total. The supply from the private sector amounts to 357m² or 14.9% of the global amount. Educational facilities and the MoD contribute 151m² and 24m² respectively, or 6.3% and 1.0% of total provision.

As might be expected the local authority/public sector provides the overwhelming majority of pool space for general public use. This result underlines the lead role for the local authority/public provider in ensuring equitable access to water space. This role is likely to continue given the expense/difficulty of access to other facilities.

The summary table for the Plymouth study area indicates a current overall undersupply of 111m² or 0.52 of a swimming pool unit (4x25m pool).

This is a purely numerical analysis of the area of pool space available for public use; it does not consider qualitative issues.

Recommendations for future strategic choices must also consider such factors including:

- The demand for quality new facilities;
- The aspiration to address inclusion and social issues;
- Future population growth;
- The age and condition of existing provision;
- The maintenance of existing provision until new facilities become available.

2.6 How does Plymouth compare with members of its peer group?

In terms of total pool water available per 1000 population and excluding any local weighting Tables 3 and 3A show that Plymouth is at the top of the group of “near neighbours” as defined by the Audit Commission and second within the group defined by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

Plymouth offers in excess of 21m² total water area per thousand of population (within the Audit Commission peer group). All of the comparator cities/authorities within this group are below 20m² per thousand of population. The second place within the group is some 2.0 m² behind Plymouth and the third placed authority almost 3.9m² behind.

The ratio for the South West region is 1.78m² behind Plymouth and the England ratio 4.43m² behind Plymouth.

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Tables 4 and 4A examine the situation with respect to pools with lanes, again not considering any local weighting. In Plymouth's case this means not including the outdoor pools at Tinside and Mount Wise and the fun pool at the Plymouth Pavilions.

The effect of this change is significant. Total water area is more than halved, falling from 5170m² to 2051m², a reduction of 3119m². Although the Pavilions accounts for 594m² of the difference, the calculation does illustrate the contribution of the seasonal pools to Plymouth water space.

Plymouth offers 8.52m² total water area per thousand of population. All, but two of the comparator cities/authorities within the Audit Commission peer group, are above this figure.

The ratio for the South West region is 4.45m² above Plymouth and the England ratio 3.71m² ahead of Plymouth.

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Table 3

Report for facilities per 1000 population (Sport England)

Total Pool Area (All Pools)

England Ratio:	17.04
South West Region Ratio:	19.69

NEAR NEIGHBOURS (Audit Commission)

Local Authority	Total Population	(1) Total Area in Sqm	(1) Capacity Ratio Per 1000
Plymouth	240769	5170.00	21.47
Walsall	253567	4946.9	19.51
Darlington	97835	1725.25	17.63
Bristol	380494	6568.63	17.26
Salford	216143	3731.5	17.26
Tameside	213056	3660.35	17.18
Bolton	261070	4174.53	15.99
Kingston-upon-Hull	243598	3586.48	14.72
Derby	221742	2978.08	13.43
Gateshead	191109	2500.06	13.08
Wolverhampton	236628	3026.1	12.79
Sheffield	513391	6425.26	12.52
Coventry	300835	3503.85	11.65
North Tyneside	191711	2035.02	10.62
Calderdale	192425	1973.44	10.26

Table 3 A

NEAR NEIGHBOURS (ONS)

Local Authority	Total Population	(1) Total Area in Sqm	(1) Capacity Ratio Per 1000
Portsmouth	186717	5215.51	27.93
Plymouth	240769	5170.00	21.47
Salford	216143	3731.5	17.26
Ipswich	117091	1766.5	15.09
Lincoln	85572	1024.5	11.97

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Table 4

Report for facilities per 1000 population (Sport England)

Total Pool Area (Pools with Lanes)

England Ratio:	12.23
South West Region Ratio:	12.97

NEAR NEIGHBOURS (Audit Commission)

Local Authority	Total Population	(2) Total Area in Sqm For Pools With Lanes	(2) Capacity Ratio Per 1000
Walsall	253567	4111.90	16.22
Bristol	380494	5624.63	14.78
Salford	216143	2967.50	13.73
Darlington	97835	1340.00	13.70
Bolton	261070	3373.90	12.92
Derby	221742	2743.00	12.37
Wolverhampton	236628	2628.10	11.11
Kingston-upon-Hull	243598	2648.48	11.02
Sheffield	513391	5657.26	11.02
Calderdale	192425	1923.44	10.00
Gateshead	191109	1701.00	8.90
Coventry	300835	2606.37	8.66
Plymouth	240769	2051.00	8.52
North Tyneside	191711	1599.30	8.34
Tameside	213056	1770.00	8.31

Table 4 A

NEAR NEIGHBOURS (ONS)

Local Authority	Total Population	(2) Total Area in Sqm For Pools With Lanes	(2) Capacity Ratio Per 1000
Salford	216143	2967.50	13.73
Portsmouth	186717	2562.30	13.72
Plymouth	240769	2051.00	8.52
Ipswich	117091	985.00	8.41
Lincoln	85572	668.25	7.81

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Section 3 - Access analysis at a local level

3.1 Choice and opportunity

Increasing the opportunity for people to participate and become more active is one of Sport England's core aims. Easy access to a range of quality sports facilities is fundamental to getting more people more active and improving the health of the nation. By using tools provided by Sport England (Active Places Power) we can look to set local performance indicators that consider the availability of publicly accessible swimming pools in terms of travel time.

Using the 'Facility Count by Travel Time' tool this strategy proposes to set the following local performance indicators for the Plymouth region:

That by 2016 an accessible public swimming pool will be available to 90% of Plymouth residents within each of the following time bands:

- By walking, from a postcode centre point 30 minutes
- By public transport, from a postcode centre point 20 minutes
- By car, from a postcode centre point 10 minutes
- (To meet the proposed local performance indicator all three of the above criteria must be met within a particular postcode area)

The Sport England 'Facility Count by Travel Time' tool has helped to identify three Plymouth postcode areas that currently do not satisfy these local performance indicators.

3.2 Access Summary

Postcode area PL5 (N.W. of the City):

There is only one pool, HMS Drake, which is within a 30-minute walk time. Four pools: HMS Drake, Cannons, Central Park Leisure Pools and Plymouth College are within a 20-minute public transport journey time and four pools: HMS Drake, Cannons, Central Park Leisure Pool and Plymouth College are within a 10 minute car journey from a centre point in the PL5 postcode area. Of these only Central Park Leisure Pool could be described as being publicly accessible.

Postcode area PL6 (N.E. of the City):

There are two pools: the Devonshire Health & Racquet Club and Marjon (Plymouth College of St Mark & St John), which are within a 30-minute walk time. Three pools: the Devonshire Health & Racquet Club, Marjon, and Central Park Leisure Pools are within a 20-minute public transport journey time and a 10 minute car journey from a centre point in the PL6

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postcode area. Of these only Central Park Leisure Pool could be described as being publicly accessible.

Postcode area PL9 (S.E. of the City):

There are no pools within a 30-minute walk, 20-minute public transport ride or a 10-minute car journey from a centre point in the PL9 postcode area.

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Section 4 - Where do we want to be?

A key objective already mentioned of the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy, is to provide Plymouth with the right number of sports facilities, of the right quality, in the right place.

Plymouth's Local Development Framework (LDF) identifies the spatial framework for Plymouth's growth over the period 2006 to 2021, in conformity with the requirements of the Devon Structure Plan 2006 – 2016 and the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy 2006 – 2026. Strategic Objective 1 states the objectives to accommodate at least the Devon Structure Plan levels of growth in the period between 2006 and 2016 and to allow for the longer term higher growth levels of the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) beyond 2016. The RSS sets a target of 24,500 new dwellings by 2026 in Plymouth and 31,500 in the Principle Urban Area (including Sherford and part of Caradon).

The sports facility calculator using the forecast population for Plymouth in 2016 ¹(266,689) predicts a future requirement of 2988m² of publicly accessible pool space.

This equates to an overall undersupply of 2.8 swimming pools (25m x 4-lane equivalent) if no action were taken between now and 2016.

The LDF Millbay and Stonehouse Area Action Plan 2006 – 2021 sets out a proposal to demolish the existing Pavilions swimming pool and ice rink and to provide new facilities at the Central Park Life Centre. Consideration needs to be given to a potential resultant loss of pool water area.

Should future developments entail the demolition of the Pavilions pool, then an additional 2.8 pools would need to be provided to compensate giving a total of 5.6.

4.1 Strategic recommendations to address the predicted undersupply

4.1.1 Possible Action One: The construction of a Life Centre style facility

A Life Centre style project incorporating a 50-metre pool would increase the city's net pool area by nearly 850m² (4 pool units). It also offers the opportunity to address social issues and longstanding aspirations to improve the city's sports facilities.

Sporting and community justification

The Life Centre will:

- Respond to the demonstration of public support for the Life Centre project;
- Replace the ageing Central Park pools complex with a modern facility including a 25m warm-up pool/learner pool, 53x25m training and competition pool with two moveable booms and appropriate changing rooms;

¹ Plymouth population in 2016 includes a new population in the Sherford area based on 5,500 new dwellings.

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- Establish Plymouth as a local, county, regional, European and international diving venue;
- Overcome the current deficiency of citywide provision;
- Meet the need for a high quality, centrally located, publicly accessible sports venue in the city;
- Ensure that subsidy is applied to meet social objectives;
- Emphasise developmental, multi-sport objectives becoming a hub site;
- Service health needs of key communities in the city's most deprived wards;
- Provide a county and/or regionally significant venue;
- Raise visibility – Central Park being at the heart of the city;
- Deliver a partnership-based facility serving the whole community;
- Meet the need for quality sports facilities in Plymouth – to compensate for years of under-investment;
- Contribute significantly to expressed/proven need for facility provision on a local, citywide and sub-regional basis.

The Life Centre style project will address the current citywide undersupply in pool space and reduce the predicted undersupply for 2016 to 334 m² or 1.6 swimming pools (25m x 4-lane equivalent).

There is a need to consider population growth and the effects of developments such as Sherford to the east and Derriford to the north of the city and also the travel time analysis which has identified postcode areas where travel times to a pool do not currently satisfy the proposed local performance indicators.

In the light of these concerns, the strategy recognises the relevance of local factors such as the travel time analysis, local aspirations and population growth in determining the position of a new facility, should the opportunity to construct a new pool(s) arise.

4.1.2 Possible Action Two: The construction of 25-metre pool(s) in Plymouth areas PL5/PL6 and PL9

Sporting and community justification

- There is evidence of need from the travel time analysis for community accessible swimming opportunities in these areas of the city;
- There is a potential sustainable income base for a sports venue that provides the right facilities and programmes for the local community;
- The development has the potential to positively impact on issues such as health, community safety and social inclusion in these areas of the city.

Possible sites:

PL9 Area:

- A possible site to be identified in the Plymstock area; or
- Provision via the Sherford development.

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PL5/PL6:

- Site yet to be identified in the North of the City.

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Section 5 – Capital and Revenue Funding Issues

5.1 Overview

When examining possible amendments to the current pool stock, any change in local authority/public provision must consider the council's financial position. Swimming pools are expensive facilities to build and maintain. The local authority in Plymouth has been under obligation to reduce budgetary pressures and any decisions to increase swimming provision must be done within the framework of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The indicative cost (2nd quarter 2006) for a good quality 25-metre pool is some £2.35 million. However, it is essential that proposals for new facilities should consider not only the initial capital funding required, but also the long-term viability and management arrangements. Any new pool should be associated with income generating assets such as health and fitness, in order to minimise as far as possible the ongoing revenue support requirements.

Hence for planning purposes a capital budget of £3 to £3.5 million should be required for a 25m facility, depending upon location, mix of facilities etc with an ongoing revenue cost requirement of up to £200,000 per annum.

5.2 Planning Obligations

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Planning Obligations may be sought from developers (when planning conditions are not appropriate) to contribute towards the provision of infrastructure and services to enhance the quality of development and to enable developments to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Planning Obligations should meet the following tests, and should be:

- Necessary
- Relevant to Planning
- Directly related to the proposed development
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development
- Reasonable in all other respects (Circ 05/2005).

Wherever possible, planning obligations should be provided on the same site as the proposed new development. However, where it is agreed that this is not a sustainable option then a developer contribution can be requested for investment in the provision/enhancement of 'off-site' facilities.

Sport England strongly recommends that local planning authorities should maximise the use of developer contributions within planning obligations as a means of providing for the recognised sporting and recreational needs of their local communities, although there will be competing demands for contributions (e.g. affordable housing; transport infrastructure).

The LDF Core Strategy contains Policy CS33 – Community Benefits/ Planning Obligations - which sets out the council's policy. This policy will be amplified by a Supplementary

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Planning Document on Planning Obligations, which will set out a framework for the negotiation of planning agreements and the calculation of specific contributions. In addition, site-specific proposals in the LDF Site Allocations Development Plan Document, Area Action Plans and other local development documents will set out the priority requirements in relation to individual proposals.

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Section 6 – Summary and Recommendations

6.1 Summary:

The purpose of the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy is to support the priorities of Plymouth's 'City Strategy' and Plymouth City Council's 'Corporate Plan.'

The audit of existing pool provision has been compared with the city's requirements predicted by the Sport England Facility Calculator (SFC). The same procedure has been used to examine the city's predicted future (2016) requirements.

The analysis has identified the following key issues:

- A current undersupply of 0.5 swimming pool units (25m x 4-lane equivalent),
- A predicted undersupply of 2.8 swimming pools (25m x 4-lane equivalent) by 2016 or an undersupply of 5.6 swimming pools if the Pavilions is closed.

(The predicted undersupply could occur if no remedial action were taken between now and 2016.)

Life Centre

The Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy suggests that a 'Life Centre' style project is fundamental to resolving the citywide deficiency in pool space.

Funding opportunities via capital receipts, prudential borrowing, private sector investment and S106 contributions need to be explored, alongside ensuring any revenue implications are met either by the City Council, as part of its Medium Term Financial Plan, or by commercial revenue.

Community Pools

In addition, the Plymouth Swimming Facility Strategy used the Sport England 'Active Places Power' database tool to propose new local performance indicators that measure the availability of swimming pools, in terms of travel time, for each Plymouth postcode area.

In this respect postcode areas PL5/PL6 and PL9 are priorities for additional pool provision. A swimming pool in the North of the City and in the East either in the Plymstock/Sherford area would ensure that Plymouth has reasonable provision for the longer term.

New Pool (Area PL9/East of the City)

For thirteen years the Plymstock and District Swimming Pool Association has campaigned for recreation facilities large enough to support the needs of the wider Plymstock community. They have suggested various sites where a new pool could be situated.

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Within Plymstock itself a large-scale housing proposal at Plymstock Quarry is currently under consideration, as set out in the Local Development Framework North Plymstock Area Action Plan. Plans are also well advanced for a major development at Sherford, just outside the Plymstock area. These developments will provide high quality sustainable mixed use, but mainly residential new neighbourhoods and incorporate modern and sufficient public facilities.

Combined developer contribution will be sought for either on or off-site provision to help support delivery of a new swimming pool for the existing and new communities.

The Sherford development has already seen early discussion about on-site provision of a new sporting hub.

Off-site contribution would necessitate the identification of a suitable site elsewhere and would require consideration of further attributable costs.

New Pool (Area PL5/PL6/North of the City))

A site to be identified to serve both postcode areas.

A number of sites are under consideration.

Management options and revenue support for each of these sites has yet to be determined. We are also keen to continue discussions with Marjons over maximising the use of campus based swimming for the public

Recommendations

Should the recommendations in 6.1 be accepted the results would be the provision of the following new facilities:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1. Life Centre | (4 units) |
| 2. New Pool PL5/PL9 | (1 unit) |
| 3. New Pool PL9 | (1 unit) |

This would therefore satisfy the requirements outlined in section 4.

In order to achieve these aspirations it is proposed that future swimming pool provision in Plymouth should concentrate on the following:

1. Provision of the Life Centre project in Central Park The project incorporating a 50 metre pool would increase the city's net pool area by nearly 850m². It would also offer the opportunity to address social issues and longstanding aspirations to improve the city's sports facilities.
2. Provision of an additional pool serving the East of the city/PL9 postcode area. This could be either at a site in Plymstock itself, but much more likely as part of a planned pool in the new Sherford development, funded by developer

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contributions for both Plymouth City Council and South Hams District Council. The management of such a facility to be determined.

3. Provision of a site to be identified in the North of the city to serve the PL5 and PL6 postcode areas.
4. PCC officers be requested to bring forward proposals in relation to Recommendations 1,2 and 3 that sit in the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan by the end of February 2007.
5. PCC officers be asked to discuss the Strategy with key stakeholders in the New Year.