

# Sports Strategy Consultation 2006

Consultation on the draft Sports Strategy took place between September and November 2006.

A total of 1183 responses were received.

The following sections set out the main findings from the consultation.

## Sports priorities

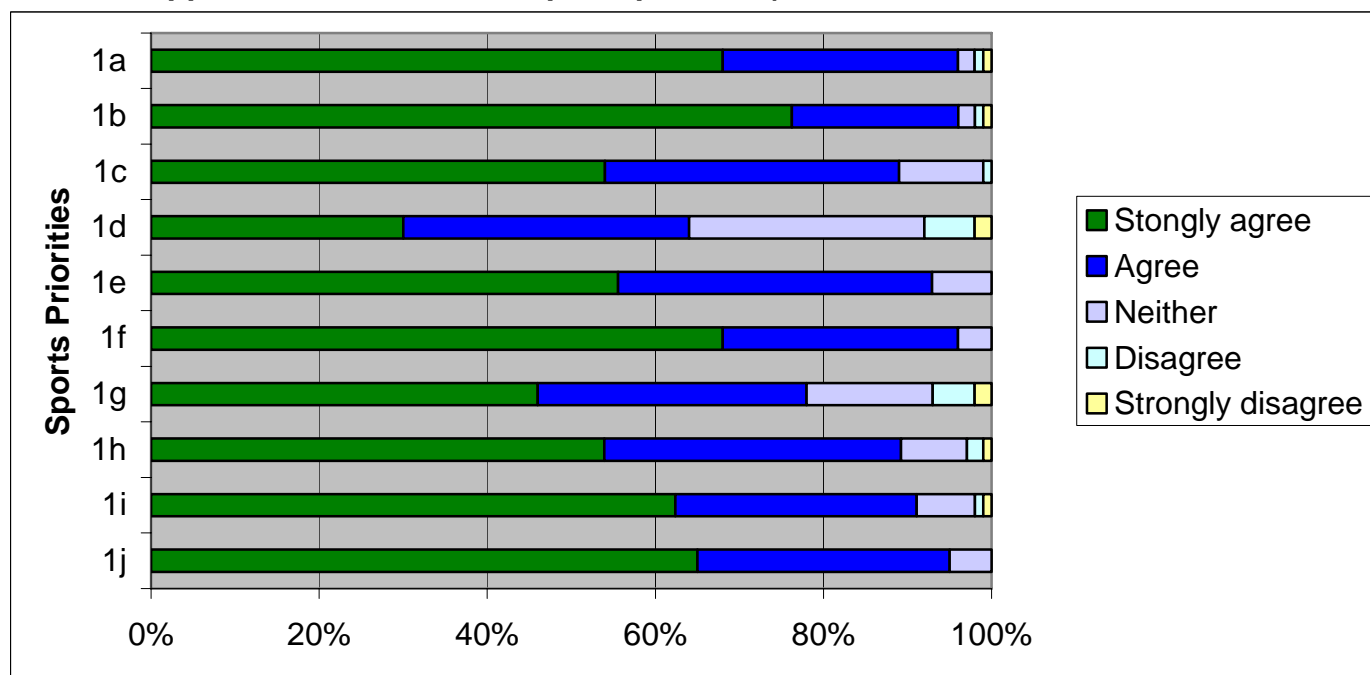
Respondents were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with ten statements about sports and leisure provision in the district.

As Figure 1 shows, 'Improving and developing the range of existing and new high quality sports facilities' (1b) was the most popular sports priority, with 97% agreeing<sup>1</sup>.

This was followed by 'Raising awareness of sports facilities, clubs and events' (1a); 'Improving and promoting playing fields, parks and open spaces for sport' (1f) and 'Increasing sports opportunities and participation in schools (for both students and general public)' (1j).

The least popular priority was 'Increasing participation in sport by specific groups of residents' (1d).

**Figure 1: Agreement or disagreement with sports priorities (see Appendix 1 for full list of sports priorities)**



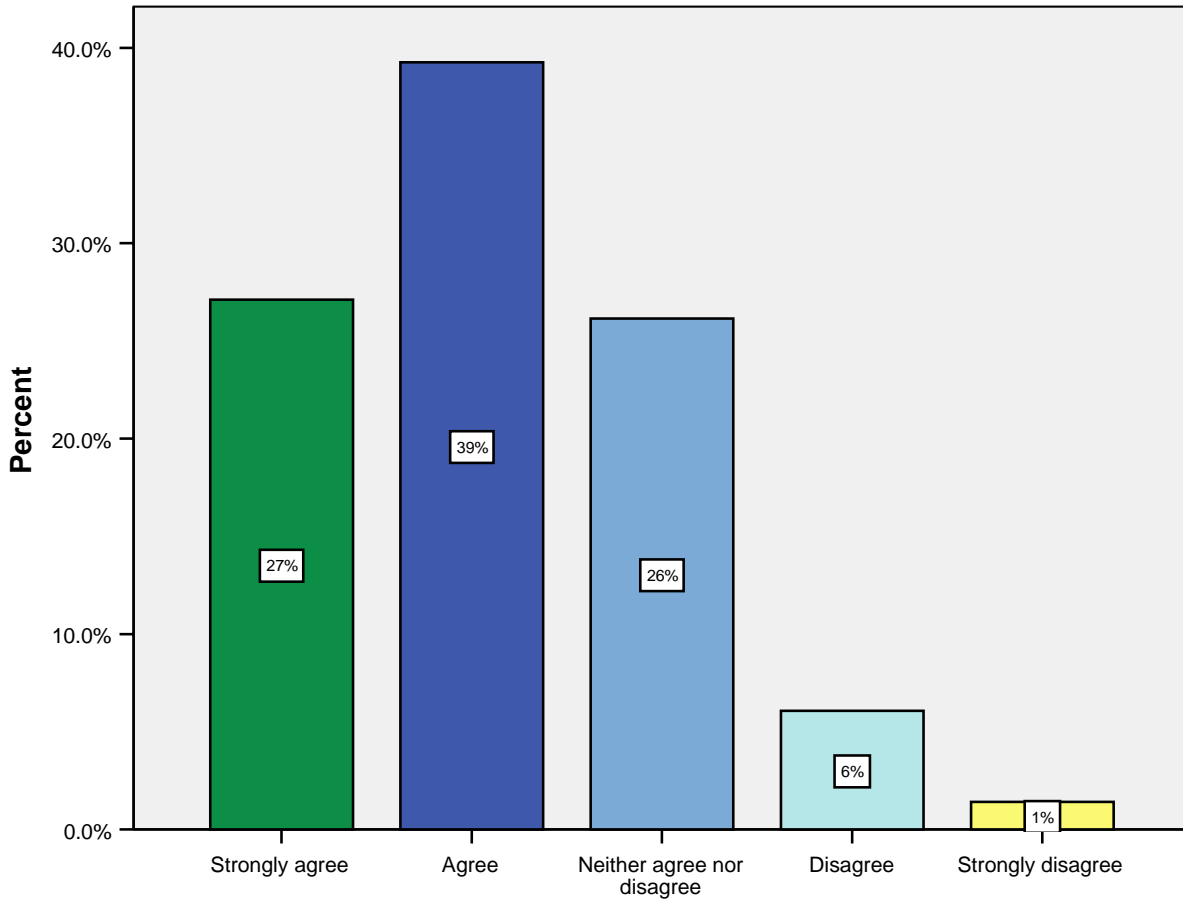
Base: various

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this report agreeing includes both 'strongly agree' and 'agree'

## Sports Strategy vision

The majority (66%) of respondents agree with that the Sports Strategy provides clear strategic direction for the future provision of sports and leisure facilities and services in the district. Only 8% of respondents disagreed.

**Figure 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Sports Strategy provides clear, strategic direction for the future provision of sport and leisure facilities and services in the district?**



**Base: 1110**

## Facility Developments

Respondents were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with 13 proposed facility developments from the Sports Strategy.

As Figure 3 shows, the most popular facility developments were:

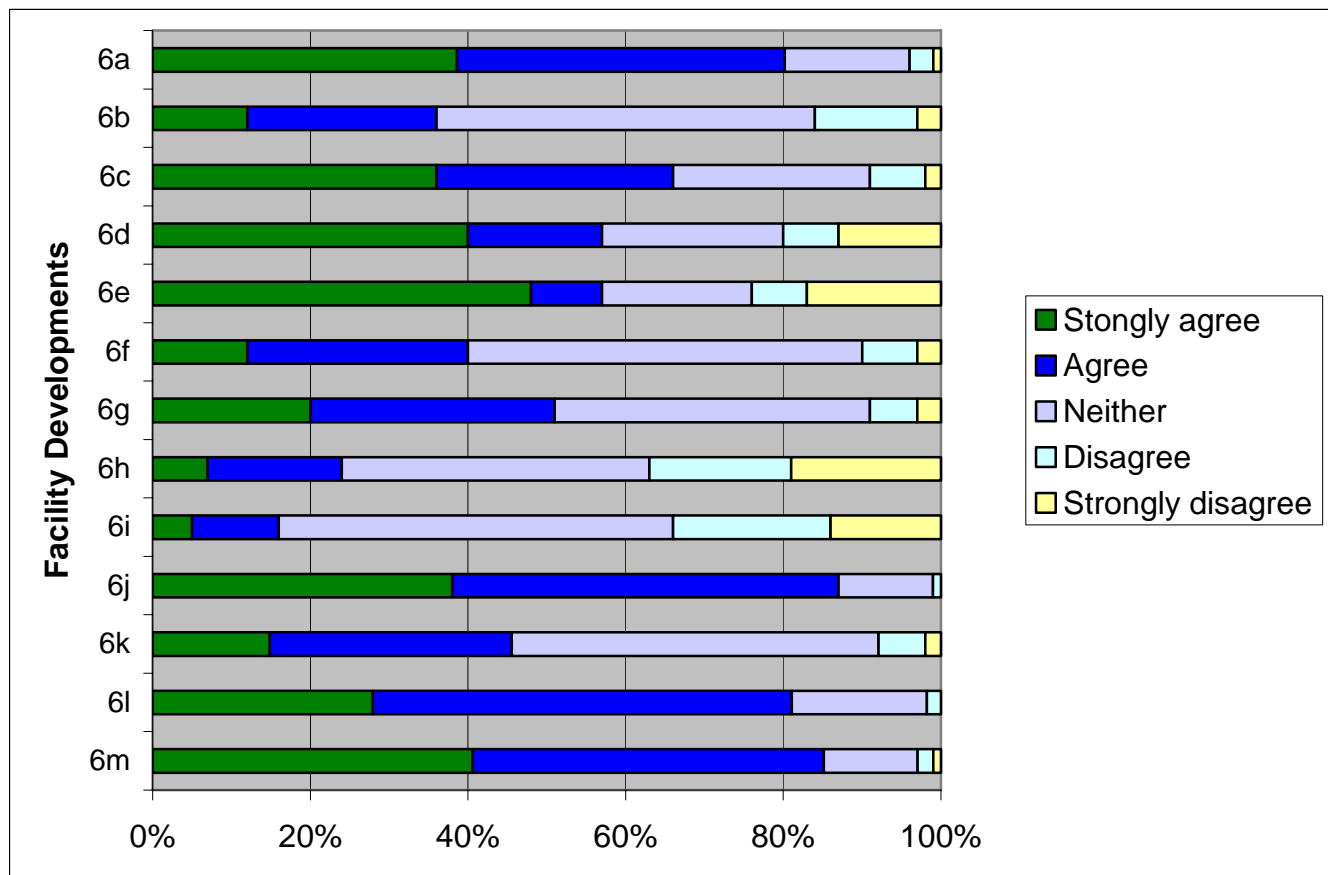
- Increased health and fitness provision (6a)
- Investment in playing fields' infrastructure (6j)
- Community access to improved schools' sport facilities (6m)

'New stadia facilities for Wakefield Wildcats' received the highest level of strong agreement (48%), but also the second highest level of strong disagreement (17%).

The least popular facility developments were:

- Reduce Council's golf provision (6h)
- Reduce outdoor bowls provision (6i)

**Figure 3: Agreement or disagreement with facility developments (see Appendix 2 for full list of facility developments)**



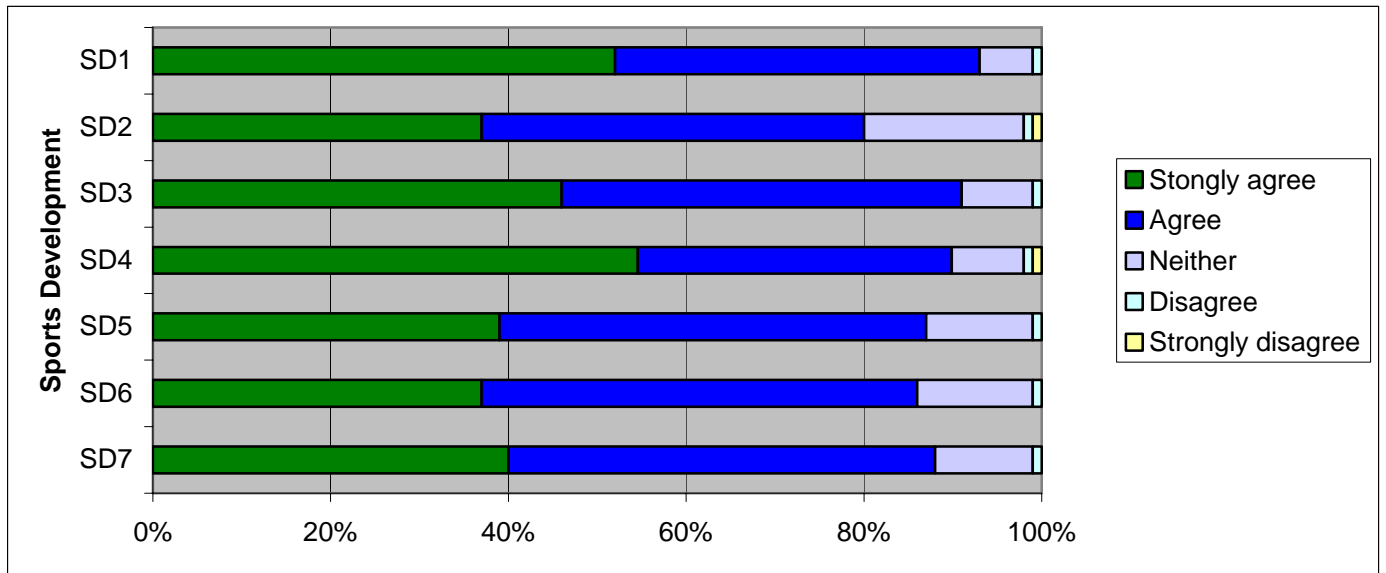
Base: various

## Sports Development

Respondents were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with seven areas for sports development from the Sports Strategy.

All areas received strong support, with even the lowest - Sport development to be based on the principles of "Start, Stay and Succeed" (SD2) - getting agreement from 80% of respondents.

**Figure 4: Agreement or disagreement with sports development areas (see Appendix 3 for full list of sports development areas)**



Base: various

## Facility Development Recommendations

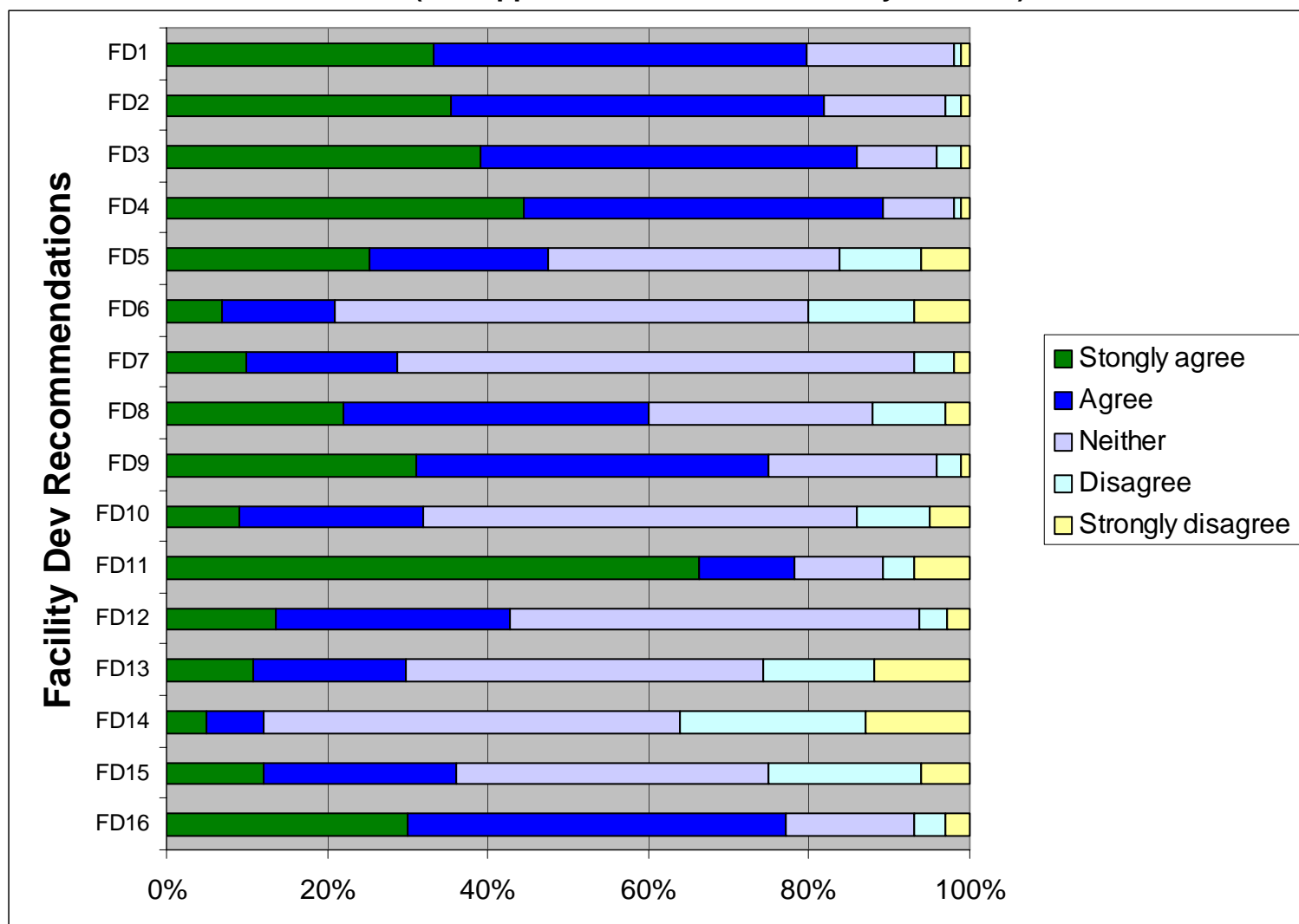
Respondents were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with 16 recommendations for facility development from the Sports Strategy.

As Figure 5 shows, the most popular recommendation, in terms of strong agreement, was that 'the council should support the professional rugby league teams in the district in achieving new stadium and facility developments' (FD11).

The following recommendations also received high levels of agreement:

- Future facilities should be developed to reflect identified strategic priorities (FD1)
- Facilities should not duplicate programmes and be both accessible and affordable (FD2)
- Sports facilities at school sites should be supported to provide community access (FD3)
- Specific sports facilities should be supported where the development can be achieved through partnership with clubs, schools and the community (FD4)
- There is a need to improve community access to schools facilities (FD16)

**Figure 5: Agreement or disagreement with facility development recommendations (see Appendix 4 for full list of facility dev recs)**



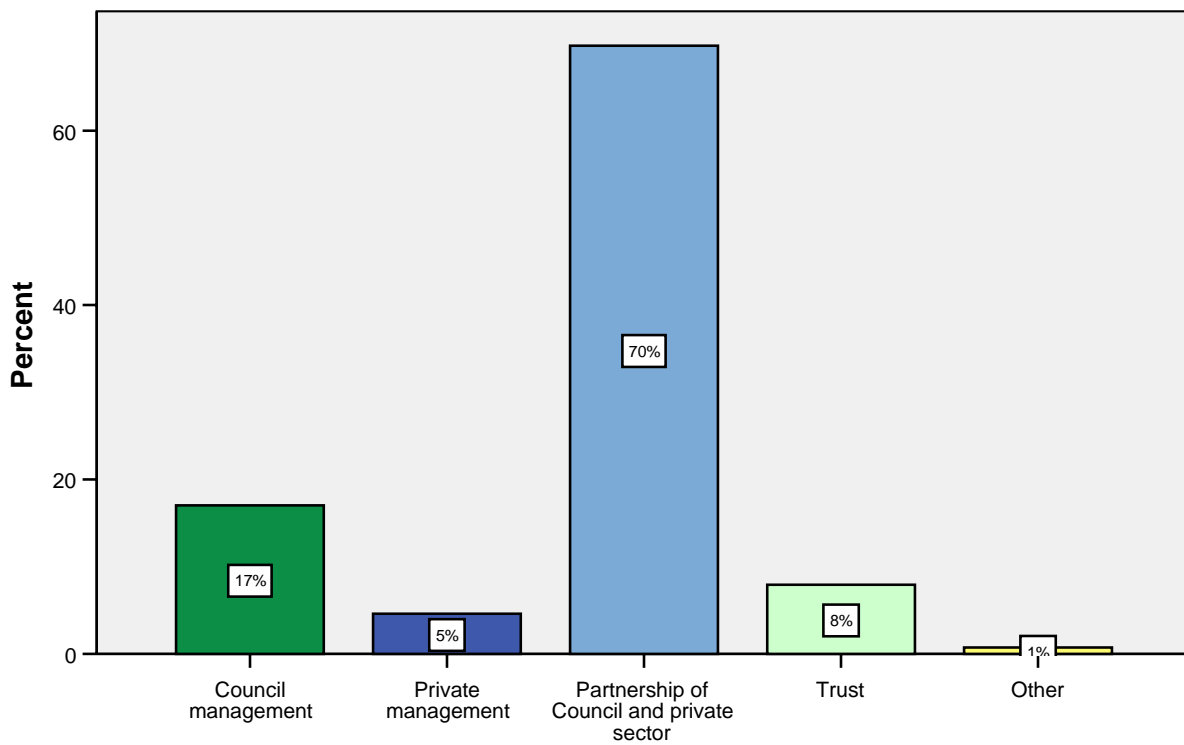
Base: various (only based on 2<sup>nd</sup> Questionnaire maximum respondents 948)

## Management of sports facilities

Respondents were asked to state which option they would prefer for sports and leisure facilities management.

As Figure 6 shows, the most popular choice was a 'Partnership of Council and private sector' (70%). This was followed by 'Council management' (17%).

**Figure 6: Sports and leisure facilities management**



**Base:**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Question 1 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- 1a. Raising awareness of sports facilities, clubs and events
- 1b. Improving and developing the range of existing and new high quality sports facilities
- 1c. Increasing participation in sport among all residents
- 1d. Increasing participation in sport by specific groups of residents
- 1e. Supporting and developing local voluntary sports clubs
- 1f. Improving and promoting playing fields, parks and open spaces for sport
- 1g. Developing a number of target/priority sports
- 1h. Supporting talented sports people who participate in the District
- 1i. Maximising the funding available for sports projects and individuals within the District
- 1j. Increasing sports opportunities and participation in schools (for both students and general public)

## Appendix 2

### **Question 6 - In relation to specific Facility Developments (Sports Strategy, page 33) to what extent do you agree or disagree with the recommendations?**

- 6a. Increased health and fitness provision (like gym and other fitness classes)
- 6b. An indoor bowls facility
- 6c. A Sports Village
- 6d. New stadia facilities for Castleford Tigers
- 6e. New stadia facilities for Wakefield Wildcats
- 6f. Development of sport and leisure facilities in South Elmsall Frickley Colliery
- 6g. Development of sport and leisure facilities in Prince of Wales Colliery (Castleford and Pontefract)
- 6h. Reduce Council's golf provision
- 6i. Reduce outdoor bowls provision
- 6j. Investment in playing fields' infrastructure (drainage, changing rooms etc.)
- 6k. Development of a sport centre in the South East of the District
- 6l. Facility improvements for existing and new voluntary sports clubs
- 6m. Community access to improved schools' sport facilities

## **Appendix 3**

**Question 8 - In relation to specific Sports Development (Sports Strategy, page 41-42) to what extent do you agree or disagree with the recommendations?**

- SD1. Increase spending on sports development
- SD2. Sport development to be based on the principles of "Start, Stay and Succeed"
- SD3. Sports development to focus on improving health
- SD4. Sports development to contribute to the reduction of antisocial behaviour
- SD5. Sports development to be provided for in partnership with education, voluntary sector and community sector
- SD6. Sports development to support voluntary sector sports clubs
- SD7. Sports development to increase participation and encourage local volunteers

## Appendix 4

### **Question 9 - In relation to specific Facility Development Recommendations (FD1 - FD16, Sports Strategy, page 43 - 46) to what extent do you agree or disagree with the recommendations?**

- FD1. Future facilities should be developed to reflect identified strategic priorities
- FD2. Facilities should not duplicate programmes and be both accessible and affordable
- FD3. Sports facilities at school sites should be supported to provide community access
- FD4. Specific sports facilities should be supported where the development can be achieved through partnership with clubs, schools and the community
- FD5. Lightwaves (and what was Sun Lane Pool) should be replaced with a single facility
- FD6. Knottingley Sports Centre should be replaced by facilities at Knottingley High School
- FD7. A further study should be developed to look at sports facilities in Minsthorpe
- FD8. Council facilities should be made financially sustainable by grouping a range of activities at one location
- FD9. Health and fitness provision at council facilities should be increased
- FD10. An indoor bowls facility should be provided at Thornes Park
- FD11. The council should support the professional rugby league teams in the district in achieving new stadium and facility developments
- FD12. Sports facilities should be developed at the former Frickley colliery and former Prince of Wales colliery
- FD13. Municipal golf provision should be rationalised and consolidated in Wakefield
- FD14. Outdoor bowls facilities should be reduced in Wakefield
- FD15. Investments should be prioritised in the best playing pitches
- FD16. There is a need to improve community access to schools facilities

# ***APPENDIX 11 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGY***

## **Club Analysis**

### **Indoor Clubs**

A total of 6 clubs responded (limited response for analysis purposes despite a number of attempts to obtain additional information), including gymnastics, swimming, and water polo clubs.

There is a variation in membership ranging from 40 (Minsthorpe Swimming Club) to 180 (Wakefield Gymnastics Club) although all clubs are looking to increase their membership base through a variety of methods including: club to school links; providing coaching for target groups; partnerships with the council, marketing and promotion; and word of mouth. Critically, Wakefield Gymnastics Club has a waiting list of over 300 and is currently seeking ways to increase the club capacity, largely through development of a new purpose built gymnastics facility.

All clubs currently use indoor facilities located within the Borough which include:

- Airedale Community Sports Centre
- Pontefract Swimming Pool
- Normanton Swimming Pool
- Castleford Swimming Pool
- Minsthorpe Swimming Pool
- Hemsworth Sports Centre

The majority of venues were rated as good.

Half of the clubs who responded have already, or are intending to, produce a club development plan (including in most cases a junior development plan) although only one club has a Governing Body Kitemark (Wakefield Gymnastics Club) and one other is seeking to achieve this status (City of Wakefield Swimming Club).

Common barriers faced by indoor sports clubs are a lack of suitable facilities, the cost of hiring facilities, and a lack of volunteers. Each club has its own facility requirements but overall it is felt that the District lacks purpose built gymnasiums and swimming pools in the North West and South West of Wakefield; however, generally within the District there is a surplus of swimming provision.

Specific identified challenges include: Wakefield Gymnastics Club has recently been awarded £375,000 from a Community Sports Bid for development of a new facility, however this amount falls short of the desired £600,000 needed to build a world class gymnastics venue and the club is consequently having to reconsider the best way to utilise this funding. Additionally, the City of Wakefield Swimming Club cites access to suitable timeslots as a barrier, and the Minsthorpe Marlins Swimming Club is suffering from a lack of members attributed to poor parental involvement.

### **Outdoor Clubs**

The outdoor sports clubs consulted were Athletics, Bowling, Rugby (league and union) and Golf; 21 clubs responded in total.

## ***APPENDIX 11 - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK ON DRAFT STRATEGY***

In relation to outdoor clubs, there is a variation in membership ranging from 30 (Ackworth Jaguars ARLFC) to 1368 (Sandal RFC) although it is worth noting that it was unknown how many of the members at Sandal RFC were regular playing members and how many were occasional members. The number of teams within each club ranges from a single team at Ackworth Jaguars, up to 16 teams at Sandal RFC.

All other sporting clubs reported having a capacity for increased members and it was deemed acceptable for the majority of members to travel between 1 and 20 miles to the club's home pitch.

### **Schools' Consultation Feedback**

A total of 90 schools responded from the 142 consulted. Of the 18 secondary schools in the District, responses were obtained from 17 (94%) and of the 124 primary schools, responses were obtained from 74 (60%).

Those schools with facilities unavailable for community use (outdoor) stated a lack of demand and/or building work as the reason why, and are therefore happy to permit community use in principle. There is one exception, Kettlethorpe High School, which is concerned about pitches becoming too worn as there is already substantial use by after school clubs. As anticipated there is reduced community access at primary schools (30% currently having facilities in use by clubs/organisations). Use of primary school playing pitches is predominantly by junior football teams and the most common use of indoor facilities is by Brownies/Cubs or exercise classes, martial arts and dance groups.

Those schools with facilities unavailable for community use (outdoor) stated a lack of demand and/or building work as the reason why, and are therefore happy to permit community use in principle. There is reduced community access at primary schools (30% currently having facilities in use by clubs/organisations). Use of primary school playing pitches is predominantly by junior football teams and the most common use of indoor facilities is by Brownies/Cubs or exercise classes, martial arts and dance groups.