

Outdoor Sports Centre: Inclusive access to sport



Overview

Southampton's Outdoor Sports Centre first opened in 1938 with a far-sighted objective to "promote health to untold numbers and prove to be one of the outstanding assets of a town."

The 150-acre site is often described as a "green lung" in the west of the city and attracts a variety of sports clubs and recreational users from across the Solent region.

Since its opening, over 80 years ago, changes and modifications have been minimal. There is now considerable interest in establishing a future vision for the Outdoor Sports Centre. Through co-creation approach, key areas have been identified for improvement to enhance both competitive sports and leisure user environments.



Draft Masterplan of Improvements



1 New 'hub' providing changing facilities, gym, café and three new indoor tennis and netball courts



2 New artificial grass football pitches



3 Improvements to the hockey pitches



4 Improvements to the snow sports centre including a new ski lodge



5 Transformational use of the north of the site with a new 'family zone' providing an outdoor gym, skatepark, children's play area and more



6 New enlarged grandstand and clubhouse for events and officials at the athletics track



7 Changes and improvements to cricket pitches



8 Improvements to the cycling provision across the site



9 New and additional car parking



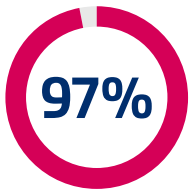
General improvements throughout the site including paths, seating, lighting and environmental enhancements



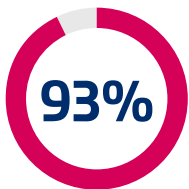
Engagement and consultation

Over recent years, several community engagement activities have taken place to inform the Draft Masterplan of Improvements

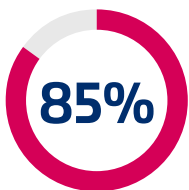
Key findings:



97% of respondents agreed that they would like to see improvements at the Outdoor Sports Centre



93% of respondents agreed with the proposals outlined in the Draft Masterplan of Improvements



The majority of respondents (85%) said that their use of the Outdoor Sports Centre would increase if the proposed changes were implemented with respondents aged 18 to 24 reporting their use would increase to the highest extent (92%)



Benefits

The Draft Masterplan of Improvements will deliver the following:

- Support target groups such as women and girls, children and young people and help tackle inequalities
- Provide a legacy from the UEFA Women's Euros held in July 2022
- Improve the quality of life in our city by providing inclusive access to sport and deliver sustainable economic, social, health and wellbeing outcomes.



The Draft Masterplan of Improvements to Southampton's Outdoor Sports Centre is expected to deliver **£98.8 million** of monetised benefits.



Outcomes



Transform and improve the facilities at the Outdoor Sports Centre



Dramatically increase opportunities for communities across the city to increase their level of physical activity



Provide health improvement and clear physical and mental health outcomes which meet the following strategies:

- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2017-2022
- Southampton Health and Wellbeing Strategy



Support and host Sports Clubs at a local and regional level and their community initiatives



Support city initiatives for sustainable active travel