



WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL DRAFT BUILT FACILITY STRATEGY

Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) has been commissioned by Welwyn Hatfield Council to develop the Built Facility Strategy for the Borough.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOOL

Chancellor's School is located on a large open site on the edge of Brookmans Park. The school is due to increase student numbers significantly over the next few years; this will place additional demands on school infrastructure, including sports facilities.

The existing on-site sports provision is extremely limited – 2 one court badminton halls, plus grass pitches. The school dining hall is also used for indoor physical activity; this hall is also used for school dinners, exams and school functions.

The existing indoor sports facilities do not provide school students with any dedicated or quality environment in which to experience sport and physical activity (both curriculum and extra-curriculum), and given their scale, limit both the extent of activities undertaken, and the number of participants at any one time.

The development of a new sports hall, and potentially other facilities in the future, will transform both curriculum and extra-curricular sport at the school, and enable the demands of the school's existing and future students to be addressed. Not only will this benefit the teaching and learning environment, but it will ensure that young people enjoy an early and high-quality experience of physical activity. It is known that such experience is more likely to result in young people continuing to be active into adult life; this is important to help combat obesity and inactivity and improve community health.

The development of a new sports hall will also benefit the local community. The School is keen to develop usage partnerships with the adjacent tennis and golf clubs, as well as the wider community and other local sports clubs, out of school times.

The draft Built Facility Strategy (2018) makes two specific recommendations which are relevant to the development of a new sports hall at Chancellor's School:

- **The need to increase access to sports facilities on education sites wherever possible, and particularly where new facilities are being developed, to benefit the local community when not in use by the school; and**
- **To explore all opportunities to develop a formal community use agreement (CUA) to protect community access to, and use of, sports facilities on education sites. To consider use of planning conditions to secure a CUA on all new sports halls developed in education sites.**