

# Harborough District Council Leisure Strategy 2024 - 2027

## Introduction

This leisure strategy aims to outline a comprehensive plan to enhance the leisure offerings within Harborough District by referencing Sport England's strategy and the Council's strategic priorities, as well as our Physical Activity Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027 and is designed to be included as an addendum to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027.

This Strategy will provide a structured plan for promoting and developing leisure opportunities within the district. This will enable the plan to be flexible and will be able to adapt and change to meet the future leisure demands and expectations of our resident.

## How does Leisure enable health and wellbeing

Below is a diagram that sets out how important our health and wellbeing is in ensuring a holistic approach to improved physical and mental health, it is important that leisure is not considered in isolation when supporting our communities health and wellbeing needs. Instead, a golden thread that can be found underpinning all the elements that make up a healthy lifestyle.



## Integration and alignment of the Leisure Strategy

It is important we do not create a stand-alone Leisure Strategy but offer a comprehensive plan to enhance the leisure offerings for our residents. It is vital to integrate and align the Sport England strategy, Harborough District Council's strategic priorities, as well as our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2027. By doing so, we can maximise resources and create a holistic approach to leisure development that caters to the needs of our community. By integrating these priorities, we can effectively address the leisure needs of the district, now and plan for the future.

**Sport England Strategy** focuses on five key priorities:

- active communities
- children and young people
- sport workforce
- infrastructure
- tackling inactivity

These priorities align well with **Harborough District Council's strategic priorities**, which include enhancing community engagement and leadership, promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices, creating sustainable environments, supporting economic growth, and promoting social inclusion.

**Harborough District Council's Physical Activity Strategy** emphasises the importance of physical activity in promoting healthy lifestyles. It aims to increase participation levels across all age groups by delivering targeted programmes and initiatives, improving existing facilities, and ensuring accessibility for all. This will be achieved through collaboration with sports clubs, schools, and community organisations.

The Council's **Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27** focuses on addressing health inequalities and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing within the community. By encouraging active lifestyles, it aims to reduce the prevalence of preventable diseases and improve overall quality of life.

The strategy highlights the importance of partnerships with local health agencies and community groups to deliver effective interventions and support services.

## **Key Focus Areas and Objectives**

The Leisure Strategy will focus on five key areas which will ensure the delivery of the objectives of this Strategy, but also support the above-mentioned strategies and policies.

### **1. Community Engagement and Participation:**

Objective: Increase community engagement and participation in leisure activities by implementing targeted outreach programs.

- Establish regular consultation channels to gather input from residents, clubs, and organisations.
- Develop culturally inclusive programs and events to encourage participation from diverse communities.
- Provide accessible and affordable leisure opportunities for all age groups, abilities, and backgrounds.

### **2. Facilities Development and Enhancement:**

Objective: Improve and expand leisure facilities to meet the growing demand and diverse needs of our community.

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of existing facilities, identifying areas for improvement and potential new developments.
- Secure funding through grants and partnerships to upgrade and expand existing leisure centres, sports pitches, and recreational spaces.
- Enhance accessibility and inclusivity features in all facilities, ensuring provisions for individuals with disabilities.

### **3. Active Lifestyles Promotion:**

Objective: Foster a culture of active living and encourage a wide range of physical activities.

- Implement campaigns and initiatives to raise awareness about the benefits of physical activity and engage individuals and families.
- Collaborate with schools to promote physical activity and extracurricular sports and leisure programs.
- Provide training and support for local sports clubs, coaches, and volunteers to deliver high-quality activities.

### **4. Collaboration and Partnerships**

Objective: Further strengthen partnerships with relevant stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise.

- Establish collaborative networks with local sports clubs, community organisations, schools, and health networks.
- Develop strategic partnerships secure additional funding and expertise.
- Share best practices and knowledge across sectors to maximise impact and efficiency.

### **5. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Objective: Regularly assess the effectiveness and impact of leisure initiatives and make informed adjustments.

- Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework to track participation rates, satisfaction levels, and health outcomes.
- Collect and analyse data on leisure facility usage and identify trends and areas for improvement.
- Engage in regular consultations and feedback to measure the success of implemented initiatives.

### **Implementation and sharing outcomes.**

To ensure the successful execution of this leisure strategy, an annual plan will be developed. This plan will include timelines, responsible parties, and resource allocation where appropriate. Regular reviews and adjustments will take place to accommodate changes in community needs, emerging trends, and available resources.

The Plan will be developed as part of the Council's annual business planning process, delivered as part of business as usual and reported through the Council's quarterly reporting process captured in the monitoring system, Pentana.