

Case Study - Southampton Council: Facilities Improvement Service – Core Topics for Interview Discussion

Topic 1 Local Strategic Partnership (LSP Team)

1. How important is sport and physical activity in the Southampton Sustainable Community strategy ? As
 - A topic in its own right
 - A topic aimed to deliver other SCS objectives and if so which and why
 - Where does sport and pa sit as a topic currently sit within the LSP structure and organisation
 - Is the priority for sport likely to change in any reviews of the SCS and if so what will be the driver for change ?
 - What are the specific sport and pa actions and work which relate to delivery of the SCS ?

Topic 2 Local Strategic Relationships (possibly all interviewees)

2. How well do you consider this organisational framework works formally (and informally) – and why ?
3. Which Council Strategies do you consider determine the role of sport and green spaces across Southampton - and why?



4. Within those strategies could you cite the key objectives/policies which are most important – and why?
5. Is sport and green spaces likely to be a more important topic/service in the future and, if so, why (based on achieving which corporate or SCS objectives)
6. How could the strategic planning and development of sport and green spaces work better in the future – eg
 - structural change/ better identification and agreement on corporate priorities/changes in working practices – which and why?
 - joint working across service areas but where each service achieves its own output ?
 - what would be your key output form joint working ?

Topic 2 Working Practices (CYPP, Planning and Recreation Management)

7. Repeat of questions 5 and 6 above
8. Can you cite some examples of joint working in the planning/delivery of sport and green spaces?
 - Which strategic document(s)/objective(s) was the driver for this work?
 - Who took lead responsibility and why?
 - What was the outcome of the work – did it lead to changes in Council policy/new investment – or what



- What sources of needs/evidence or baseline data was used in first defining and delivering the joint work - why these sources.
- Has any (new baseline been established to measure change from this joint work - what?

9. If there are no examples of joint working then is this because:

- No common areas of work – to meet Council objectives?
- Lack of shared agreement on corporate priorities?
- Different priorities/timescales/outputs

10. Are there areas of joint working in sport and green spaces which could meet the needs of individual departments (like a needs and evidence base for indoor sports facilities which could serve the needs of Leisure Services and change/inform Planning Policy)

Topic 3 Needs and Evidence Base for Planning and Greenspace strategy Recreation Management and Planners)

11. There appear to be very sources of needs assessment for sport and green spaces – why do you consider this to be so?

12. What (if any) are the main sources of the needs and evidence base for sport and greenspace?.



13. How has the green spaces audit assisted in developing local standards (or why has this not happened)

14. Is there common agreement across Parks and Open space and Planning as to what information is needed to develop a needs base and apply local standards? If there are different views what are these and why do they exist?.

15. Do you consider any of the existing needs and evidence base is robust enough to stand scrutiny?
 - Which subject areas/evidence is robust – and why
 - Which subject areas need updating and why
 - Which are the priorities topics for new work
 - Which do not exist and why

16. Which serviced/department should take responsibility for “plugging gaps” and what would be the role/responsibility of your service area in doing this work with joint ownership and development?

17. How would the outcomes of any new work be used by your department/service area?

18. How could the use of any new needs and evidence base change Council planning policy policy and what would need to be done to make this happen?



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