



IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Service Overview for: SPORTS SERVICES

Sports Services is part of Culture and Leisure Services managed by the Head of Culture and Leisure Services Billy Brennan and falls within Corporate Director Jonathan Owen's directorate.

The service area covers Team Ipswich sports facilities comprising of Northgate, Maidenhall, Gainsborough and Whitton sports centres and the Crown Pools and Fore Street swimming pools.

Ipswich Borough Council owns Gainsborough, Whitton and the Pools facilities, whilst Northgate and Maidenhall are owned by Suffolk County Council and managed by Ipswich Borough Council.

The individual facilities and services provide a comprehensive range of quality leisure provision accessible to the whole community including casual activities, courses, club bookings and events. The sports centres are open for an average of 355 days a year whilst the Pools are open for an average of 360 days.

Team Ipswich was established in June 2005 to promote sport within Ipswich and was enhanced by appointing Karen Pickering as the town's Ambassador for Sport. This profile was further enhanced with the announcement that London would be host to the 2012 Olympic Games. Team Ipswich is not only the Community Sports Network for Ipswich, but also the umbrella for all sports services provided by Ipswich Borough Council. Its aim is to raise the profile of sport in Ipswich and raise the profile of Ipswich through Sport.

Staff within the facilities provide a high level of expertise to support events held both in the facilities and at other venues within the Borough. One of the strengths of the service is the staff knowledge and experience in a wide range of fields. The service is readily acknowledged and used by many of the other services within the Council, external clubs and organisations in the town and the wider community. All of the facilities are Quest accredited and have achieved commended scores in the high 70's in percentage scores when assessed.

The provision of facilities and promotion of opportunities for participation in sport are common aims that lie at the core of both national and local strategy. At a local level, this has been expressed within the Community Plan, the Cultural Strategy and the Team Ipswich Community Network Sports Strategy and Action Plan itself. Alongside core aims, a number of other aims and objectives have been established to reflect the wider national and local agenda and *Transforming Ipswich*. Within the aims and objectives of *Transforming Ipswich*, the service has a primary contribution in the area of Vibrant Ipswich, as well as supporting the core values of the other aims.