

## SOME EXAMPLES OF UK JOINT PROVISION AND DUAL USE SCHEMES

A pot pourri of schemes and backgrounds across the four countries and the decades involving variously schools, education authorities, local councils and occasionally local voluntary bodies.

It can be seen that sports centre initiatives involving schools are multifarious and interesting.

Based on available information.

### SCOTLAND

Scotland was behind the English timetable with directly provided centres and the same was true of provision on school sites. Reflecting the Scottish local government scenario, schemes on school sites were principally provided directly, mainly by regional councils, especially those that had an emphasis on 'community schools' (defined as those which allow adults access to its facilities during the school day whether for recreational or educational purposes). Community school examples are particularly found in the Grampian, Highland, Lothian, and Tayside Regions. These were set up essentially as 'single provider' dual use schemes. Management arrangements are varied in a complex pattern as reflected in the various examples.

There were also several school-based centres that started out as 'single management' operations but later incorporated a District Council partner in some form.

- **Wester Hailes Education Centre** in Edinburgh (1978), is probably Scotland's best-known joint provision leisure centre, not least because of its leisure pool. With schooling for 1500 pupils, the modern looking complex serves what was a new housing area of 20,000 on the edge of the city. It was not just the leisure facilities, but the 'second chance' policy of opportunities for adults to study for education certificates in the day, that marked out the originality of the scheme.

#### *Wester Hailes Leisure Pool*



**Duncanrig Sports Centre** (1980) at Duncanrig Secondary School, within East Kilbride DC, is a multi-purpose centre with one large sports hall, two smaller sports halls, a dance studio, the Gym and a full-size outdoor synthetic pitch.



- **Arbroath Sports Centre** (1985) was developed at Arbroath High School. The school was built in a residential area not far from the town centre. After 1996 Angus DC Recreation Services Department took on the centre management. As well as the facilities normally associated with schools, the school has priority use of the Sports Centre during the day. The Centre contains a full-sized swimming pool, squash courts, gymnasium and games hall. The general public make use of these facilities outside school hours. Extensive playing fields are adjacent to the school as well as an all-weather floodlit astroturf pitch.



**1 Arbroath Pool**

**2 Musselburgh Pool**

**3 Musselburgh Sports Hall**

- **Aboyne Academy and Deeside Community Centre** (c.1989/90) has a 25m pool, a sports hall, a squash court and a fitness area. There was a dual management system, but community education no longer has a management involvement and the facilities now operate under the single control of the Rector.
- **Musselburgh Sports Centre** was developed by the former East Lothian DC on the Musselburgh Grammar School campus. Musselburgh Grammar School is a large-state secondary school that serves as the main secondary school for Musselburgh and the surrounding areas of Wallyford and Whitecraig. The school itself dates back to the sixteenth century. A sports hall, squash courts and fitness area were opened, and the Council later added a 25-metre 6-lane pool and health suite.
- **Queensferry High Recreation Centre** opened in the 1990s with both a pool and dry facilities. The management arrangements are based on a written agreement of all the original partners.
- **St. Andrew's High School, East Kilbride.** Early provision was by Strathclyde Regional Council and East Kilbride DC were later involved in enhancing the centre facilities. The DC successor, South Lanarkshire Council, then provided on site management. A new school with a large Games Hall and two gymnasia were then provided in 2007.



**Black Isle LC**

- **Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose.** This sports centre, adjacent to Fortrose Academy, the only secondary school on the Black Isle, incorporated a Highland Council general 'Service Point'. Ross & Cromarty DC and the Regional Council originally operated a dual use agreement. Since 1996 the Highland Council has operated the Centre. The school has no direct involvement in the management of the centre. The Centre now provides a sports hall (4 courts); fitness suite; meeting room; and 130 seat theatre/studio. It is operated by High Life Highland, a charity formed in 2011 by The Highland Regional Council.

- **Culloden Academy.** This school has a sports wing with wet and dry facilities, which was built in the mid-1990s. It is also operated by High Life Highland.



***Culloden Academy***

- **Cupar Sports Centre** was built in the grounds of Elmwood College. It has a 25-metre swimming pool; sports hall (4 badminton courts); 3G Astroturf football pitch; a gym; 2 glass-backed squash courts and a cafe. It is operated by Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.
- **Kirkcaldy High School.** This community school has dry facilities and is operated by Fife Council with a Head of Centre, working closely with the Rector.
- **Biggar Sports Centre** is a dual use sports facility open to the public in the evenings and at weekends. It is in Strathclyde Region and is in a rural location at Biggar High School, near East Kilbride (Scotland's first new town in 1947). Since 1996, it has been run by South Lanarkshire DC.



***Biggar SC***

- **Strathaven Leisure Centre** at the site of Strathaven Academy was opened to the public in April 1999. The Leisure Centre comprises a 20-metre swimming pool, a gymnasium, a health suite containing a sauna, steam room and spa, a fitness suite, multi-purpose room and pool viewing area. As part of the school's modernisation programme, in September 2009 the Leisure Centre again became a fully operational dual use facility connecting to the newly built Strathaven Academy. Additional facilities include a large and small games hall, squash court, fitness suite, changing facilities and an all-weather outdoor pitch.
- **Edinburgh Academy** is an independent school on Arboretum Road. In 1999, a new Sports Hall was opened on the campus. It was partly funded by The Lottery and Sport Scotland and is for the use of not only pupils in both parts of the school (secondary and junior) but also of the community in the area.



## WALES

Whilst not jointly provided, in 1970 **Prestatyn High School** was probably the first Welsh school to have a sports hall and to make it available for some adult use.

Wales was nonetheless 'early to the party' in the 1970s with DU/JP centres in the 'districts' of Torfaen, Islwyn, Monmouth, Dyfed and Blenau Gwent. The County of Gwent was a joint partner to the fore in Wales. Its story was of a progression from the 1950s when a youth/adult annexe was incorporated into the new secondary school buildings in Caldicot. Its success led to a policy to provide such facilities at all new secondary schools. The next step, in cooperation with local councils, brought joint provision. This giant stride forward was to lead to 18 jointly provided leisure centres on school sites throughout most of Gwent by 1980 (in some places, Monmouthshire would be a more accurate description). Other early joint provision sports centres and sports halls in Wales, often built adjacent to the school site, included: **Buckley SC** (1972); **Ystrad Mynach** (1974); **Connahs Quay** (1974); **Mold SC** (1974); **Denbigh LC** (1975); **Heolddu** (1976); **Cefn Hengoed, Llanilltud LC** (1979) and **Camarthen LC**. (1981). Since then all of these appear to have had new schools and new or upgraded sports centres provided.



**Mold SC**



**Denbigh LC**

**The Ysgol Rhiwabon Sports Centre**, Wrexham, is on the Ruabon Comprehensive School campus (previously Ruabon Grammar School dating back to 1575). It has a 4-badminton court sports hall and a multi-purpose room and is host to North West Wales Cricket Development. In 2015 it was designated School of the Year by the Welsh Football Trust. In 2020 centre management is undertaken by Freedom Leisure.



**Ruabon SC**

**The John Bright High School** in Llandudno, Conwy, campus comprises a newer PFI school and leisure centre. The school best describes this as 'a triangle of responsibility regarding the facilities and day-to-day management'. The school contract with Sodexo covers school use of facilities for 195 days, 8.00 am - 6.00 pm. This results in the school being restricted in relation to use of the building outside the contract times. However, it is stated relationships are carefully managed, trust has been developed and the contract does not cause problems on a day-to-day basis.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

In Northern Ireland the local government structures, geography and population size meant that sports centre provision was almost exclusively made directly by borough and district councils. Thus, there appear to be no Joint Provision centres, as such, developed. However, some community centres with halls used for recreation had cocktails of joint funding. These included:

- **Ballysally Youth & Community Centre** (1980) in Coleraine, was built close to the Primary School. Since the early days, the centre has developed a vibrant community programme including use of its hall. The centre encourages community education and development through activities, classes, courses and special events.
- **Pilots Row Community Centre** in Derry (1979); and
- **The Bawnacre Centre** (1984) in Irvinestown, is a unique leisure, youth and community centre. The recreation facilities include:
  - Large Multi-purpose Main Hall and Stage (can accommodate 900)
  - Minor Hall (300); Small Hall (150); Lecture Theatre and Fitness Suite; Snooker Room and Cafe and Social Area plus outdoor facilities, including international size floodlit synthetic pitch.



*Bawnacre Centre*

## ENGLAND

### NORTH WEST

**CHESHIRE LED THE WAY IN THE NORTH WEST** as can be seen in Chapter 8 and in the *Cheshire case study* link.

#### **BOLTON'S TRIO**

Three joint provision centres were built in Bolton in the 1970s, and are still operating in 2020: -

- **Westhoughton Leisure Centre** (1977). A swimming pool and sports hall were provided in 1976 at Westhoughton High School. Hall refurbishments were undertaken in 2003.
- **Little Lever Sports Centre** (1977) is at Little Lever School and was provided with a sports hall, gymnasium, squash courts and outdoor areas. It has been an academy since 2015 (thus ceasing the joint agreement).
- **Turton Sports Centre** (1977) at Turton School. In 2020 fundraising started to replace the roof. Facilities include a sports hall, swimming pool, gymnasium, dance studio and an astroturf pitch.

#### **ST. HELENS - TOWARDS A WIDER USE**

St. Helens was represented on the 'Towards a Wider Use' Working Party in 1976. In 1977 Sutton Sports Centre opened at Sutton High School. The school became a sports college and was later extensively refurbished as Sutton Academy under 'Building Schools for the Future'. It was into the 1980s by the time joint provision at Parr High School (swimming pool, gymnasium and outdoor pitches) was achieved with grant aid from the Sports Council. The school later closed. Grange High School then had a large sports hall provided with assistance from the Merseyside Initiative.



*Parr Hill (l) Sutton (r)*

## MIDLANDS

### RURAL SHROPSHIRE



**The Adams Sports Centre** at The Thomas Adams School in North Shropshire was a good example of a joint use centre in the mid-1970s. The 1150 pupil comprehensive school, with 60 boarders, had a catchment of 100 square miles - an indication of the geography. (Joint provision has been important in making provision for rural areas. This has also been evident in what is seen in Wales, Scotland and in the South West of England and Eastern England). Capital funding for facilities in Shropshire became available because of the development of comprehensive schools. A Joint Management Committee at the Adams Centre consisted of County and District councillors and 2 user representatives. The majority of expenditure is apportioned between the two councils and all income goes to the District Council. There was club use and a substantial coaching programme. The pragmatic organisation included the Centre Manager, Bryn Hughes, also being the Head of P.E. The school also used the District Council swimming pool.



*Rykneld SC Derby*



*Lodge Park SC Corby*

### DERBY GRAMMAR'S DAY ARRIVES

With the modern independence of schools, they sometimes act themselves to acquire sports facilities. In 2017 Derby Grammar School bought a 35-acre site, with a sports centre, from Derby College. It renamed it **Rykneld Sports Centre**. It enables the school to have a dedicated sports facility for the first time in its 22-year history and also to hire it out to the local community. The site comprises a large sports hall for badminton, tennis, basketball and indoor cricket coaching, a floodlit Astroturf pitch for hockey training and fixtures and three rugby pitches.

**CORBY THE STEEL TOWN** Lodge Park School, in the north end of Corby, opened in 1964. It then became a Technology College and is now an Academy. The **Lodge Park Sports Centre** is adjacent and was opened in 1976 by Sir Matt Busby. It is now operated by Corby Borough Council. It has a 4-court sports hall and a practice hall mainly for martial arts, junior gymnastics and trampolining.



*Official Opening by Sir Matt - Lodge Park Sports Centre*

## NORTHAMPTON

**The Willison Sports Centre** in Northampton opened in 1994 with a sports hall and swimming pool. The 'Willison Centre' actually embraces the Elizabeth Woodville Schools in Northampton and Milton Keynes.

## SPORTS COUNCIL TUS PILOT PROJECT

Tamworth Sports Centre in Staffordshire was a Sports Council TUS Development Project in 1975/76 in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council, Tamworth Borough Council and Arts Council. The opportunity for a joint provision centre arose when Belgrave School needed an extension for the town's expanding population. A sports hall and sports/arts workshop were provided by the TUS Architects. The Campus is now Tamworth Enterprise College.



## SOUTH WEST

North Dorset and Caradon District Councils (South East Cornwall) were amongst early successful partners of their education authorities on school sites in the creation of accessible indoor sports centres for school and community. Mid Devon Council opened **Culm Valley Sports Centre** on a school site in 1985. Taunton Deane Borough created an effective indoor sports centre strategy for the community on school sites with Somerset County Council. Ivybridge Community College became a Sports College in 1997. Since then the facilities and sporting provision has increased considerably. To enable public use, a Community Sport Department was initiated in 1999. The Department hires out the sports facilities, manages the College's fitness suite, '**Ivybridge Health and Fitness Centre**', coordinates activity programmes during the holidays and create links to local sporting clubs.

## CORNWALL – Helston Sports Centre

The Sports Centre was built adjacent to Helston Community College, previously Helston Secondary School. Extensive refurbishment work has now taken place. The £450,000 investment, including a new 42-station gym, was completed in October 2018.



*Helston SC*



**St. Paul's Academy Sports Centre** – a new facility in Bristol. Right in the heart of the city, St Paul's Community Sports Academy is a modern, fully- equipped sports facility with multi-purpose rooms for meetings. Outdoors it has 3 floodlit 3G artificial pitches.



*St. Paul's Sports Centre*

## EASTERN

**Haverhill Sports Centre** (1971): When the West Suffolk County Council approved the ultimate expansion of Haverhill from 18,500 to 30,000, they commissioned the eminent architect and planner, Sir Frederick Gibberd (designer of Harlow New Town), to prepare a master plan, which included a sports centre. On October 1st, 1971, the Haverhill Sports Centre was opened, built by the then West Suffolk County Council. Sir John Hill, Chief Education Officer for the County, and a former Regional Chair and member of The Sports Council, was instrumental as a gamechanger for joint provision. John Binks moved from the Grove, where he was Deputy Manager, to be the first Manager. (Haverhill Leisure Centre, now run by Abbeycroft Leisure, reopened in 2009 after a £5.2million refurbishment).



*Haverhill revitalised*

**Bramston Sports Centre** is part of Bramston Comprehensive School. Bramston SC was opened in 1973 by Henry Cooper in the small town of Witham (population 25,000). It had indoor and outdoor facilities and was first managed by Keith Ivory, who had moved from being Deputy Manager at Bellahouston SC (managed by Ian Douglas).

Another Eastern Region example was the **Hudson Sports Centre** in Wisbech and was jointly provided by the county and district councils. It opened with indoor and outdoor facilities, including a swimming pool, in the early 1970s. The original Centre was named after the landowner. The centre was refurbished in the mid-2010s and at present is managed for Fenland District Council by Freedom Leisure.



**Soham Sports Centre** is in the District of East Cambridgeshire, which has a widely dispersed population of 56,000 and is predominantly agricultural in character. Soham itself has a population of 7,000. The Centre, close to the town centre, was opened in 1984 by Bill Slater (see website supporters). It was jointly funded by the District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council, the Sports Council and the Soham District Sports Association (SDSA). The centre has a large sports hall, an ancillary hall, fitness room and squash courts. The Centre is managed solely and independently by the SDSA, and has charitable status, and must ensure the Centre remains financially viable, without recourse to revenue funding from the statutory partners. Under the terms of the lease to SDSA the school has access rights. There is a Management Committee with representatives of all interested parties. The Centre was renamed the Ross Peter's Centre in 1993 when an extension was opened by Olympian, Fatima Whitbread (named after the late Ross Peters, councillor and leader of a campaign committee for the provision of the Centre).



***Soham SC***

**Stowuplands Sports Centre** serves the town itself as well as Haughley, Needham Market and surrounding area. It opened in 1999. The centre is better known as 'The Community Sports Centre' because both the High School and the community use it – the public in the weekday evenings and at the weekend. The Centre boasts a sports hall, gymnasium, fitness suite and outdoor pitches and courts. Many external clubs use the Centre, including table tennis, football, badminton, and martial arts.

## **INNER LONDON**

Crofton Leisure Centre, in the London Borough of Lewisham, was the first joint provision centre provided by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) in the early 1970s. It too was linked to a school expanding (to 1400 pupils) for comprehensive education. The centre was passed to the Borough when ILEA was abolished in 1990 but was demolished by about 2001.

## **SOUTH**

### **BERKSHIRE STARTED EARLY**

A question about the prospects for funding a Bulmershe Centre was raised in Parliament in 1968 (ref. Hansard). It opened in 1971 and was a joint dual use operation at Bulmershe Secondary School. Owned by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) it was leased to Woodley Borough Council from 1995 until 2014, when it became part of Leisure Connection's WBC contract. It had a sports hall, a 25m swimming pool and a small activity hall. It was demolished to make way for a new centre in 2020.



***New Bulmershe Centre***

Crowthorne is the home of Wellington College and the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, and since 1979 the home of **Edgebarrow Sports Centre**. This was a jointly provided centre, originally with partners Berkshire County Council and Bracknell DC. The Sports Council gave a 5% grant. Running costs were shared by both partners and Crowthorne Parish Council. A 32m x 17m sports hall was supplemented by a smaller hall, 2 squash courts, outdoor tarmac areas for floodlit tennis and five-a-side, and a lounge bar and catering.

### ONE OF THE FIRST

The **Bicester & Ploughley Centre** was one of the earliest joint provision centres as recorded in the Chapter. Bicester has now been remodelled and is described as a dual use centre serving the adjacent school with a common reception area and a separate entrance for a 6-lane ten-pin bowling alley.

### MEADWAY ALSO EARLY TO THE SCENE

**Meadway Sports Centre** in Reading opened in 1973 and its first manager was Bill Breeze, formerly of Basingstoke SC and subsequently Manager of Pontypool LC (first SC Management Award winner) and eventually Chief Executive, Colwyn Bay Council. Whilst intended as a joint provision centre for the local community, its location, facilities and shortage of other centres meant in practice it became a popular sub-regional centre.



*Meadway - original Centre entrance 1973*

### MILTON KEYNES LEADS THE WAY IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Three joint provision centre projects on school sites in Milton Keynes arose in the 1970s and 1980s - **Stantonbury, Shenley and Woughton**. They set off an interesting trail of events. Stantonbury was a housing, education and leisure campus – a large community ‘village’, comprising three schools, a major leisure centre, a main resource centre, a theatre and a community activity centre. This was a scheme originated in the latter part of the existence of Bletchley UDC, Wolverton UDC and Newport Pagnell RDC, but driven by Bletchley UDC, and after April 1974 by Milton Keynes Borough Council. **Stantonbury Leisure Centre** was part of the development of the comprehensive school in 1974, the first new one in Milton Keynes. The successful leisure centre consisted of a 25m pool, a four-badminton court hall, 4 squash courts, social area with a bar, and outdoors, a full-size all-weather football pitch (also used for hockey most weekends), 2 netball courts and an athletics track, all with floodlights.



*Stantonbury*

The other two joint provision schemes were at **Woughton** and **Shenley** Church End. The **Woughton Centre** opened in 1980 at the comprehensive school and had a 20m x 7.5m pool, a large hall for concerts /exhibitions, 4 court sports hall and all-weather area. The negotiations with County were difficult and the scheme nearly collapsed at one stage. Milton Keynes agreed to share the cost of the pool on the same percentages as Stantonbury. At the outset MK operated the centre and took the income. Now the campus is known as Stantonbury International School.

The project at **Shenley** was on the site of the third comprehensive school – and extremely complicated, as described here by Bryan ‘Griff’ Jones, former Assistant Director of Recreation, Milton Keynes BC. “We proposed building another leisure pool like Bletchley, with wave machine and flumes. It was not to be attached to the school – the site lay across an entrance road and for safety sake it was decided that the school would be linked to the Centre by a bridge. No one could decide who would pay for the bridge, and along with other opposition, the scheme initially folded. However, Milton Keynes Borough decided to try and proceed and put the project on the web and we had a number of overseas parties who showed an interest. MK finally settled on a strong bid by a Ugandan Asian group whose financial resources on paper were impressive, as were the group we met. The group leased the developed property and the operational agreement in a nutshell was that the manager would have contact with me on a monthly basis. The Centre did not work well, with management changes, and limited repairs and subsequently the pool closed, to be then destroyed by a mysterious fire. In its place now stands a small Sainsbury's”. A sad end to that project.

A new **Shenley Leisure Centre** was opened in September 1991. The Centre was originally managed by Buckinghamshire County Council and linked to the Woughton Leisure Centre. Following Local Government Re-organisation, the Centre came under the jurisdiction of Milton Keynes Council. In 1998 the Centre gained independent Charitable Trust status and is now overseen by a Board of Trustees. The facilities are: - Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Fitness Studio, Dance Studio, Gymnasium, Meeting/Function Rooms, Artificial Floodlit Grass Pitches and Bar.



**Shenley 1991**

## **SUPER-KIT CENTRES!**

**Tring Sports Centre** was established on a school site in 1984 by Dacorum District Council (then under the Leisure Directorship of Bernard Warden) and by Hertfordshire County Council. It was a Spandrel assembly building purchased for £80,000. *[A similar Spandrel sports hall (as in Westminster) and a hangar for the RAF in the Falklands!], was added to Littlehampton Swimming Centre in 1986 and was demolished in 2017 to make way for the new Littlehampton Wave LC].*



**Spandrel** [Littlehampton Sportsdome - white!]

## SOUTH EAST

In the 1970s Horsham District Council went seeking solutions in a large rural domain. It **offered Steyning School, The Weald School in Billingshurst and the Forest School** funding to provide community access to existing sports halls. The headteachers remained responsible for managing the facilities. Cost were shared 50/50 after HDC income was deducted. In 2000 a pool was added to **Steyning School** and a formal dual use agreement was drawn up between the School Governors, the West Sussex County, and DC.

**Edge Sports Centre and Haslemere Leisure Centre** started originally from an unusual joint partnership in 1976 between Waverley DC and Surrey CC for dual use of District playing fields by the adjacent secondary school. (full details see link from Chapter 8).

**The De Stafford Centre, Caterham**, is a joint provision centre with the local secondary school and has a sports hall and a conventional four lane fitness pool. It came about as the School desperately needed investment in its sports facilities, and Tandridge Council needed a site for a sports facility in the north of the district. It was funded by the Lottery, planning gain, and the Council, with the School contributing the land. The Council lease it back to the School for day-time term-time use of the Sports Hall and Pool (but not the gym and studio). The Tandridge Trust started the scheme, acting as agents for the Council. Freedom Leisure now operates the Council centres.

**Weydon School** provides an excellent example of an amazingly extensive, modern indoor and outdoor school sports centre. The school is an outstanding non-selective state comprehensive school in Farnham. The current roll is 1600 and this has increased from 1200 in 2013. In 2019 it achieved the status as the top school in England in the 11 to 16 age group. It has a standard 120' x 60' Surrey CC sports hall, built around 2000, using inadequate existing changing rooms.

A modern extension has now provided a new entrance and changing rooms, and two 1st floor rooms for a fitness suite and a dance/judo room. In 2013 Surrey CC provided capital as part of a basic need requirement to increase the size of the school from 1200 to 1600 students. As part of this development the school led by Head John Winter, convinced Surrey CC that in addition to additional classrooms it needed to invest in sports, arts and drama facilities and that this should also be available for both the school and the community. It also has two artificial turf pitches, a 100m running 'track' and netball and tennis courts. *(for the full case study see link from Chapter 8).*



**Weydon 2020**

**Calthorpe Park School** in Fleet originally formed part of the 1967/68 Major Schools Building Programme for Hampshire CC. The school opened in 1969 alongside the adjoining Sports Hall, jointly provided by Hampshire CC and Hart District Council. In 2017 a new **Hart Leisure Centre** was opened by the District Council on Hitches Lane in Fleet.



1990s

2017



The **Arena Sports Centre** at the Regis School in Bognor Regis opened in 1999. It was funded by the Bognor Regis Community College (now The Regis School), West Sussex CC, Bognor TC, Arun DC & local parish councils, along with a lottery grant of £2.29M. It accommodates a main sports hall; a swimming pool; a gym; dance studio; community rooms; 3G football pitches, and multi-use area.



**Arun Leisure Centre** offers an interesting joint provision case study (See Chapter 8 link), having been opened in 1978 by Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council. It is still operating in 2020, now under an amended joint use agreement. It is a freestanding centre alongside Felpham Community School in Bognor Regis. It was managed by the District Council for over 20 years. It started as a 'dry' centre with a 6-court sports hall, gymnasium, squash courts, dance and drama studio, fitness gym, function bar and cafeteria. It had an 8-lane swimming pool added in 1996 (following a feasibility study led by George Torkildsen). It also now has artificial turf pitches, which replaced the original dri-pla area. The operational management was transferred by the District Council to Inspire Leisure Trust, a Trust which the DC established in 2005. A decade later it was contracted to Freedom Leisure.



**NOTE:** Some of the centres described have since been refurbished, replaced or demolished.