

FAQ

Facility Questions

1. Building Age

Question: How old is the arena?

Answer: The arena was built in 1967.

2. Condition

Question: What is the current condition of the arena?

Answer: The arena is in fair condition based on the Facility Condition Index (FCI). Despite the relatively low FCI, the necessity for upcoming maintenance and repairs in 2025, 2027, and 2028 with the FCI expected to rise to 40.32% (critical) and 12.31% (poor). This signifies a potential decline if left unaddressed. An investment of approximately \$8.5M is needed over the next five years to renew and maintain the arena for another 25+ years of service.

3. Facility Lifespan

Question: How long can the arena continue to operate before significant intervention is needed?

Answer: Addressing upcoming maintenance requirements promptly is crucial to prevent further deterioration and maintain a high-quality environment for building occupants and visitors.

4. New Location

Question: If a new building is chosen, where will the facility be located?

Answer: To be determined at a later date.

5. Nearby Facilities

Question: Are there nearby arenas or recreation facilities that can accommodate users during construction?

Answer: No – Canning Arena, Wolfville Arena and Berwick Arena are at capacity for their users.

6. Future Needs

Question: How will the new or upgraded arena accommodate future needs, such as population growth or new sports?

Answer: Various options would accommodate the increased need relative to population growth- increased seating will accommodate more viewers, increasing ice surface size may introduce new user opportunities, modifications to flooring may increase opportunities for year-round programming and events, etc.



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Operating Questions

1. Parking

Question: How many parking spaces are available at the arena?

Answer: There are 63 parking spaces at the front and 30 at the back.

2. Accessibility

Question: What accessibility features will the project include?

Answer: The project may include features such as accessible entry, washrooms, elevators, seating arrangements, and other accessibility considerations and further information will be shared in the future.

3. Staffing

Question: Will additional staff be required for the operation and maintenance of the upgraded or new arena?

Answer: There is the potential for additional staffing needs dependent on the type and size of the building structure.

4. Operational Costs

Question: What is the operational cost difference from operating a single pad to twin pad?

Answer: Upgrading to a twin pad surface would increase operating costs by up to 50%.

5. Ongoing Maintenance

Question: How will the new or upgraded facility reduce ongoing maintenance costs?

Answer: By replacing old and poorly functioning building elements in a timely manner will greatly reduce ongoing maintenance a repair costs, along with reduced shut down periods.

Financial Questions

1. Cost Projections

Question: Are the cost projections final, or could they change?

Answer: The cost projections are a reasonable estimate based on high-level design concepts. Once a concept direction and budget have been selected by the town, the design will be developed into construction tender documents. The developing design will be reviewed and cost-checked with the town at various stages to ensure the project meets expectations.

2. Funding

Question: Where will the funding for the project come from?

Answer: Funding would need to be sourced through Federal funding, provincial funding, grants, and municipal funding.

3. Larger Events

Question: Could the upgraded arena host larger events, and what revenue might that generate?

Answer: Yes – there would be an opportunity to increase events and programming which would result in potential revenue increases.



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Decision-Making Questions

1. Next Steps

Question: What are the next steps in the decision-making process?

Answer: The outcomes of the engagement session and community survey will be compiled by the Department of Parks and Recreation and delivered to Council for review.

2. Retrofitting vs. New Build

Question: What are the projected benefits of retrofitting vs. building a new facility?

Answer: Retrofitting will have reduced costs and increased grant opportunities. Using the existing footprint would reduce environmental impacts. The current location provides easy access within the town core and holds a “traditional place” in the Town. A new build would reduce the impact on construction within the town, and potentially provide increased parking and extend recreation services beyond the downtown area.

3. Demand

Question: Is there sufficient demand to justify the investment in the arena?

Answer: Yes, based on the needs assessment regarding facility usage, of the 65 hours of ice time available during the season, 93.1% was booked. Kentville Arena is used by 11 community groups/teams, and hosts 5 large community events in the off season.

Other Questions

1. Survey Results

Question: How many responses did the engagement survey receive?

Answer: The survey, open from March 1 to March 28, 2024, received 1,021 responses.

2. Timeline

Question: What is the timeline for each option, including the anticipated closure for refurbishment?

Answer: Following a Council decision, planning and construction could be estimated between 18 months to 4 years (this is based on the DSRA consultation). This timeline is determined within the procurement process.



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