



## Liz Taylor Associate Consultant



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### Profile

Following her first degree in English literature, Liz studied sport and leisure management at post-graduate level at Loughborough University. She has over 25 years' experience working in both the public and private sport and cultural sectors. This includes providing strategic and operational management for a number of local authorities at a senior management level. Specific areas of knowledge and expertise include:

- Sport and leisure contract management and procurement
- Sport, arts, play and health development
- Community centres
- Theatres
- Museums
- Leisure facility capital redevelopments

Liz has developed a number of strategic plans, policies, and feasibility studies for local authorities over the years. She has also recently delivered a leisure contract procurement project using the new Sport England Leisure Services Guidance.

Her appreciation of the current public sector funding context, together with a detailed understanding of local authorities makes her ideally placed to advise on options for future delivery, their impact and implications, and what alternatives might be appropriate to ensure long term service sustainability. Liz has a proven track record in successful external funding bids and delivery of capital development projects to help support local authorities achieve their facility/service needs.

Liz is passionate about making a difference to community health and wellbeing and looks to innovative solutions to address the clients' requirements.

### Qualifications

- M.Sc. Recreation Management - Loughborough University (1989 – 1990)
- B.A. (Hons.) in English Literature - University of East Anglia, Norwich (1985 – 1989)
- CIMPSA: Full member of the Chartered Institute of the Management of Sport and Physical Activity.

### Key Skills

- Project Management
- Consultation
- Analysis

**Nov 2019 – present Elmbridge Borough Council: Leisure and Cultural Services Manager**

Responsible for a team of 10 staff and services including museum, play, arts, sport and health development. Management of the Council's leisure facilities contract. Lead officer in the procurement of the new leisure contract to commence in August 2021. This included contract preparation using the new Sport England template, evaluation of contract, and liaison throughout with professional advisors, bidding companies, and senior Members/officers. Responsibility for capital leisure developments including site options appraisals for a replacement theatre for the borough and replacement swimming pool. I have experience of managing change with the transfer of the Council's GP Referral scheme to the leisure contractor and the introduction of a centralised customer services team.

**April 2001 – Nov 2019 Elmbridge Borough Council: Leisure Facilities Manager**

Client responsibility for the Council's leisure facilities contract including performance monitoring, line management of the facilities team and control of an annual budget of £1.5 million. Lead officer in the procurement of Xcel Leisure Complex in 2005, and more recently, the procurement of a new £18 million Sports Hub which opened in 2017, providing a new home for 3 football clubs and an athletics club. Work included production of all contract documentation and service agreements for the resident clubs. I have wide experience in successfully applying for external funding. In 2009 I received a £1 million grant from the Football Foundation for a new 3G synthetic turf pitch in Walton on Thames. This was one of the largest grants ever awarded by the Football Foundation. I managed the procurement, design and construction of the pitch and negotiated the management of the new facility with the incumbent leisure operator. I have also submitted successful funding applications to SITA and managed an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a new museum facility in Walton on Thames. Experience of management of change and innovation included the closure of the Council's front of house museum and the introduction of one of the first local authority outreach museum services, focussing on community access to the collection via outreach exhibitions/learning, a new website and photographing 20,000 artefacts in the collection to be available to view online.

**Nov 1998 – April 2001 Elmbridge Borough Council: Leisure Partnership Manager**

Initiated, developed and sustained partnership working across the arts, museums, sport development, young people, healthy lifestyles and community recreation. Directly responsible for team of 8 people. Introduced the Council's very first Playscheme across a range of Council owned venues across the Borough. Lead officer in planning the future provision of swimming facilities to replace Walton Swimming Pool. Lead officer in delivering a Best Value Review of Young People and production of a comprehensive Leisure Strategy for the Borough. Lead officer in undertaking a strategic review of arts provision within the Authority which led to the establishment of an Art Officer post for the Council. This post has proved extremely successful. My Team was successful in becoming the very first local authority leisure division to obtain Charter Mark.

**Nov 1997 – Nov 1998 Wyre Forest District Council: Principal Leisure Services Officer**

Strategic management of 4 leisure centres, play development, arts development and museums. Responsible for managing a team of 10 staff and annual revenue budget of £2.5 million. Delivered successful capital bid for building redevelopment at Stourport Pool. Lead successful application for Heritage Lottery Funding for redevelopment of Bewdley Museum. Responsible for producing and presenting reports to Council and external organisations.

**Jul 1994 – Nov 1997 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council: Community Recreation Manager**

Management of Community Recreation Team. Principal Officer for sport and leisure contract with SLM. Directly responsible for preparing CCT contract documentation and re-tendering of contract. Lead officer for capital leisure projects and strategic development of play and the arts.

**Jun 1992 – Jul 1994 London Borough of Croydon: Recreation Officer**

Monitoring and administration of leisure management contract for 4 leisure facilities. Development of leisure projects and strategies including sport development strategy and play development strategy.

**Jun 1991 – Jun 1992 Serco Leisure Limited: Duty Manager**

Day to day management of new Pavilion Leisure Centre in Bromley. Wet/dry facilities included leisure pool, gym, performance hall and 8 court sports hall. Key responsibility for membership and operations. Management responsibility of 17 staff on shift.

**Nov 1990 – Jun 1991 Fitness Express Limited: Duty Manager**

Management of new corporate wet/dry leisure facility for Legal and General staff in Kingswood, Surrey. Key responsibility for programming and maintenance and management of team of 3 staff.

**Apr 1987 – Aug 1987 YMCA National Centre, Windermere: Outdoor Pursuits Instructor**

Instruction in all outdoor pursuits to a variety of groups ranging from business development courses and disability junior/adult courses.