

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CABINET 16 DECEMBER 2014**

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*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

**CHILTERN OPEN SPACE & RECREATIONAL STRATEGY UPDATE  
2015 -2018**

**Contact Officer: Paul Nanji (01494 732110) Martin Holt (01494 732058)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Cabinet approve the updated Open Space and Recreation  
Strategy 2015 – 2018**

**Relationship to Council Objectives**

*We will deliver cost effective, customer focused services*

2. *Listen to our customers*

- *Consult with customers on key issues and respond to results*

*We will work towards safer and healthier local communities*

2. *Promote healthier communities*

- *Address the needs of the elderly and those who are vulnerable*
- *Plan our leisure provision for the future*

3. *Promote local communities*

- *Support the voluntary sector and promote volunteering*
- *Engage with Parish and Town Councils and local neighbourhoods*

*We will strive to conserve the environment and promote sustainability*

2. *Promote sustainability*

- *Promote a healthy, sustainable and safe built environment*

**Implications**

(i) *This is a key decision within the forward plan.*

(ii) *It is within the policy and budgetary framework.*

**Financial Implications**

*The strategy does not commit the Council to any additional financial resources and will help enable a range of partner and community organisations to access external funding by highlighting existing shortfalls in open space and recreational facility provision.*

### **Risk Implications**

*The strategy directly informs and supports the Council's Delivery Development Plan (DDPD) and Core Strategy. Not having an up to date open space and recreational evidence weakens their value and credibility and also reduces the potential of both the Council and community groups to access external funding by not being able to definitely confirm existing shortfalls in provision.*

### **Equalities Implications**

*The strategy will help attract inward investment to improve the provision of local open space and recreational facilities. Improving the physical access will enable more residents and visitors to enjoy a broad range of facilities and natural open space that is available to enjoy across the District.*

### **Sustainability Implications**

*A key focus of the investment will result in more energy efficient buildings and an improved infrastructure network that will enable and encourage residents and visitors to enjoy green modes of transport including cycling and walking.*

### **Background**

- 1 A draft of the refreshed Open Space and Recreational Strategy (2015-2018) was presented to Cabinet in February 2014, replacing the previous 2005 strategy.
- 2 At the 11<sup>th</sup> February Cabinet meeting, Members were supportive of adopting the Strategy but before doing so requested that the presented draft Strategy be re-circulated for final consultation to key partners including Town and Parish Councils, Councillors, the Council's Planning Department and local community groups. This was to confirm that its findings and recommendations accurately reflected existing provision and needs.

### **Updated Open Space and Recreational Strategy**

- 3 Following the re-circulation of the draft strategy a diverse range of comments in relation to accuracy, the development of new facilities and new areas for considerations were received. These are set out in **Appendix 1** of this report together with the resultant changes (if any, to the Strategy). Whilst not changing the key findings of the Strategy the updated document will now more accurately reflect changes and improvements since 2005 and also confirms that Chiltern District through the work of its Town and Parish Councils and local community groups is continually improving open space and recreational facility provision.

## **Conclusion**

- 4 The Chiltern Open Space and Recreational Strategy is a key document in helping inform the Council's Delivery Development Plan Document and Core Strategy. The Strategy consequently plays an important role in improving access and provision to open space and recreational facilities directly helping to improve health and wellbeing of residents. The document also enables Parish & Town Councils and local community groups to attract inward investment by providing robust evidence of existing shortfalls in provision. Full details of the draft Strategy along with associated supporting audit information can be found on the Chiltern District Council website ([LINK](#))
- 5 Following the consultation captured in **Appendix 1**, Chiltern's Strategy has been updated accordingly and is ready to be formally adopted by Cabinet as detailed in this report's formal recommendation.
- 6 A copy of the updated Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2015 – 2018 is available upon request.

*Background papers:*

*Cabinet 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – Chiltern Open Space & Recreational Strategy 2015 - 2018*

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