

SUBJECT:	<i>Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Director of Services – Steve Bambrick</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Head of Healthy Communities - Martin Holt</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. Improving the quality and access to sports local playing pitches directly contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of residents. The attached Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch strategy helps support this by providing an up to date audit of South Bucks' existing sports playing pitches as well as identifying current and future shortfalls in provision.
- 1.2. On 12th June 2018 the completed draft Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy was presented to the Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group (PAG) detailing its key findings and recommendations in relation to the quality and provision of playing pitches across the district.
- 1.3. To verify the strategy's accuracy, PAG Members requested that it be subject to an additional further round of public consultation with the district's Town and Parish Councils, sports clubs and the appropriate sports governing bodies.
- 1.4. The attached updated strategy reflects the feedback captured through the additional consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Cabinet approve the proposed 2018-2036 Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy and it be submitted to Sport England for external accreditation.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The strategy helps inform the newly emerging Local Plan by providing a comprehensive evidence base to withstand public scrutiny.
- 2.2 The strategy provides a joined-up approach with clear localised priorities to develop sustainable facilities that support increased participation.

2.3 The strategy provides a robust evidence source to support local sports clubs, Town and Parish Councils and other community groups to access external funding.

3. Content of report

3.1 In March 2016 Chiltern and South Bucks Councils jointly commissioned a specialist consultant, Strategic Leisure, to undertake the development of a new Playing Pitch Strategy covering the period 2018 to 2036.

3.2 The Strategy's key aims were to:

- Inform and support the newly emerging Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan.
- Improve health and wellbeing by increasing levels of sports and physical activity.
- Support community groups and others to access external funding.

3.3 The types of playing pitches covered within the scope of the study are detailed below with sports pitches within South Bucks having both a qualitative and quantitative assessment:

- Football 3G rubber crumb pitches
- Football (grass pitches)
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Rugby Union
- Golf

3.4 The methodology employed to reach the strategy's conclusions included a number of actions, all of which are detailed below:

- Review of national, regional and local strategies and policy documents relevant to the exercise.

- Creation of a strategic working group to scrutinise, evaluate, challenge and finally approve the strategy’s key findings (Sport England, Football Association, English Cricket Board, English Rugby Union, English Hockey Union and England Golf)
- Creation of a qualitative template to include key elements of design and maintenance.
- Qualitative on-site assessment of playing pitches located throughout Chiltern and South Bucks in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the principles contained in the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 companion guide.
- Use of the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator to ascertain the required number of sports specific playing pitches to meet current and future needs.
- Drafting key conclusions relating to the current state of playing pitches in Chiltern and South Bucks.

3.5 Following the site visit assessments and applying the Sport England playing pitch demand analysis a range of key findings were drawn up and are detailed in the tables 1 below.

Table 1 - South Bucks Key Findings

Sport	Current demand shortfall 2018	Future demand shortfall 2036 using ONS Sub National Population Projections 2018 - 2036
Football 3G Rubber Crumb Pitches	After taking into account current existing 3G rubber crumb provision there is a shortfall of 3 full size 3G rubber crumb pitches based upon the FA training model.	After taking into account current existing 3G rubber crumb provision there is a shortfall of 5 additional full size 3G rubber crumb pitch based upon the FA training model by 2036.
Football (grass pitches)	Adult 11 v 11 – current demand is being met for adult match equivalent sessions.	Adult 11 v 11 – future demand can be met from existing secured community use pitches. Junior 11 v 11 shortfall of 23 junior

Sport	Current demand shortfall 2018	Future demand shortfall 2036 using ONS Sub National Population Projections 2018 - 2036
	Junior 11 v 11 – shortfall 14 match equivalent sessions based on home and away play each week. Junior 9 v 9 – currently Shortfall 5 match equivalent sessions. Mini Soccer 7 v 7 – current shortfall of 1 match equivalent session. Mini Soccer 5 v 5 – current Demand is being met for mini 5 v 5 match	11 v 11 match sessions based on home and away play each week. Junior 9 v 9 – shortfall 14 match equivalent sessions. Mini Soccer 7 v 7 – shortfall 6 match equivalent sessions. Mini soccer 5 v 5 – demand can be met from current supply.
Cricket	Current demand is being met with over play at Farnham Royal CC (14 match equivalent sessions),	Future demand can be met with current capacity. Additional non-turf pitches will assist with meeting demand from junior cricket teams.
Hockey	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met from existing facilities.
Rugby Union	Current short fall of 7.25 match and training equivalent sessions weekly.	Future shortfall of 11.25 match and training equivalent sessions weekly.
Golf	Current demand is being met.	Future demand is for adventure golf.

4. Consultation

4.1 A Sports Playing Pitch Strategy forum was established to inform, support and verify the strategy including the relevant sport's national governing bodies (football, hockey, cricket, rugby and golf), Sport England and Strategic Leisure.

4.2 Internally, the Council's Planning and Economic Development department has supported the strategy throughout out its developments advising on key issues such as population growth, planning issues and settlement sizes.

4.3 There have also been two rounds of public consultation with local Town and Parish Councils, schools, sports clubs and other community organisations. Collectively these have provided invaluable information in improving the accuracy of the strategy.

4.4 This has included updating and incorporating the correct site names of the sports facilities, capturing any recent improvements which had not been captured when the site audit was undertaken, updating any inaccuracies in the strategy's findings for specific sites and ensuring the population data used to identify any shortfall and over supply was accurate.

4.5 Looking ahead given the ongoing changes to sports playing pitches, local schools, sport clubs, Town and Parish councils will be encouraged to provide information of any improvements so that the strategy can be regularly updated and accurately reflect local needs.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial – There are no direct financial implications to the Council arising from the report. There may be indirect costs arising from the use of Section 106 agreements or the implications of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to generate funding to cover costs of open space facility development

5.2 Legal – Recommendations arising from the strategy come from a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: (An Approach to Developing and Delivering a PPS 2013)

5.3 Planning policies in the emerging Local plan should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for sports and open spaces. Studies should identify specific needs shortfalls in supply and or quality of supply. The evidence should be used to inform the local plan – National Planning Policy Framework para 73

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

6.1 Sustainable Environment – The strategy will help protect the district's playing pitches and facilitate improved provision for residents to access both now and in the future.

6.2 Safe, Healthy and Active communities - Council has a duty to consider the health and wellbeing of its community, enabling improved access and provision of playing pitches would directly support this as well as strengthen partnership working with Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector.

7. Next Steps

South Bucks District Council

Healthy Communities Policy Advisory Group

2nd October 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8 October 2018

Cabinet

17th October 2018

- 7.1 Once adopted following consultation the strategy will be presented to key stakeholders including Town and Parish Councils, sports clubs and local environmental community groups so that they are aware of its key findings and recommendations.
- 7.2 Following this the strategy will be promoted on social media and made available on the Council's website to support stakeholders in funding bids to improve provision in their local communities.
- 7.3 The document will form an important part of the emerging Local Plan evidence base and will be used to support the councils emerging Local Plan policies

Background Papers:	Appendix 1 – Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy
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