

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Director of Services – Steve Bambrick</i>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<i>Head of Healthy Communities - Martin Holt</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	<i>Leisure &amp; Community Manager - Paul Nanji Tel: 01494 732110</i>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	<i>All</i>

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the completion of the draft Chiltern and South Bucks Council Playing Pitch Strategy highlighting its key findings and recommendations. Also, for Members to approve the draft strategy be circulated for public consultation with Town and Parish Council, sports clubs and other agencies. The finalised strategy will inform the emerging Local Plan.

The PAG is asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on the following recommendations:

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **To agree to undertake public consultation on the draft South Bucks and Chiltern Playing Pitch Strategy.**
2. **To recommend to Cabinet that it be delegated to the Director of Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities to agree the final Playing Pitch Strategy in respect of South Bucks District Council**

## 2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Chiltern and South Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy is a key document in helping inform the new Local Plan.
- 2.2 Improving access and the quality of sports local playing pitch provision contributes directly to improving the health and wellbeing of residents. An up to date audit of South Bucks existing sports playing pitches will enable Town and Parish Councils, sports clubs and local community groups to identify the priorities for improvement and enable organisations to plan and attract inward investment.

## 3. Content of report

- 3.1 In March 2016 Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils jointly commissioned a specialist consultant, Strategic Leisure, to undertake the development of a new Playing Pitch Strategy. The Strategy's key aims were to
  - Inform and support the newly emerging Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan to provide a concise, robust and comprehensive evidence base that enables both Councils to develop planning policies which are supported by sufficient evidence to withstand scrutiny at an Examination in Public.

- Achieve a joined-up strategy with localised priorities to develop sustainable facilities that support increased participation.
- Support community groups and others to access external funding.

3.2 The types of playing pitches included in the open space assessment are detailed below with a visit to each individual facility involving both a qualitative and quantitative assessment:

- FOOTBALL 3G RUBBER CRUMB PITCHES
- FOOTBALL (GRASS PITCHES)
- CRICKET
- HOCKEY
- RUGBY UNION
- Golf

3.3 The methodology employed to reach the strategy's conclusions included a number of elements which are detailed below:

- Review of national, regional and local strategies and policy documents relevant to the exercise.
- Creation of a qualitative template to include key elements of design and maintenance.
- Utilised Sport England Sports Facility Calculator to ascertain the required number of sports specific playing pitches to meet current and future needs.
- Qualitative on-site assessment of playing pitches distributed throughout South Bucks and Chiltern in accordance with the NPPF and the principles contained in the PPG17 Companion Guide.
- Analysis of results to qualitatively assess the condition of playing pitches.
- Development 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)
- Drafting key conclusions relating to the current state of Playing pitches in South Bucks and Chiltern.
- Drafting recommendations relating to the significance of open space South Bucks and Chiltern in relation to the Local Plan.

3.4 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 Table 1 below.

3.5 **Table 1 - South Bucks Key Findings**

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>CURRENT DEMAND SHORTFALL 2018</b>	<b>FUTURE DEMAND SHORTFALL 2036 USING ONS SUB NATIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS 2017 -2036</b>
<b>FOOTBALL 3G RUBBER CRUMB PITCHES</b>	After taking into account existing 3G rubber crumb provision there is a shortfall of 3 full size 3 G rubber crumb pitches.	After taking into account existing 3G rubber crumb provision there is a shortfall of 4 full size 3 G rubber crumb pitches.
<b>FOOTBALL (GRASS PITCHES)</b>	<p>Adult 11 v 11 - Demand is being met.</p> <p>Junior 11 v 11 – Shortfall 12 match equivalent sessions based on home and away play each week.</p> <p>Junior 9 v 9 – Currently Shortfall 5 match equivalent sessions.</p> <p>Mini Soccer 7 v 7 – Current Demand is being met</p> <p>Mini Soccer 5 v 5 – Current Demand is being met for mini 5 v 5 match</p>	<p>Adult 11 v 11 – Demand can be met from existing secured community use pitches.</p> <p>Junior 11 v 11 shortfall of 22 junior match sessions based on home and away play each week.</p> <p>Junior 9 v 9 – Shortfall 14 match equivalent sessions.</p> <p>Mini Soccer 7 v 7 – Demand can be met from current supply.</p> <p>Mini soccer 5 v 5 – Demand can be met from current supply.</p>
<b>CRICKET</b>	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.
<b>HOCKEY</b>	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met from existing facilities.
<b>RUGBY UNION</b>	Current short fall of 8 match and training equivalent sessions weekly.	Future shortfall of 11 match and training equivalent sessions weekly.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 As detailed in the methodology (Section 3.3) the plan was informed by consultation with the relevant sport's national governing bodies (football, hockey, cricket, rugby and golf), and Sport England.
- 4.2 Internally, the Council's Planning and Economic Development department has supported the strategy throughout its developments advising on key issues such as population growth, planning issues and settlement sizes.
- 4.3 It is now proposed to undertake public consultation on the draft strategy to enable Towns and Parishes, sports clubs and other community organisations the opportunity to comment on the findings, confirm the report's accuracy and highlight any potential issues.

#### **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**

- 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

<b>Background Papers:</b>	Appendix 1 – Chiltern and South Playing Pitch Strategy
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