

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	14 th June 2016
Report of:	Peter Bates, Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title:	Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report 2030
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor David Brown, Highways and Infrastructure

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The Council aspires to ensure that every local community has access to high quality playing pitches that meet their current and future needs. The Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is key to achieving this.
- 1.2. The PPS firstly assesses the supply and demand for playing pitches in the borough. This includes future demand, looks ahead to 2030 to take account of the planned level of housing development (and population growth) in the Council's emerging Local Plan Strategy. This supply/demand analysis is contained in the Assessment Report which is appended to this Cabinet report. The second key component of the Strategy is a series of Action Plans to address the issues arising from the findings of the Assessment Report. Together, the Assessment Report and Action Plans will comprise the full draft PPS which, it is intended, will then be the subject of public consultation.
- 1.3. A great deal of effort has gone into the collection and analysis of playing pitch data. The development of a PPS requires a collaborative approach. Sport England, the five National Governing Bodies, Cheshire East sports clubs and schools have all contributed to the Assessment Report. Their guidance, input and support is greatly appreciated. Close working with these key stakeholders will continue through the development of the Action Plans.
- 1.4. The Assessment Report has been prepared in line with Sport England guidelines. The baseline supply and demand data has been collected over a period of time and, as such, it is recommended that the PPS is updated in 2017.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That Cabinet

(i) endorses the draft Cheshire East Council Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report for consultation purposes;

(ii) agrees that the Chief Operating Officer be given delegated authority to finalise the Assessment Report and complete associated Actions Plans, in consultation with the Portfolio holder;

(iii) agrees that the draft Assessment Report and Action Plans be published for public consultation;

(iv) agrees that the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Portfolio holder be given delegated authority to then finalise the Assessment report and Action Plans, taking account of the representations received, prior to adoption by cabinet of the competed strategy.

(v) agrees to undertake a refresh of the base data in 2017 in line with good practice promoted by Sport England

3. Other Options Considered

- 3.1. The Council has the option to proceed without adopting a Playing Pitch Strategy. This would undermine the ability of the Council and other sporting bodies to improve existing and provide for new sports fields in the borough, including through the planning process.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1. The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide a strategic framework for ensuring that there are sufficient and high quality playing pitches to meet the needs of existing and future residents within Cheshire East.
- 4.2. In following the Sport England guidelines, the Cabinet is asked to agree the draft Assessment Report leading to the production of Action Plans and public consultation.

5. Background/Chronology

- 5.1. In 2014, utilising a Sport England approved process, the Council engaged with the five sports National Governing Bodies (Football, Rugby Union, and Rugby league, Cricket, Hockey and Lacrosse) regarding the status of current outdoor sports facilities and what will be required to meet future needs. Supply and usage data has been gathered from 973 teams playing from 193 clubs using 514 pitches with the condition of all pitches being assessed. This has been a time consuming process given the size of study area. This data has been collated and presented to the sports representatives for their comments. The level of response has been assessed as good which provides a robust data set for the PPS.

- 5.2. A process of continual liaison with the sports National Governing Bodies has been undertaken to check the accuracy of the information and to iron out any issues.
- 5.3. The immediate next step will be to draft the Action Plans. These will be written in partnership with the NGBs and Sport England to ensure the PPS takes full account of the aspirations of the sporting community. Following that it is intended that the draft PPS (comprising the Assessment Report and Action Plans) be the subject of wider public consultation.

6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members

- 6.1. All Cheshire East Council Wards

7. Implications of Recommendation

- 7.1. **Policy Implications:** Supporting the following Corporate Outcomes 1 & 5

Outcome 1: Our local communities are strong and supportive: Individuals and families are self-reliant and take personal responsibility for their quality of life. Communities are cohesive, with a strong sense of neighbourliness. There is genuine civic pride and mutual respect.

Outcome 5: People live well and for longer: Local people have healthy lifestyles and access to good cultural, leisure and recreational facilities.

- 7.2. **Strategic Context**

7.2.1. The PPS ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. It will provide a robust evidence for capital funding and planning purposes.

7.2.2. The action plan will feed into the work on the Council's Site Allocations Development Policies Document regarding the location of additional facilities and the protection and enhancement of existing sites. It also provides evidence to inform the Council's approach towards seeking developer contributions.

7.2.3. There are specific policies for sport and recreation in the Local Plan Strategy .
Policy SC2 specifically applies to outdoor sports facilities. In summary, is seeks to:

- protect existing facilities unless proven to be surplus to need or where replaced with an equivalent or improved facility;
- support the provision of new facilities including where they are listed in a Playing Pitch Strategy; and
- ensure that major residential developments contribute towards new or improved new facilities where the need for such arises from that development

- Policy SE6 relates to various types of Green Infrastructure including sport and playing fields. It similarly refers to the need to protect and enhance such facilities. .

7.3. Operationally, the PPS will help improve current asset management. The site specific Action Plans will identify the locations where the quantity and quality of provision can be enhanced to meet current and future demand.

7.4. Legal Implications

7.4.1. The Council's powers to hold land (parks and open spaces), provide services, promote community wellbeing and enforce bylaws are set out in a range of legislation including but not limited to Open Spaces Act 1906, Highways Act 1980, Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Local Government Act 2000 and the Clean neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

7.5. Financial Implications

7.5.1. All investment required to deliver any actions identified in these documents will be subject to the standard project feasibility / business case protocols and to sufficient approved capital budget available in the capital programme.

7.5.2. The Strategy puts the Council in a better position to secure appropriate developer contributions through planning applications.

7.6. Equality Implications

7.6.1. The development of facilities to a standard that meets modern regulation under the Equalities Act

7.7. Rural Community Implications

7.7.1. To meet the requirement to provide recreational facilities in close proximity to all communities.

7.8. Human Resources Implications

7.8.1. The Playing Pitch Strategy does not currently require additional resourcing. However, each element of the action plan will need to be considered on merit and weighed against the business case.

7.9. Public Health Implications

7.9.1. The provision of quality playing field provision will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the Cheshire East Community.

7.10. Other Implications (Please Specify)

- 7.10.1. Provision of good outdoor sports facilities should increase participation rates and enable local teams / clubs to play in their own neighbourhood. The income being derived from bookings can support the cost of maintaining these community assets.

8. Risk Management

8.1. Risk Register

Risk	Reason	Action
Partnership working	CEC needs to work with partner organisations to raise necessary resources.	Build partnerships at a local (Clubs & communities) & regional level (NGBs) to secure resources.
Planning	The PPS will enable the Council to secure investment from developer contributions in building and maintaining public open space / playing fields.	Ongoing discussions with planning to respond to opportunities as they arise.
Finance	The need to work in partnership with external bodies to match funds raised from developer contributions.	CEC will build specific business cases and partnerships in search of external funding opportunities
Asset Management	The ability of ANSA and FM to maintain these facilities in times of austerity.	To find imaginative solutions to the problem of funding adequate maintenance of the facilities to meet expectations.

9. Access to Information/Bibliography

- 9.1. The following report is referenced in the production of this report:

“Cheshire East Playing Pitch Assessment Report” (attached Appendix 1)

10. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:

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