

# Cheshire East Council

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Report of:** Peter Bates, Chief Operating Officer

**Subject/Title:** Indoor and Built Facility Strategy & Playing Pitch Strategy 2030

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Paul Bates, Communities and Health

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### 1. Report Summary

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with the background, and strategic context to the delivery of the Cheshire East Indoor and Built Facility Strategy (IFS) and the Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which will both support the Stronger Communities and Sustainable Environment elements of the Cheshire East Local Plan and be used, where appropriate, in the determination of planning applications. All documents are appended to this report:

- Appendix 1 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Assessment Report.
- Appendix 2 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy Report.
- Appendix 3 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Assessment Report.
- Appendix 4 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy Report.

Cabinet is invited to approve the strategies for public consultation.

1.2. The Council will ensure that every local community has access to high quality playing pitches and indoor sports facilities that meet their current and future needs. The IFS and PPS are key to achieving this.

1.3. There are two parts to the strategies, firstly an Assessment Report looking into the supply and demand for playing pitches and indoor facilities in the borough. This includes future demand to 2030, taking account of the planned level of housing development (and population growth) in the Council's Local Plan Strategy.

1.4. The second part, comprises a series of Action Plans to address the issues arising from the findings of the Assessment Report.

- 1.5. A great deal of effort has gone into the collection and analysis of the evidence. A collaborative approach has been taken in developing the Strategies. Sport England has provided invaluable support and guidance throughout their development and the respective sports National Governing Bodies along with Cheshire East sports clubs and schools have contributed to the reports.
- 1.6. The strategies have been prepared in line with Sport England best practice guidelines and developed through a joint steering group with the Council, Sport England and representatives of the national sport bodies.

## **2. Recommendation**

### **2.1. That Cabinet:**

- (i) Approves both the Cheshire East Council Playing Pitch and Indoor and Built Facilities Strategies for consultation purposes;
- (ii) Delegates Authority to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to finalise and publish the strategies, taking account of the representations received.

## **3. Other Options Considered**

- 3.1. Whilst the Council has the option to proceed without completing and approving a PPS or IFS, this would undermine the ability of the Council and other sporting bodies to properly plan for, and invest in, formal indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Having up to date strategies also best ensures that existing facilities receive appropriate protection and appropriate provision is secured from developers towards new and improved facilities to address the impact of new development schemes.

## **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1. Paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires the Council to base local plan policies on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs and opportunities for open space and recreation facilities. The Strategies address this national planning policy requirement.
- 4.2. They will directly support the implementation of Local Plan Strategy Policies SC1 "Leisure & Recreation" SC2 "Outdoor Sports Facilities" and SE6 "Green Infrastructure" ensuring that appropriate protection is given to existing facilities and new and improved facilities can be secured through the planning process.

## **5. Background/Chronology**

- 5.1. In 2014 the Council engaged with Sport England and a range of sports National Governing Bodies regarding the status of current outdoor and indoor sports facilities and what will be required to meet future needs. This has involved collecting information about existing facilities across the borough – in terms of the specific sports facilities they offer, their usage and their condition. Because of the size of the borough and the number and diversity of facilities within it, this has been a time consuming process.
- 5.2. In July 2016 the Council appointed consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to complete the strategies.
- 5.3. There are two elements to each strategy – an Assessment Report and a series of Action Plans.
- 5.4. The Assessment Reports set out up-to-date supply and demand information. They also consider the demands arising from the planned level of growth proposed in the Council's Local Plan Strategy to 2030. The sports National Governing Bodies have been closely involved in completing this work to ensure that this information is as comprehensive and up to date as possible. Cheshire East sports clubs and schools have also had a full opportunity to input into this work. The involvement of all of these organisations has been very important and is greatly appreciated. This engagement will continue in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Strategies.
- 5.5. The Action Plans respond to the issues arising from the Assessment Reports. This includes promoting quantitative and/or qualitative improvements in provision where local facilities are not adequately meeting local needs.
- 5.6. As well as guiding planning decision-making, the strategies will help to inform investment decisions by the wide range of bodies that seek to provide high quality sports facilities across the borough. This will include providing evidence to support funding bids.
- 5.7. Subject to the Cabinet's decision, the next stage would be to publish the Strategies for six weeks public consultation. This aligns with the length of consultation normally given for planning policy documents. Following consultation, the strategies would be finalised, taking into account the comments received through representations.

## **6. Wards Affected and Local Ward Members**

- 6.1. All Cheshire East Council Wards

## 7. Implications of Recommendation

### 7.1. Corporate policy Implications:

7.1.1. The Strategies support all of the Corporate Plan Outcomes, but Outcomes 1 and 5 most directly:

- **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 future sports facility provision. It will provide a robust evidence for capital funding and planning purposes.

7.2.2. Operationally, the PPS and IFS 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.

### 7.3. Legal Implications

7.3.1. The Council's powers to hold land (parks and open spaces are set out in a range of legislation including but not limited to Open Spaces Act 1906, Highways Act 1980 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

### 7.4. Financial Implications

7.4.1. There are no immediate financial implications for the authority. There is however a need to keep the underlying data in the assessment reports up to date. The authority therefore commits to an annual refresh of data at an estimated cost of £3000.

7.4.2. 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.

7.4.3. The Strategies will put the Council in a better position to secure appropriate developer contributions through planning applications.

## **7.5. Equality Implications**

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

## **7.6. Rural Community Implications**

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

7.6.2. Although most indoor sport facility development is within more urban areas, where appropriate the IFS will be used in conjunction with the Council's PPS to ensure that any proposals for development in rural areas will retain and protect its character and be enhanced through sensitive development.

## **7.7. Human Resources Implications**

7.7.1. There are no additional HR implications arising from this report

## **7.8. Public Health Implications**

7.8.1. The provision of quality Playing Pitches and Indoor Facilities provision will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the Cheshire East Community.

## **8. Other Implications**

8.1.1. Provision of good outdoor and indoor sports facilities should increase community participation rates and enable local residents, teams / clubs to play or be physically active in their own neighbourhood. The income being derived from bookings can support the cost of maintaining these community assets.

## 9. Risk Management

### 9.1. 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.
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, ESAR 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.

## 10. Access to Information/Bibliography

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

## 11. Contact Information

Contact details for this report are as follows:-

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### Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Assessment Report.
- Appendix 2 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy Report.
- Appendix 3 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Assessment Report.
- Appendix 4 Cheshire East Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy Report.