

Cherwell District Council

Executive

5 November 2018

<p>2018 District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy</p>

Report of Executive Director Wellbeing

This report is public

Purpose of report

To note the findings of the District Sports Study 'Playing Pitch Strategy', a part of the commissioned 2018 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment. These findings will be used to create the Sports & Leisure Strategy for Cherwell which will be brought to Executive in early 2019. The study models sport facility needs in Cherwell up to 2031.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the findings from the District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy Executive Summary.
- 1.2 To support the production of a Council Sports & Leisure strategy and subsequent delivery plan, in response to the Sports Studies findings & recommendations.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council commissioned consultants, Nortoft Partnerships Ltd, to produce the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategies for the district.
- 2.2 Members are recommended to read the Executive Summary (Appendix 1 to the report) to gain an understanding of need. The full report has been published as a background document on the page for this meeting under the "your council" section of the website.
- 2.3 Both the Playing Pitch Strategy, and previously reported Sports Facilities Strategy will be used to inform the Cherwell Sports & Leisure Strategy, which will be brought to members for consideration in early 2019.

2.4 The aim of the studies are:

- To provide an understanding of leisure facilities provision needs now, and in the future;
- To provide an evidence base to support and inform planning policy documents;
- To inform the determination of planning applications;
- To inform the strategy for management and maintenance of sports facilities;
- To inform the strategy for any Council capital and revenue investments, including S106 and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
- To inform and underpin bids to external funding partners to assist sporting infrastructure delivery;
- To identify the role of the education sector in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities;
- To identify deficiencies in quality, quantity and any surpluses of provision covering the period to 2031.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The District Sports Playing Pitch Strategy covers the following sports / areas: Football, Cricket, Rugby Union, Hockey and Artificial Grass Pitches.
- 3.2 Each sport has been assessed in terms of current provision, assessment of current supply / demand, consultation findings, adjacent authority provision, modelling, assessment of future needs, meeting the needs of the future, justifying developer contributions and recommendations.
- 3.3 The recommendations within the study are broadly divided in to actions that would help 'protect', 'enhance' or 'provide' future facilities. The production of the Cherwell Sport and Leisure Strategy will include a prioritisation of these to inform the delivery plan.
- 3.4 The study has been produced in consultation with key partners, including Sport England, National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of individual sports, and local sports clubs. The strategy and findings have been endorsed by Sport England and the NGB's.
- 3.5 The Executive Summary for the District Sports Playing Pitch Strategy can be found as an appendix to this report, and includes all the recommendations.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 The next stage in the process will be the preparation of a strategy which will clearly set out the outcomes and priorities that Cherwell District Council want to focus on. During the development of the strategy we will be engaging with the portfolio holder, members and local providers to prioritise recommendations. We will assess in more detail the options available including considering priority works, GIS mapping, funding strategy, project planning, sport development planning, inclusion in Local Plan documents where required, and business/service planning.

5.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 We are asking members to note the information contained in The District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy as it will provide an evidence base for the full Sports & Leisure Strategy. From this, producing a delivery approach for the development of further sports facilities where needed and to ensure the effective provision of sport and leisure opportunities across the District. Our main aim is to ensure that a network of sports facilities is in place to cater for the health and wellbeing of the current and future population.

6.0 Consultation

- 6.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with Sport England, governing bodies of individual sports, local sports clubs and the public.

7.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 7.1 The following alternative option has been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To reject the findings of the District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy, and to seek an alternative means of assessing current and future facility provision. This is not recommended, as it will be costly and will not meet Sport England assessment criteria, which is required for planning compliance and funding bids.

8.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The cost of the exercise has been met through approved budgets. There may be additional costs to the Council in supporting specified future developments and provision, but each of these will be taken on their own merits and through separate decision making reports which are not proposed at this stage.

Comments checked by:

Adele Taylor, Interim Executive Director of Finance and Governance
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Legal Implications

- 8.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. There may be a range of different largely procurement related and contractual issues which arise should the Council choose to either lead or support specific developments to address the need for additional provision. The report also provides an evidence base against which the Council could seek to obtain financial contributions or the delivery of facilities from any future development in accordance with the requirements of the Community Infrastructure Levy and national and local planning policies.

Comments checked by:
James Doble, Assistant Director Law and Governance
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Planning Policy Implications

- 8.3 The Playing Pitch Strategy provides an important evidence based document which will be used in support of planning policy documents and will assist officers working on the Examination of the Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part 1) (Oxford's Unmet Housing Need). The Strategy has been prepared in full consultation with the Planning Policy and Growth Strategy Team.

Comments checked by:
David Peckford, Deputy Manager – Planning Policy and Growth Strategy, 01295 221841, david.peckford@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 8.4 As many of the recommendations to deliver the sports study findings involve land which the Council does not own, or are dependent on other bodies to deliver and fund, there is a risk of delivery as the Council is not in full control of these projects. This is mitigated, in part, by the good relationships which exist between different sports clubs and the Council and the joint willingness to improve sports facility provision. This will be managed as part of the operational risk register and escalated to the Leadership risk register as and when necessary

Comments checked by:
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9.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: Yes

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Thriving Communities and Wellbeing – Enhance Leisure Facilities

Lead Councillor

Councillor George Reynolds, Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Leisure and Sport

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	District Sports Study Playing Pitch Strategy Executive Summary
Background Papers	
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategies Part 3: Playing Pitch Strategy	
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