

Cherwell District Council

Executive

7 November 2022

Cherwell Sports Studies

Report of Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing

This report is public

Purpose of report

To note the emerging evidence of the District Sports Studies findings. These will be used as an evidence base for the new Local Plan, and provide the basis of future sports facility developer contribution requests. It is not the intention that all the recommendations should be acted upon by the Council alone, and this report focuses on those where the Council can have an influence. The study models sport facility needs in Cherwell up to 2040.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To recognise the 2022 Sports Studies as influential strategic documents, and agrees they should be used to seek developer contributions / influence capital bids / seek external funding.
- 1.2 To agree that the documents are shared with partners to ensure wider understanding and influence.
- 1.3 To request that the documents are annually reviewed by officers, Sport England and National Governing Body representatives, and Members are kept abreast of key changes.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council commissioned consultants, Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd, to produce fresh Sports Studies for the district. The Studies will replace the previous documents from 2018.
- 2.2 Whilst the Studies are nearing completion (all documents will be available in November), a summary document of emerging recommendations is attached to this report.

2.3 The aim of the Studies is:

- 2.3.1 to provide an understanding of sports facilities provision needs now, and in to the future.
- 2.3.2 to provide an evidence base to support and inform the Local Plan.
- 2.3.3 to inform the determination of planning applications.
- 2.3.4 to inform the strategy for management and maintenance of sports facilities.
- 2.3.5 to inform the strategy for any Council capital and revenue investments, including S106 developer contributions.
- 2.3.6 to inform and underpin bids to external funding partners to assist sporting infrastructure delivery.
- 2.3.7 to identify the role of the education, commercial and third-party sectors in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities.
- 2.3.8 to identify deficiencies in quality, quantity and any surpluses of provision covering the period to 2040.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The Sports Studies have been divided in two areas, these being the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Strategy. The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) focuses on outdoor sports including, but not limited to football, rugby, hockey, tennis and cricket (within the PPS, winter and summer sports have been separated due to the timings of the consultant's work). The Built Facilities Strategy mainly focuses on indoor facilities including swimming pools, gyms, dance studios and sports halls.
- 3.2 Each individual sport has been assessed in terms of current provision, assessment of current supply / demand including any unmet demand. In addition, the individual sports are assessed against future population growth, known developments being built and aspirations of clubs / national governing bodies. This in turn will give supporting evidence for requesting developer contributions to sporting facilities within the District.
- 3.3 The PPS and the Built Facilities Strategy have been produced in consultation with key partners, including Sport England, National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of individual sports, and local sports clubs, facility providers including leisure centres and schools/academies. The strategies and their recommendations will be available to all partners once complete.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 We are asking members to note the summary of findings of the 2022 Cherwell Sports Studies. The final Sports Study documents will be used to work with partners and other organisations on delivery models to improve and develop sports facilities where needed, 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.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 Extensive consultation has taken place with Sport England, national governing bodies of individual sports, local sports clubs and Town and Parish Councils. All CDC Councilors were offered locality specific consultation sessions.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

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

Option 1: To reject the findings of the Sports Studies, 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.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 The cost of the 2022 Sports Studies exercise has been met through approved Planning Policy budgets.

Before committing to any of these potential future projects, the costs to the Council, including ongoing revenue costs and future capital costs, should be identified and considered in the context of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and ongoing affordability to the Council.

Comments checked by:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 01295 221845

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 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 national and local planning policies.

Comments checked by:

Shahin Ismail Interim Monitoring Officer & Assistant Director Law, Governance and Democratic Services, Shahin.ishmail@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 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:

Celia Prado-Teeling Interim Assistant Director – Customer Focus
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Equalities and Inclusion Implications

- 7.4 There are no direct equalities and inclusion Implications arising from this report. All proposals are developed in line with the commitments set in our Equalities and Inclusion Framework.

Comments checked by:

Celia Prado-Teeling Interim Assistant Director – Customer Focus
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Planning Policy Implications

- 7.5 The Sports Studies provide important evidence based documents which will be used in support of planning policy documents, and will assist officers working on the new Local Plan review. The Studies have been prepared in full consultation with the Planning Policy and Conservation Team.

Comments checked by:

David Peckford, Assistant Director of Planning and Development
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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: Yes/

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Healthy, Resilient and Engaged Communities

Lead Councillor

Councillor Phil Chapman, Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities

Document Information**Appendix number and title**

- Appendix 1 – Summary of 2022 Cherwell Sports Studies Findings

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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