

Report To:	Cabinet	Date:	24 th November 2016
Heading:	ADOPTION OF UPDATED PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY		
Portfolio Holder:	COUNCILLOR JIM ASPINALL - HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND COUNCILLOR TIM BROWN – ENVIRONMENT		
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS		
Key Decision:	No		
Subject To Call-In:	Yes		

Purpose Of Report

For Cabinet to approve the updated Playing Pitch strategy for adoption.

Recommendation(s)

1. To approve the updated Playing Pitch strategy for adoption.
2. Allow for any minor amendments to the strategy following consultation with Sport England and the relevant sport National Governing Bodies, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders.

Reasons For Recommendation(s)

The Playing Pitch Strategy forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and is also required to support funding applications for improvements to sports facilities.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

None available- the current Playing Pitch Strategy needs to be updated by December 2016. An up to date strategy is required to support the Local Plan and support funding applications to improve sports facilities.

Detailed Information

The draft strategy has been developed as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and links to the Public Open Space Strategy, the service review for Waste and Environment and the Asset Review.

Key message

The Council is aiming to build on its excellent legacy by focussing on creating more sustainable open spaces with better facilities, offering greater scope for residents to enjoy them.

The **Playing Pitch Strategy** provides a strategic framework for Ashfield’s outdoor sports facilities over the next three years to 2019 and a focus for three key areas:

- Sustainable long term management of outdoor sports facilities
- Evidence of need and priorities to support funding bids for improvement of facilities
- Provision of new facilities through the development process where a need has been identified.

The strategy focuses on the following sports:

Football
Hockey
Tennis

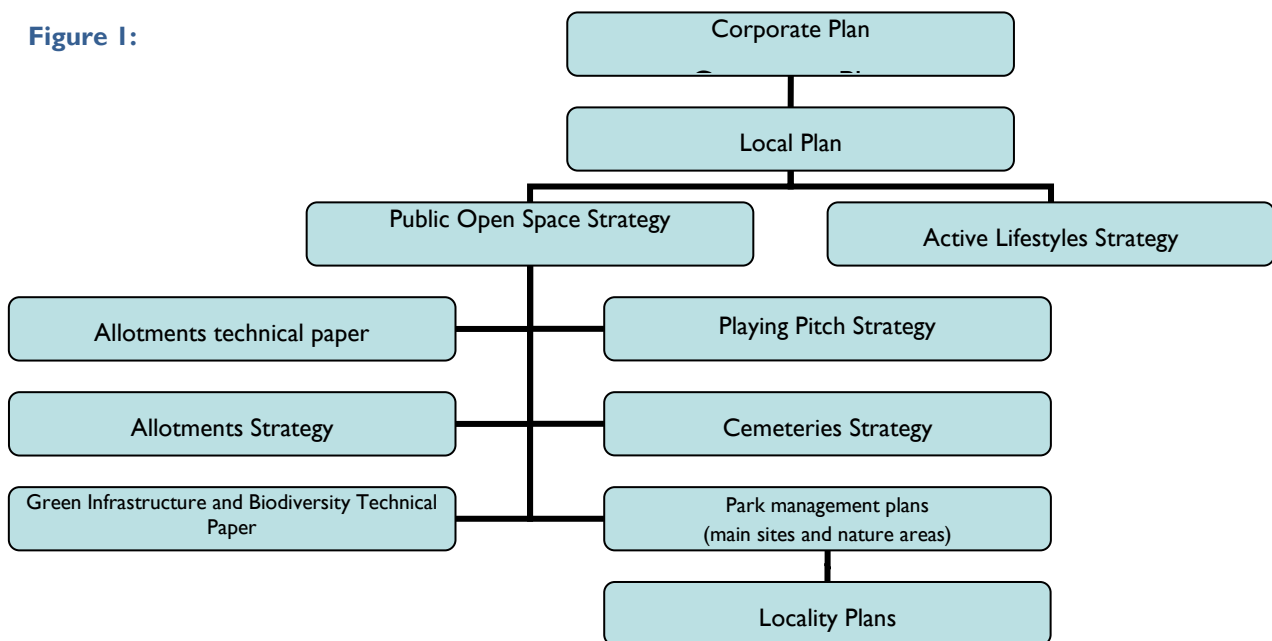
Cricket
Bowls

Rugby
Netball

Sport England recommends that strategies are reviewed every three years. As well as providing evidence for the Local Plan, an up to date strategy is necessary to access potential funding from Sport England and the Football Foundation.

Figure 1 below shows how the Playing Pitch Strategy fits within the Council’s strategic framework.

Figure 1:



Preparation of the strategy has included the following:

- Review of existing Playing Pitch Strategy
- Review of sport's National Governing Bodies' strategic plans
- Non-technical assessments of all pitches in the district- public and private
- Consultation with clubs and educational establishments
- Consultation with NGBs and Sport England.

From analysis of the information gathered during the preparation of the strategy the following key priorities have been identified:

Priority 1: To protect existing sports facilities and provide new facilities where there is current or future anticipated demand

Priority 2. To improve the quality of facilities and support effective management and club development.

These priorities will be achieved through: adoption of the Local Plan; implementation of the strategy Action Plan with site specific projects incorporated into the Locality plans for the four main areas of the District (Hucknall, Kirkby, Sutton and the Rurals) and through support to clubs through the Club accreditation scheme and Ashfield Club Forum.

Main implications

The main implications of the new strategy are the creation of **Hub** sites and the potential leasing of **Local** sites to sports clubs. The Hub sites will provide a greater number of sports facilities on one site (particularly football pitches) to provide better quality facilities. This approach is advocated by Sport England which favours multi use site funding applications.

The Hub model has been introduced in Hucknall at the Papplewick site which, when operational will provide five football pitches and changing facilities when it is transferred from the developer. This approach would be replicated at Kingsway Park and Titchfield Park, Kirkby and Sutton Lawn. The site at Sutton Lawn is the land to the north owned by the County Council as well as a redundant shale pitch in this area which is held on trust by the Council. We would need to work with the County to develop the number of pitches and quality of the provision, initial contact with County regarding the potential of joint working has been positive.

Supply and demand of pitches

Football - There is an undersupply of youth football pitches in Hucknall, the Rurals and Sutton and an undersupply of minis in the Rurals, these shortfalls could potentially be met by converting adult pitches as there is an identified significant oversupply of this type of pitch across all of the four areas.

Cricket - there is a current and future undersupply of one pitch in both Kirkby and Sutton. This can potentially be met by the new ground at Larwood Park, Kirkby (bordering Sutton) which is due to open in 2017 which will be leased/ hired out by Ashfield Rugby Club.

Rugby - There is a current and predicted future undersupply of two rugby pitches in Kirkby, this will be met when the new facility at Larwood Park opens for the 2017/18 season.

Hockey- There is a current and predicted future undersupply of one hockey pitch in Kirkby, but one of the teams prefers to play at Goosedale in Nottingham.

No other deficiencies have been identified for current or future needs, up to 2026.

The strategy is currently being reviewed by Sport England and the relevant sport national governing bodies, some minor alterations to the strategy may be required following the review.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The strategy will support the Health and Wellbeing and Place and Communities priorities.

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications resulting from the adoption of the new Strategy. As detailed in the report, the new Strategy provides an evidence base to support the Local Plan.

Finance:

This report is effective from 05/12/2016 and has the following financial implications:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None at this stage although there may be financial implications as the Strategy is implemented.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None at this stage although there may be financial implications as the Strategy is implemented.
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:

No implications identified.

Other Implications:

None identified.

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

Not applicable.

Background Papers

Draft Playing Pitch Strategy December 2016- December 2019

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