

EXECUTIVE

LEADER: Cllr Jeremy Christophers

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Philip Bullivant

DATE: 17th July 2018

REPORT OF: Interim Head of Operations

SUBJECT: Teignbridge Playing Pitch Strategy

PART I

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive is recommended to adopt the playing pitch strategy at Appendix 1

1. PURPOSE

To approve the playing pitch strategy shown at Appendix 1, which will help to inform investment decisions, planning decisions and the Local Plan review.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework expects local authorities to prepare robust and up to date assessments of the need for playing pitch facilities. Sport England have published detailed guidance on how such assessments should be prepared in the form of a playing pitch strategy.
- 2.2 Following the Sport England guidance plays an important role in ensuring that local sports clubs and other key stakeholders are engaged. It also helps to establish agreement and support from Sport England and the national governing bodies for some of the most played sports in the area, which can be instrumental in attracting external funding for agreed investment priorities.
- 2.3 Over the past two years Pengelly Consulting have assisted with preparation of the playing pitch strategy at Appendix 1. On Sport England's advice, the focus of the project has been on the sports of Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket. An emerging leisure review will address other sports and activities. The main steps involved have been:
- Establishing and agreeing the scope and brief for the project;
 - Gathering information about the quality and quantity of sports pitches and whether there is community access to them;
 - Detailed surveys and demographic projections to establish current and projected levels of demand;

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- Analysing the data in the context of individual sites and the likely implications for current and future provision; and
- Developing a summary action plan for all sites, as well as a priority action plan for strategically important sports facility improvements across the district.

2.4 A steering group has overseen the project. The group has comprised:

- Portfolio Holder for Recreation and Leisure;
- Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing;
- Council officers;
- Sport England; and
- National governing bodies for Football, Rugby Union, Hockey and Cricket.

2.5 Sport England and the sports bodies have approved the strategy as drafted.

3. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

Priority projects

3.1 Adopting the strategy will confirm priority playing pitch projects. As well as the strategy reviewing improvements needed across all of Teignbridge's playing pitch sites, Section 4 includes a priority action plan with associated projects. The action plan sets out what needs to be done and who needs to take the lead. In many cases the formation of sub-groups will be required in order to deliver projects. In some, it will be appropriate to form sub-groups for multiple projects and involve third parties like landowners; for example, where interrelated projects have been identified across a town or area.

3.2 The priorities include:

- New artificial hockey pitch on the A38 corridor;
- New artificial grass football pitch in Newton Abbot;
- Rugby pitch quality issues at Bitton Park, Teignmouth;
- Securing a long term Newton Abbot Rugby Club lease; and
- Improving the capacity of the most popular cricket clubs

3.3 It is important to be clear that the playing pitch strategy does not just belong to the Council. A number of stakeholders have been involved in its preparation and in many cases it will be for others to lead the projects it identifies, even if Teignbridge plays a role in facilitation and providing support.

Funding and budget setting

3.4 The strategy will help to inform future budget setting. It will be an important consideration for Sport England and the sport national governing bodies when they are distributing funds. It will also help to inform effective deployment of

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Council resources like funding for sport facilities that is identified in the capital programme.

- 3.5 However, the Council shouldn't be seen as the only source of money for projects identified in the strategy. Instead, it is a potential source of match and seed funding. An essential part of delivering any sport facility improvement is financial sustainability and it will often be important for the projects identified in the strategy to finance most or all of their own costs.

Local Plan making and planning application decisions

- 3.6 Adoption of the strategy will establish a 'material consideration' in the determination of many future planning applications. It will help to reinforce existing policies that safeguard facilities, whilst also providing the evidence needed to support Section 106 planning obligations for enhanced playing pitch facilities where appropriate.
- 3.7 Longer term, the playing pitch strategy will help to inform the Local Plan review, including future policies on playing pitch provision and development allocations.

Strategy review

- 3.8 Proposed within the strategy are arrangements for ongoing review. It is intended that the established playing pitch strategy steering group will continue to meet at least once a year. Part of the agenda will involve determining whether there have been material changes in the district and whether the strategy's action plan remains fit for purpose. Significant changes to the strategy or a wholesale review would need to be considered by Executive again at a future date.

4. TIMESCALE

- 4.1 It is recommended to adopt the playing pitch strategy immediately (on the date of implementation).

5. JUSTIFICATION

- 5.1 The playing pitch strategy represents a robust and up to date response to the assessed needs of the district and is agreed by the national statutory sports body as well as the associations for Teignbridge's key pitch sports. It will be essential in facilitating future enhancements to local facilities and in supporting future planning decisions.

Reasons for reduced notice

- 5.2 The playing pitch strategy was largely prepared in 2016/17. Sports clubs and other stakeholders have since been asking about when Teignbridge will adopt it because work is underway on a number of playing pitch projects. It will be beneficial to the community to have a strategy in place before the next

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scheduled Executive in order to support these projects and any case for funding. It will also be important to adopt the strategy before the associated data becomes out of date. These reasons have meant that the Council has been unable to give 28 days' notice of this item through the Executive's Forward Plan.

6. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION (CONFIRMATION OF DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN)

10.00 a.m. on 24 July 2018

Lorraine Montgomery
Interim Head of Operations

Cllr Philip Bullivant
Portfolio Holder for Recreation & Leisure

BELOW TO BE FILLED IN BY REPORT AUTHOR:

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	Lorraine Montgomery
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	
Key Decision	Y
In Forward Plan	N
In O&S Work Programme	N
Community Impact Assessment attached:	N
Appendices attached:	Appendix 1: Final Draft Playing Pitch Strategy and site by site action plan