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Derby City Playing Pitch Strategy

Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval on the vision and strategy for Derby's playing pitches. The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) forms part of the Council's evidence base for physical activity and sport.
- 1.2 The PPS frames the priorities for future investment and the continued development of the playing pitch and associated facility infrastructure across Derby. The evidence base created will be utilised when considering planning applications in consultation with Sport England as a statutory consultee, who in turn will consult with National Governing Bodies of Sport as appropriate.
- 1.3 Whilst the analysis within the PPS will assist in determining the priorities for investment, any playing pitch or associated infrastructure improvement and / or new development will be subject to sources of funding (primarily from external sources) being made available. Any development or disposal will also be subject to the development of a clear business case, impact assessment and where appropriate a funding application.
- 1.4 In addition to the Derby City PPS a specific report has been developed, in conjunction with South Derbyshire District Council, which focuses on the shared area of growth between the City of Derby and South Derbyshire, termed the Derby Growth Zone, which will see significant housing growth to 2028.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve the Derby Playing Pitch Strategy, and Derby Growth Zone Report, as appended to the report at Appendix 1 and 2, covering the period 2018 – 2028 in line with the Local Plan.
- 2.2 To note that the Playing Pitch Strategy will be used to inform the development and review of local development documents.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 To guide future provision and management of sports pitches in the area in the context

of national planning guidelines and local sports development criteria.

- 3.2 Protect facilities against development pressure, informing planning decision for sites where there are applications for change of use pending.
- 3.3 Inform future policies on the Council's role as a provider and enabler of pitch provision, identifying an appropriate facility mix addressing demand pressures, providing a steer on the leasing of sites to established sports clubs and providing a framework for investment and prioritisation of funding applications.
- 3.4 Successful adoption of the strategy will allow for Sport England contribution funding to be drawn down for the costs associated with developing the strategy.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The Derby Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Derby Growth Zone Report have been produced in collaboration with South Derbyshire District Council under the guidance of Sport England. The Strategy, preceding Assessment Report and Derby Growth Zone Report have achieved sign off from National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). The study and strategy, covering the period up to 2028, underpins and will inform local planning policy.
- 4.2 Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd, management consultants, were jointly commissioned by Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council to develop two independent but aligned PPS's.
- 4.3 The PPS provides guidance and support in order to understand and assess the need for playing pitches and is a robust and up to date assessment of the supply and demand for playing pitch provision within Derby as well as quality. It determines clear priorities and a hierarchy of sites within a structured action plan. It provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing provision and covers the following outdoor sports:
 - Football pitches
 - Cricket pitches
 - Rugby Union pitches
 - Rugby League pitches
 - Hockey pitches
 - Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitches (3G Pitches)
 - Other pitch sports
 - Bowling Greens
 - Tennis
 - Athletics
 - Netball

4.4 The aims identified by Officers and included within the brief for the Sport England approved consultants delivering the Strategy were as follows:

- The need to increase participation in sport and reduce physical inactivity across the two authorities.
- The need to provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
- The need to ensure effective use of resources for management and maintenance of facilities, particularly in response to budgetary pressures.
- The need to understand future demand and inform the development of new facilities, particularly though not exclusively in areas of population growth, including the South Derby Housing Growth Area.
- The need to support the development of a priority list of deliverable projects to help address current need and future demand for the purpose of infrastructure planning.
- The need to develop a strong partnership support network with partners, clubs and National Governing Bodies to aid delivery.
- The need to provide evidence to help secure funding including but not limited to the Stage 2 National Parklife application.
- To provide an informing evidence base as part of the Planning Policy Framework underpinning the respective Local Plans and necessary investment through S106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy or other suitable mechanisms.

4.5 The PPS supports the Council and its partners in its vision, established within Move More Derby (Physical Activity & Sport Strategy) as follows:

‘An active Derby for everyone, improving our health, wellbeing and quality of life by supporting people to Move More in Derby’.

To achieve this strategic vision, this strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport
- Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

- 4.6 The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings relating to the main playing pitch sports from the PPS Assessment Report (Appendix 3)

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ¹
Football (grass pitches)	North East	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 8.5 adult MES per week. Shortfalls: 18 youth 9v9 MES per week	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 7.5 adult match equivalent MES per week. Shortfalls: 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week 20.5 youth 9v9 MES per week 12.5 mini 5v5 MES per week
	North West	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 4.5 adult MES per week 1 youth 9v9 MES per week Shortfalls: 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 1 youth 9v9 MES per week Shortfalls: 7 youth 11v11 MES per week 0.5 mini 5v5 MES per week
Football (grass pitches)	South East	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 8.5 adult MES per week 2 youth 11v11 MES per week 1 youth 9v9 MES per week 4 mini 7v7 MES per week 1 mini 5v5 MES per week	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 4.5 adult MES per week 4 mini 7v7 MES per week 1 mini 5v5 MES per week Shortfalls: 4 youth 11v11 MES per week 4.5 youth 9v9 MES per week
	South West & Central	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 1 adult MES per week 1 youth 11v11 MES per week	<i>Actual spare capacity:</i> 1 adult MES per week 0.5 youth 11v11 MES per week

Football (3G pitches) ²	North East	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.	Shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.
	North West	No quantitative shortfall, to meet affiliated team training demand.	No quantitative shortfall, to meet affiliated team training demand.
	South East	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand	Shortfall of three full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand
	South West & Central	No quantitative shortfall, to meet affiliated team training demand.	No quantitative shortfall, to meet affiliated team training demand.

¹ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

² Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full sized pitch for affiliated team training.

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ³
Rugby union	North East	<i>Actual spare capacity: 1.5 senior MES per week</i>	<i>Actual spare capacity: 1.5 senior MES per week</i>
	North West	Shortfall of 2.5 senior MES per week	Shortfall of three senior MES per week
	South East	Shortfall of 2.25 senior MES per week	Shortfall of 2.75 MES per week
	South West & Central	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>
Rugby league (senior pitches)	City of Derby	Demand can be met by existing supply	Demand can be met by existing supply
Cricket	North East	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<i>Pitches are at capacity⁴</i>
	North West	Actual spare capacity of 11 MES per season	Actual spare capacity of 1 MES per season ⁷
	South East	<i>Pitches are at capacity</i>	<i>Pitches are at capacity⁷</i>
	South West & Central	Actual spare capacity of 6 MES per season	Shortfall of 2 MES per season⁷
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	City of Derby	No quantitative shortfall. <i>Critical need for qualitative improvements at City of Derby Academy and Woodlands School.</i>	No quantitative shortfall. <i>Critical need for qualitative improvements at City of Derby Academy and Woodlands School.</i>
Bowls	City of Derby	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Tennis	City of Derby	Demand can be met by existing supply	<i>There may be a future need to increase capacity at The Pavilion (Rolls Royce Sports Club) and Derbyshire Tennis Centre to accommodate potential reported club growth aspirations. This may however be achieved through development of indoor capacity.</i>

³ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

⁴ Future shortfalls for cricket may be exacerbated or new shortfalls created should future demand exceed population based projections as a result of NGB and Club based growth initiatives, the outcomes of which are yet to be evidenced

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ⁵
Athletics	City of Derby	Demand for track training can be catered for; however, there is requirement for suitable indoor space for junior activities in winter.	Demand for track training can be catered for; however, there is requirement for suitable indoor space for junior activities in winter.
Netball	City of Derby	Demand is able to be met by existing level of supply	Demand can be met by existing level of supply
Other Sports	City of Derby	Demand for Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse, American Football and Gaelic Sports is able to be met with current levels of supply.	Demand for Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse, American Football and Gaelic Sports is able to be met with current levels of supply.

- 4.7 The existing position is that current quantitative shortfalls exist for football, full sized 3G pitches and rugby union, with qualitative improvements required to hockey suitable AGP provision to maintain the level of current capacity available, which is presently able to meet demand.

The future position projected to 2028 exacerbates these shortfalls to include cricket (potentially to a greater extent than evidenced dependent on the success of new NGB and club growth initiatives and new playing formats) and potentially tennis subject to the realisation of aspirational club growth plans.

As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met. Some shortfalls can be reduced through increased access to existing provision, for example, increased certification and use of 3G pitches for competitive football or rugby union match play would create new capacity to reduce future grass pitch shortfalls currently unavailable due to compliancy. Alternatively, dependant on site footprint and suitability there may be scope to reconfigure pitches with capacity to other sizes to address shortfalls at other formats, for example for football.

- 4.8 The PPS tests a number of relevant scenarios against key issues for each sport resulting in sport by sport recommendations that can be found in Appendix 1 – City of Derby Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan, Part 4: Sport specific issues, scenarios and recommendations.

⁵ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

- 4.9 Based on the headline findings and sport by sport recommendations, the following overarching aims and their associated recommendations are considered key. These are based on three Sport England aims:
- **Aim 1** - To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs; for example, through planning policy and by securing tenure and access to sites for development-minded clubs through partnerships and practical solutions such as Community Asset Transfer.
 - **Aim 2** - To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.
 - **Aim 3** - To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so.
- 4.10 The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Derby. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in the Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Derby can be satisfied.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

- 5.2 The consultation process sought to capture demand information and associated issues relating to all affiliated sports clubs using playing pitches in Derby.

For face to face consultation, key clubs were identified by NGBs and the Council and were selected based on sporting issues most pertinent to the study, for example, for having high levels of demand, specific facility issues including quality, threat of loss of access or related issues to playing pitch provision.

- 5.3 Regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy will take place. This monitoring will be led by the local authorities (Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council) and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group that developed the respective strategies and action plans. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied will form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This will be an on-going role of the group.

Other options

- 6.1 Not adopting the Playing Pitch Strategy. This would leave Derby (already short of quality and capacity) and its Playing Pitches and Open Spaces vulnerable to development.

Further this would leave services without a clear rationale for allocation of budget/resources and a plan against which external agencies such as NGBs can be engaged.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 There are not any general financial implications for the Council in relation to implementation of the strategy; however, in the event that there are specific implications in individual cases, these will be taken into account in determining the way forward and consideration given on a case-by-case basis to how any financial issues will be funded.

In implementing the Strategy, it will enable the Council to support more targeted and effective deployment of DCC resources as well as a prioritisation for attracting and supporting external funding including s106 monies.

Legal implications

- 8.1 The legal power is Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Other significant implications

9.1 Property and Asset Management

There are no immediate implications on property and asset management as this report seeks to approve the framework. Any developments as a result of the PPS action plan and potential impact on Property and Assets shall be considered on an individual basis.

9.2 Risk Management and Safeguarding

The main risk is that the Council, and its partners, may be unable to deliver the new facilities and improvements identified within the strategy due to lack of funds or partnership engagement. Projects will be delivered in partnership with users of the facilities and priority will be given to sites with local support and community

involvement.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services	06/12/2018
Finance	Amanda Fletcher, Head of Finance – Communities and Place	02/01/2019
Service Director(s)	Claire Davenport	17/12/2018
Report sponsor	Christine Durrant	17/12/2018
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Derby Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan Appendix 2 – Derby Growth Zone Report Appendix 3 – Derby Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report All the appendices are available on CMIS