



Derby City Council

**REGENERATION AND CULTURE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD  
21 April 2015**

# ITEM 8

Report of the Strategic Director of  
Neighbourhoods

## Derby Outdoor Sports Strategy

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council commissioned a city wide assessment of playing pitch pitches and outdoor sports provision. The assessment, which will form Derby's Outdoor Sports Strategy (OSS), covers the period 2014 - 2018 and will be used to identify the priorities to inform future outdoor sport provision and influence the development of planning policy for the Local Plan and the Core Strategy.
- 1.2 The OSS for the Council and for Derby generally provides a number of benefits including:
  - Enabling the city to strategically plan its resources on focused provision that aligns with the Leisure Strategy ethos of hub and satellite sporting venues.
  - Providing a strategic approach to playing pitch provision with a clear direction and a set of priorities for playing pitch facilities.
  - Improving the local authority's asset management by providing detailed audit information and facility user views. This should lead to more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
  - Identifying a strategic reserve from the present decommissioned sites and give clarity regarding the sites not needed.
  - Enabling cross boundary partnership working with South Derbyshire with the identification of common priorities.
  - Helping to deliver national priorities for social inclusion, environmental protection, community involvement and healthy living.
  - Providing a sound assessment of local need based on considerable consultation with local sports clubs, governing bodies and stakeholders.
  - Potentially targeting Section 106 development money to address quality and future provision needs.
  - Providing robust evidence to support funding applications to agencies including the Football Foundation and the National Lottery.
  - Providing a robust and up-to-date evidence base to support policies in the

Council's Core Strategy.

- Providing a robust evidence base that underpins Supplementary Planning Documents for Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and support policies in the Council's Core Strategy.
- Identifying a justifiable standard of provision proving the need for developer contributions to support requirements for outdoor sport provision arising from new housing development.

Officers from Planning have been involved in the development of the OSS to check and challenge the evidence base and also to ensure the recommendations from the OSS link and relate to the emerging Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is the most important document to be prepared as part of the new city of Derby Local Plan as it sets the overall strategic direction for planning the administrative area of Derby City over the period 2008 to 2028.

- 1.3 In addition users across the city have been consulted as well as National Governing Bodies, Sport England, sport facilities providers and a number of Council officers.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the report and highlight any issues that may need to be taken on board prior to Cabinet receiving the final draft of the OSS for approval.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 All Local Authorities are encouraged by Sport England to undertake an independent assessment and produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (Derby's OSS). Without the assessment and subsequent strategy any future developments on playing fields will be objected to by Sport England due to the city not being able to demonstrate supply and demand of pitch provision now and in the future. In addition it is necessary to have a clear strategy for playing pitch and outdoor provision.
- 3.2 The OSS has been produced from the assessment of nine different sports. The assessment has involved an inspection of all sports facilities provision and consultation with sports clubs, users and national governing bodies and a number of recommendations have emerged and have been proposed which will shape the future provision of outdoor sport. This has been undertaken by a consultant that specialises in this field.
- 3.3 By undertaking the OSS it will aid planning and influence developers and the Council to ensure that resources are maximised and funding opportunities are targeted to achieve expected improvements over the next few years.
- 3.4 The completion of the OSS supports and complements the emerging Core Strategy for Derby.

- 3.5 The OSS will provide the evidence base to guide and inform how the Council and external partners and stakeholders can work together to meet the future demands of outdoor sports provision over the next few years.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The OSS for the City of Derby is based on assessing the supply of and demand for outdoor sports facilities in the city. The analysis indicates that both under and over provision exist and there are some issues with the quality of some playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

- 4.2 An independent audit was undertaken of all outdoor sports facilities in the city that are available for community use. The information from this audit has provided data on the supply of facilities; these were also assessed for quality using bespoke visual quality assessment tools.

Information about demand was obtained by undertaking a questionnaire survey of all outdoor sports clubs in the city of Derby. Clubs were asked about membership and trends; patterns of play; views on the quality of facilities, club aspirations and any issues or problems.

For the sports of football, cricket and rugby the analysis of the supply of and demand for playing pitches was undertaken using Sport England's Playing Pitch Model which is provided in the guidance, 'Towards a Level Playing Field'.

- 4.3 The objectives for the OSS assessment study were:

- To undertake an audit of the current levels of provision for playing pitches, including Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA), in Derby across all sectors (public, education, voluntary and commercial) that are available for public use.
- To ascertain the current demand for outdoor sports facilities from clubs and teams for the following sports:

Football; Cricket; Tennis; Bowls; Rugby Union; Rugby League; Hockey; Gaelic Football; Netball and Artificial Grass Pitches (all sports)

4.4 The OSS assessment will provide information and data that will be important to steer the future management and planning of the outdoor sports provision and will help the city understand the following issues;

- Determine the future demand until 2018 for both youth and adult participation.
- Assess and analyse the adequacy of supply to meet the demand for outdoor sports facilities.
- Develop options to deal with all local issues mainly concerning:
  - quantitative deficiencies
  - qualitative deficiencies
- Identify underused/unused provision.

4.5 Outlined in Appendix 2 are the OSS conclusions and recommendations.

4.6 The OSS will be monitored, reviewed and updated over the course of the four years.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| <b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b> |
|---------------------------------|

5.1 The options not to complete an OSS was considered ; however it was clear that the city needed to establish a robust strategy to aid future planning applications and to overcome objections from statutory bodies such as Sport England.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Legal officer</b><br><b>Financial officer</b><br><b>Human Resources officer</b><br><br><b>Estates/Property officer</b><br><b>Service Director(s)</b><br><b>Other(s)</b> | Janie Berry - Director of Legal and Democratic Services<br>Mandy Fletcher - Head of Finance - Neighbourhoods<br>Diane Sturdy - Acting Head of Service - OD, Employee Relations and Pay and Reward Strategy<br>Alistair Burg - Interim Head of Strategic Asset Management and Estates<br>Claire Davenport - Director of Leisure and Culture<br>Nick O'Reilly – Director of ICT<br>Ann Webster – Equality and Diversity Lead<br>Wendy Johnson - Head of Occupational Health and Wellbeing<br>Richard Boneham - Head of Governance & Assurance |
|--|---|

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>For more information contact:</b><br><b>Background papers:</b><br><b>List of appendices:</b> | Name Andrew Beddow 01332 641230 Andrew.beddow@derby.gov.uk<br><br>Appendix 1 – Implications<br>Appendix 2 – OSS conclusions and recommendations |
|---|---|

## IMPLICATIONS

### Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The strategy and the associated Local Standards within the strategy will provide a sound platform for engaging with developers for Section 106 contributions. It will also provide a targeted strategic approach to developer's contributions for outdoor sports provision.
- 1.2 The strategy will open up opportunities to seek external funding to address some of the recommendations identified and therefore it is hoped that it will improve the overall sports provision for outdoor facilities.
- 1.3 The strategy will provide data to enable a targeted approach to evaluating asset transfer to the third sector or club associations which will potentially reduce revenue costs to the Council, increase sport and recreational participation and broader accessibility for Derby residents.

### Legal

- 2.1 The strategy provides a robust evidence base that underpins Supplementary Planning Documents for Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Also it provides a justifiable standard of provision proving the need for developer contributions to support requirements for outdoor sport provision arising from new housing development which will be embedded on the emerging Core Strategy.

### Personnel

- 3.1 None arising from this report

### ICT

- 4.1 None arising from this report

### Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The Outdoor Sports Strategy will hopefully improve choice and accessibility across the city over a four year period.
- 5.2 In any facilities there is a requirement to provide disabled people with full access to all sports facilities under the Equality Act 2010. Full access means being able to make full use of the facility as a participant, spectator or as a member of staff. Pavilions and changing facilities should comply with the Sport England 'Access for Disabled People' guide to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. This guidance note presents the minimum requirements for achieving good access.

- 5.3 The strategy will hopefully improve equality for women in football as more places need to provide suitable changing facilities for women

### **Health and Safety**

- 6.1 As part of the process improvements will be made throughout the four year period which will provide safer and more accessibility sports facilities. This will include maintenance of buildings and equipment, compliance with and development of safe working practices and enabling partners to be skilled in the management in identified asset transfer facilities.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

### **Asset Management**

- 8.1 Any assets transferred over the four year period in the form of a lease, would require the tenant to take over the responsibility for managing and maintaining the identified site. Encouraging self-management will need careful consideration to ensure any club has a sustainable business/funding model as well as the experience and expertise to ensure buildings and pitches are properly maintained. There is otherwise a risk that club failure would result in facilities coming back to the Council in a worst state of repair.
- 8.2 Property Management and Grounds Maintenance service areas will consider how the short and medium term issues can be addressed in conjunction with Leisure and with external partners such as the third sector and other organisations.
- 8.3 Officers from Leisure, Estates and Property Management will need to identify within a six month period the strategic reserve of 10% for playing pitches which is a recommendation with the OSS.

### **Risk Management**

- 9.1 The need to address outdoor sports provision is imperative to prevent further decline in the city's facilities outdoor sports provision. Failure to act may result in facilities closing or increased maintenance costs to sustain existing provision.

### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 10.1 The proposal contributes to the Council providing good-quality services that meet local needs and contributes to an "inspiring place to live".

### OSS Conclusions and Recommendations

## 15. Conclusions and Recommendations

### 15.1 Aims of the Strategy

As referred to at the beginning of this strategy the city has highlighted the following key aims for the Outdoor Sports Strategy:

- Enable the city to meet existing and future needs for pitch provision through collaborative partnership working.
- Create opportunities for optimising outdoor sport provision that increases participation, drives income streams and secures sustainable outdoor sport, recreational and cultural provision.
- Through a city partnership, prioritise the quality improvements required for outdoor sport provision.
- Influence planning guidance and create an approved local standard of provision for the identified sports.
- Aid the prioritisation of resources and funding opportunities to ensure the future sustainability of outdoor sport, recreational and cultural provision.

The audit and assessment of Outdoor Sports Provision has been completed. In order to maintain and enhance outdoor sports provision in Derby the following key areas need to be noted and where possible addressed. By doing so, it will take forward and develop the outdoor sport provision and deliver the Outdoor Sports Strategy.

The following conclusions and recommendations are broken down into sub sections. Within each sub section the conclusions from the audit and assessment are summarised and recommendations are proposed.

### 15.2 Quantitative Surpluses and Deficiencies

#### 15.2.1 Playing Pitches

There is a need to ensure that the existing level of playing pitch land in public, private and educational ownership located in Derby is sustained.

#### 15.2.2 Football

Whilst there is not an apparent overall shortfall in the provision of grass football pitches to meet both current and future demand at the peak time there is still nevertheless a need to sustain the existing pitch provision.

Overall, the quality of football pitches in Derby is reasonable; however there are a number of sites where the quality of playing pitches is relatively poor. These include the Council owned

pitches at King George V Playing Fields, Osmaston Park and Arboretum Park. The poor quality of pitches is considered to be a key issue by local football clubs.

The changing accommodation of some sites is relatively poor. Women’s football is growing although participation is still low compared with male participation. There are a number of women’s and girl’s teams in Derby who are able to take advantage of the new segregated facilities at Racecourse and Alvaston Park. However, the lack of suitable changing facilities remains a barrier to participation at other smaller locations.

Whilst the cost of hiring a pitch and a changing room from the Council is comparable with adjoining local authorities, clubs are increasingly finding it difficult to meet these costs particularly when an additional pitch and changing room is required for the away side.

An additional issue for a number of football clubs is Derby City’s policy for cancellation of matches which clubs feel could be improved.

The poor quality of some football pitches, mainly those maintained by the Council, reduces their capacity to accommodate matches. The Playing Pitch Model assumes that pitches are able to take two games per week. However, if a pitch is of poor quality, it may only be able to accommodate one game per week, which is equivalent to half a pitch. There are a number of football pitches within the city that are able to take only one game per week.

The application of the Carrying Capacity analysis detailed in **Appendix F** results in an increase in the current shortfall of youth pitches on Sunday morning although this is still balanced by a surplus of adult pitches. If the allowance for the rest and recuperation of playing pitches were taken into account there would be a greater shortfall of youth pitches on Sunday morning.

**Table 15.1: Pitches on School Sites**

| Pitches   | Adult | Youth | Mini |
|---|-------|-------|------|
| Number of football pitches on school sites  | 11    | 11    | 1    |
| Total pitches available if pitches on the school sites were removed from the supply | 76    | 12    | 19   |

Playing pitches located on sites in the Education sector make an important contribution to the overall supply of football pitches in Derby as can be seen in **Table 15.1** above. The withdrawal of these pitches from community use would have a significant impact on the overall supply of football pitches. The recent withdrawal of football pitches from community use at Sinfin Community School demonstrates that the community use of school playing pitches cannot be guaranteed in future. Sustaining the supply and availability of playing pitches in the local authority and private sectors is therefore an imperative. It also reiterates the need to secure service level agreements with schools and improve the playing capacity of existing pitches. These are elaborated on further later in this section.

Application of the Playing Pitch Model for football indicated a shortfall in the provision of youth pitches. There is therefore a need to respond to the rising demand for youth pitches. In view of the fact that there are currently a sufficient number of adult pitches, it is recommended that some of these pitches be reconfigured for use by youth football teams. In addition, there is also a need to respond to the need for more 9v9 pitches.



Whilst converting senior to youth pitches could address a significant proportion of the deficiencies in youth pitch provision, it would need to be demonstrated in practice before any disposal is considered because there may not be enough pitches that are not needed for senior football to allow enough to be converted in practice to youth pitches.

Shortfalls would only be balanced if adult pitches were suitable for being marked out for youth football. Some surplus adult pitches may not be on sites that are suitable for youth football or may be in the wrong places within Derby to meet the needs of youth football. In addition, many senior pitches will be used more than once over a weekend and it will not be practical to change pitch markings and goals from day to day. It will only be possible to guarantee converting senior pitches to youth pitches where they are surplus during the busiest period i.e. Sunday.

The Council is already responding to the importance attached by local leagues to meeting the need for youth pitch provision. Working with partners, the aim is to implement a plan to achieve a balance between youth and adult pitch provision in order to meet current and future needs.

The plan includes the introduction of more youth pitches at Bemrose School and the reconfiguration of football pitches at Alvaston Park, which will add another 9v9 pitch. The dimension of pitches at Alvaston Park facilitates the use of minimum size senior football pitch provision for 9v9 fixtures because these pitches conform to the FA's suggested maximum size for a youth pitch (U15-U16). There are also proposals to convert the senior football pitches at Markeaton Park to youth pitches. Finally, the sports provision linked to the new housing development at Varsity Grange, Mickleover will include youth pitches.

There is a particular need to secure the future of the two football pitches at the Asterdale Sports Club.

The strategy of the FA is for football games to be played entirely on natural turf and 3G AGPs in the future. The implications for the city are that more AGPs will need to have a 3G surface. This demand equates to at least seven full size AGPs for football that are surfaced with 3G.

Currently there are three full size AGPs with a 3G surface. The sand based AGP at Moorways is at the end of its useful life. Replacement of the Moorways surface with a 3G surface should therefore be seen as a priority to explore the feasibility. The analysis of supply and demand for AGPs indicates a shortfall in provision of one AGP. At present, there are no full-size AGPs in the central area of Derby.

The recommendations are:

1. To consider further reconfiguration of football pitches in the city to meet the demands for youth provision.
2. To formalise community agreements at school sites that either are or could accommodate community football.
3. To review the viability of sites with only a limited number of football pitches and relocate to 'hub' sites using the hierarchy of outdoor sports provision model, where this is feasible.

4. To continue to support the implementation of the recommendations of the FA youth review by reconfiguring existing football pitches to meet new size guidelines.
5. To secure the future of existing provision for football at Asterdale Sports Ground.
6. To work in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council in supporting the development of any new facilities that may be required in the areas of housing growth.
7. To seek to ensure that appropriate maintenance regimes for football pitches are sustained.
8. To explore the feasibility of community football clubs having access to appropriate training facilities including AGPs.
9. To adopt a planning policy to protect existing playing fields from development unless the development of playing fields can demonstrate a net benefit for sport. This could include the replacement of single pitch site with a larger high quality multi pitch site. There should be no net loss of playing fields.
10. To explore the feasibility of replacing the surface of the Moorways AGP with a 3G surface.
11. To address the identified shortfall of one full size AGP with preference being given to a location in close proximity to central Derby.
12. To safeguard a strategic reserve of sports pitches.

### **15.2.3 Cricket**

There is a theoretical shortfall in the provision of cricket pitches. However, the larger clubs tend to have their own grounds and are able to manage their fixture list although in some cases third or fourth teams do play at other locations. Smaller clubs do not normally play league cricket and can manage their fixture list more flexibly. Most junior matches are played midweek and do not conflict with senior matches which are mostly played on Saturday. However, if the ECB guideline of 3-4 games per season per strip is applied to the number of strips available in the city, there are currently only just sufficient strips available.

The majority of cricket clubs have experienced an increase in their membership in the last five years. Most clubs aspire to increasing membership in the future. This suggests that the 'theoretical' shortfall in pitch provision may well become a reality in the near future.

There is evidence of a shortage of cricket facilities in the inner city area with one club composed of inner city members having to resort to hiring facilities outside the city.

There are a large number of small clubs playing social cricket and this is an important element of cricket in Derby. These smaller clubs rely on the availability of council facilities

Clearly, there is a need to sustain existing cricket facilities.

The recommendations are:

1. To have a strategic reserve of 10% of cricket pitches to meet future demands.
2. To work in partnership with the Derbyshire Cricket Board in seeking to meet the needs of cricket clubs based in the inner city areas of the city.
3. To examine the potential for the community use of school cricket pitches and/or indoor cricket nets by community cricket clubs through the development of school/club links.
4. To support Derbyshire Cricket Board in the development of women's/girls cricket by ensuring the availability of appropriate facilities.
5. To support any proposals by community cricket clubs that own their cricket grounds to improve the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities and in the provision of training/practice nets.
6. To work with the local cricket leagues in monitoring the quality of provision.

#### **15.2.4 Rugby Union, Rugby League and Gaelic Football.**

One of the three Derby based Rugby Union clubs is concerned about whether it will be able to continue using its existing rugby pitch at the Asterdale Sports Ground. The owners of the site are seeking planning permission for development of the site for offices.

There are existing opportunities for participation in rugby league and Gaelic football.

The recommendations are:

1. To secure the future of existing provision for rugby union at Asterdale Sports Ground.
2. To support initiatives to increase participation in rugby union, particularly in junior rugby.
3. To support the development of the minority sports of rugby league and Gaelic football.

#### **15.2.5 Hockey**

At present there is shared usage of sand based AGPs for football and hockey but the FA strategy is to move the game entirely onto grass and 3G AGPs implying more AGPs should have the 3G surface. Demand equates to two full size AGPs for hockey and at least seven full size AGPs for football. This position remains unchanged from 2013 to 2028.

It should be noted that English Hockey considers that there is a need for three full size sand dressed AGPs to meet the needs of hockey clubs in Derby.

The recommendations are:

1. To work in partnership with Sport England, England Hockey and the local community hockey clubs to collectively ensure that there is adequate provision of sand-dressed (EH Category 2) surfaces available to meet the needs of all hockey clubs based in Derby.
2. To support proposals for the amalgamation of local hockey clubs to create a larger, more

sustainable Derby Hockey Club located at a venue with appropriate facilities.

#### **15.2.6 Bowls**

There are 24 bowling greens in Derby, of which 22 are crown greens.

Membership levels of some of the smaller clubs are falling. The introduction of self-management at council owned bowling greens is likely to be a significant challenge for most of the bowls clubs located at council owned facilities. For those clubs with a small number of members the financial implications could mean that these clubs are no longer sustainable.

For the larger clubs with the resources and capacity to continue, the transition to self-management will nevertheless be a challenge. There will be a need to support clubs whilst they acquire the necessary equipment and skills to maintain their facilities.

In response to its consultation with bowls clubs, the Council is revising the terms of its leases so that clubs will only pay a peppercorn rent in future. Other measures will also assist the clubs in taking on the maintenance responsibility.

The recommendations are:

1. To support bowls clubs on council owned bowling greens in moving to the new self-management regime.
2. To support bowls clubs, particularly those on council owned bowling greens, to rationalise and where necessary to merge to secure a more sustainable future.
3. To work in partnership to collectively publicise the sport of bowls, specifically targeting older age groups/market segments to help address declining membership and improve levels of participation.

### **15.2.7 Tennis**

Derby is well served with both public and private tennis facilities available across most areas of the city. The only areas of deficiency are in the south and the north east.

There is a significant level of latent demand for tennis. The LTA has indicated a willingness to work in partnership with the Council to develop opportunities in park locations where there are tennis courts. The governing body considers that investment in resurfacing the courts at Darley Fields and Markeaton Park could provide new organised tennis opportunities in conjunction with a tennis operator. The LTA anticipates that Derby will be classed as an LTA priority area by 2015. Ideally, refurbished park courts should be available before spring 2015 to take advantage of this priority status.

Tennis courts at four private centres are of very good quality with the remaining private courts, except for one site, being of good quality. The Council owned macadam tennis courts are of average quality apart from the tennis courts at King George V playing fields which are good. The poorest quality tennis courts are at the private Rosehill Methodists tennis club. There is a need to address quality issues identified at those sites, which form part of the hierarchy of outdoor sports provision and where club development is limited by quality constraints.

The recommendations are:

1. To work in partnership with the LTA to provide new organised tennis opportunities in conjunction with a tennis operator at Darley Fields and Markeaton Park.
2. To work in partnership with the LTA to raise awareness of opportunities for tennis at both public and private facilities across the city.
3. To examine opportunities to secure the support of the LTA for improvements to existing tennis courts located in public parks through the LTA Parks Priority Programme.

### **15.2.8 A “Strategic Reserve” of Pitches**

Sport England advises that there should *a/ways* be a “strategic reserve” of pitches. The reasons for this are:

- There will usually be some pitches out of use because, for example, they are waterlogged or the surface is damaged and the pitches need to be “rested”.
- The demand for each of the different pitch sports is changing and it is necessary to keep the number of pitches for each sport under review. It may be possible to re-mark a pitch from, say, adult football to junior football; but a need for an additional junior football pitch does not automatically mean a local need for one less adult football pitch.
- There are initiatives currently to increase pitch sport participation over the next decade.
- There is a growing need for small-sided pitches for mini soccer, mini-rugby and other junior coaching initiatives.

This “strategic reserve” should be at least 10% and may need to be higher where pitch drainage is poor and levels of pitch use are high.

The Council will not be in a position to provide additional space for playing pitches in the future. However it does have a ‘strategic reserve’ of open space formerly in use as playing pitches which it could reinstate in response to increased demand.

The recommendation is:

1. To ensure that there is sufficient spare capacity of playing pitch provision equivalent to 10% of all playing pitch provision to provide a strategic reserve to accommodate latent and future demand, aid flexibility for the city to configure site provision and to allow for rest and recovery periods.

### 15.2.9 Proposed Planning Policy Guidance

Any new playing pitch provision should adhere to a set of agreed development principles. In particular these should be applied to any planning application that includes the provision of playing pitches. Specific proposals will depend on the development circumstances and location, but this strategy should inform the requirements.

The recommendations are:

1. All new or upgraded pitch (including AGP’s) and pavilion developments should meet Sport England, Football Foundation and the relevant national governing body for sport recommendations applicable at the time.
2. Single pitch site developments will be discouraged. The priority is for multi pitch or multi-sport site developments.
3. Where a residential development creates the need for new outdoor sports provision such additional provision should be made on multi pitch/multi-sport sites either:
  - Through the creation of a multi pitch/sport site funded by contributions from a number of developers or
  - Through the provision of additional pitches on existing sites, or
  - As a contribution to improving existing pitches/land and changing accommodation (or

the provision of changing accommodation) to increase existing pitch capacity or bring redundant pitches into use.

- Increased recognition as to the future role of AGP's in supporting playing pitch provision.

### **15.3 Qualitative Deficiencies**

#### **15.3.1 Playing pitches**

A poor playing surface will be detrimental to the quality of the playing experience and at times will result in the pitch being unavailable. Many factors can affect the quality of the pitch including slope, exposure (openness to elements), soil type, drainage and grass cover. These factors will have a major impact on the number of games that can be played on a pitch over a given period, and hence the overall pitch capacity. Factors such as drainage and soil type will also greatly influence the extent to which matches may be lost during periods of wet weather.

The quality of ancillary facilities such as including separate changing facilities, car parking, including disabled people's car parking, social provision and practice areas also determine whether the facility can contribute to meeting the demand from various groups and for different levels of play.

Where possible, establishing new residential developments may contribute to improving the quality of existing playing fields and changing facilities. This is because the residents of such developments will be using existing sites for meeting their needs. This requirement should be explicitly set out in the relevant Supplementary Planning Documents.

The Council should seek to use developer's contributions to enhance existing provision to improve the quality of existing pitches thereby increase their carrying capacity. The increase in carrying capacity could mitigate the need for additional pitch provision.

The recommendations are:

1. That priority for qualitative improvements should be locations identified as 'hub sites' in accordance with the hierarchy of outdoor sports provision set out in this strategy.
2. To seek to improve the quality of the playing surface and the capacity of existing football pitches through the installation of pitch drainage by securing funding through external funding regimes such as the Football Foundation and the National Lottery.
3. To secure developer contributions through Planning Obligations for qualitative improvements at existing playing pitch sites.
4. To seek to ensure that changing facilities at all sites accommodating both adult and youth/mini football meet the minimum standards for toilets and changing facilities.

#### **15.3.2 Football**

Poor quality playing surfaces for football result when the grass cover is worn at the beginning of winter and waterlogging results in high wear areas of the pitch such as goalmouths and centre circles. As a result players are unable to experience a satisfactory quality of game. Whilst the overall quality of football pitches is average there is nevertheless scope to improve the quality of the playing surface through the installation of drainage/ levelling etc. This will improve the quality of the playing surface and, if properly maintained, will increase the carrying capacity of the pitch.



The recommendation is:

1. To work in partnership with the County Football Association to secure external funding to improve the quality of football pitches at priority locations in the hierarchy of outdoor sports provision.

### 15.3.3 Cricket

A cricket pitch should ideally be:

- even throughout, with no undulations or depressions;
- well consolidated, giving good and appropriate ball bounce;
- covered with a dense sward of desirable grasses that have good root density and depth;

In addition, a well-prepared pitch should ideally be able to withstand at least the equivalent of three, five-hour games. The England and Wales Cricket Board suggests that a pitch should be expected to last for 3-4 games of average club standard with a maximum of five matches per pitch during the season<sup>1</sup>.

The aim should be for a cricket pitch that plays well, is safe and is managed in a cost-effective manner. Pitches should conform to nationally accepted criteria (IOG Performance Quality Standards).

The recommendation is:

1. To work in partnership with the Derbyshire Cricket Board in encouraging community cricket clubs to consider taking advantage of the England Cricket Board (ECB) Pitch Advisory Scheme<sup>2</sup> to obtain advice on the quality performance of pitches / squares particularly at hub sites.

### 15.3.4 Bowling Greens

The Council should work in partnership with bowls clubs to advise and assist (where possible) to maintain greens to an acceptable standard and where possible to meet competition standards. The surface should be firm and with a complete coverage of desirable grasses. Where necessary it might be appropriate to seek advice from the British Crown Green Bowling Association Bowls Development Alliance.

The recommendation is:

1. To work collectively and where able advise and support bowling clubs that have the responsibility for maintaining their bowling greens.

---

1 Recommended Guidelines for the construction, preparation and maintenance of cricket pitches and outfielders at all levels of the game. England and Wales Cricket Board 2007.

2 There are two bands of fees applicable to Pitch Advisers.

a Prioritised detailed assessment - £250 (inclusive of follow up visits).

b. Basic Assessments - £75-150 (by arrangement with club).

### **15.3.5 Playing Pitches Changing Facilities**

There is a need to ensure that the quality of changing facilities at all multi pitch locations meets the minimum quality standard that has already been achieved at the Racecourse and Alvaston Park.

The lack of segregated changing rooms at some locations is considered to be an impediment to the development of women's football.

### **15.3.6 Improving the Quality of Changing Facilities**

It is essential that all facility providers should adopt a rolling programme of improvements to changing facilities, such that all eventually conform to at least the 'average' standard set out in the Sport England Visual Quality Assessment. Particular attention should be paid to:

- Provision for use by women and girls
- Access and use by disabled people
- Provision of fire precautions
- Child Protection - adults should not change or shower at the same time as youth teams using the same facilities.<sup>3</sup>

This particularly applies to locations that have been identified as having sub-standard changing facilities i.e. quality scores below the 'average' quality score (less than 40%).

The recommendation is:

1. To seek to provide changing facilities at sites with playing pitches, which have at least a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities.

### **15.3.7 Playing Pitch Sites currently lacking Changing Accommodation**

Osmaston Park – Whilst the community building opens for access for all teams during the football season for drinks and toilet facilities there is no changing room provision. While it is not a compulsory requirement for the FA junior teams to have changing room provision, the ideal would be for the home team to have access to a changing room for their opponents. Consideration should be given to future facilities at Osmaston Park.

The recommendation is:

1. To examine the feasibility of providing changing facilities at Osmaston Park.

### **15.3.8 Rugby Changing Facilities**

The recommendation is:

1. To support Leesbrooke RFC in realising the club's aspirations to improve the changing facilities at Asterdale Sports Ground.

---

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/cpsu/helpandadvice/organisations/clubguidelines/cluguidelines\\_wda60689.html#Changing\\_rooms](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/cpsu/helpandadvice/organisations/clubguidelines/cluguidelines_wda60689.html#Changing_rooms)

### **15.3.9 Bowling Green's Changing Facilities**

There is a need to work with bowls clubs in identifying the facilities that should have priority for improvement in future.

The recommendation is:

1. To support bowling clubs that wish to improve changing facilities at their bowling greens in making applications to external funding bodies.

### **15.4 Accessibility**

Sports pitches will only have value to the local community if they are available and within easy reach and accessible to those who want to use them. Sports pitches that are difficult to access will have little relevance in terms of meeting local needs.

In the economic climate and challenges that local authorities face it is recognised that consolidating and clustering provision (as proposed with the hierarchy of outdoor sports provision model) will aid sustainability, optimise any potential improvements such as quality of pitches and targeted investment. In addition it will harness coaching opportunities and secure pathways into sport through club's engagement. By creating a tiered approach through the hierarchy of outdoor sports provision it will provide the opportunity for participants to access different sports that take place on the same site. It is noted that local community pitches are still needed to meet local need, however this provision has to be considered alongside the clustering approach and viability of single pitch/small number pitch sites.

The recommendation is:

1. To ensure that all existing and future sports pitch provision is easily accessible to all members of the local community who wish to use them.

### **15.5 Local standards**

An important outcome from the strategy is the development of local standards of provision. The standards are based on the information gained from the assessments of the individual outdoor sports. These standards will:

- Underpin negotiations with developers over their contributions towards new pitch provision to meet the needs of new residential developments
- Provide an additional overview of the general supply of pitches/level of provision
- Assist in protecting land in playing field use
- Assist in benchmarking with other areas/authorities.

The standards will help to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of outdoor sports facilities in the city of Derby and to determine what outdoor sports provision is required within the five year period. This will meet the requirement set out in Paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The provision of outdoor sports facilities will be an important element in planning for the sustainable growth of Derby envisaged in the Core Strategy. The local standards of provision, underpinned by the evidence provided in this strategy, are intended to ensure that people living in the city of Derby have access to good quality outdoor sports facilities.

**15.5.1 Quantity Standards**

For each site, a calculation has been made of the area of land in the principal types of outdoor sport use. The areas were totalled and then related to the population to obtain an existing ‘standard’. Estimates were then made of the land required to achieve a balance in provision in 2018.

The local standards can be used to determine the requirements of new developments, as well as to evaluate improvements required to the existing facility stock. The standards, once adopted by the Council, should be incorporated into the emerging Local Development Framework.

The population growth that is forecast within the city of Derby means that ensuring appropriate contributions from new developments will be essential if the facility stock is to continue to meet local need in terms of both quality and quantity.

Local standards need to include:

- Quantitative elements (how much new provision may be needed);
- A qualitative component (against which to measure the need for the enhancement of existing facilities); and
- Accessibility (including distance thresholds and consideration of the cost of using a facility).

The local standards of provision for playing pitches and all other outdoor sports facilities are shown in **Table 15.2** below. Details of the calculation of the existing level of provision can be found in **Appendix I**.

**Table 15.2: Local Quantity Standards of Provision**

| Area (Hectares) | Current level of Provision (Hectares) | Local Standard per 1000 Population (Hectares) | Application of the Local Standard to 2018 Population <sup>4</sup> (Hectares) | Additional requirement in the period 2013 – 2018 (Hectares) |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Playing Pitches | 162.4                                 | 0.64  | 170.5  | 8.2   |
| Bowling Greens  | 8.64                                  | 0.03  | 9.1  | 0.44  |
| Tennis Courts   | 3.03                                  | 0.015   | 3.82   | 0.79  |

**15.5.2 Playing Pitches**

The current level of provision of playing pitches is derived by multiplying the number of each type of playing pitch<sup>5</sup> by the relevant pitch size<sup>6</sup>. A site multiplier of 15% is then applied to

<sup>4</sup> Projected 2018 population is 267434 (Interim 2011-based Subnational Population Projections)

<sup>5</sup> Only playing pitches in active use are included in this calculation.

allow for the area required for changing facilities, parking etc. This results in a current level of provision of 162.27 hectares which equates to 0.64 hectares per 1,000 population.

The Playing Pitch Model demonstrated that whilst there is a current and future shortfall in the provision of youth football pitches there are sufficient adult senior football pitches to accommodate the demand for youth football. On this basis the existing level of provision is sufficient to meet current needs. The recommended local standard of provision is therefore 0.64 hectares per 1,000 population.

The projected population in 2018 is 267, 434, an increase of 12,865 between 2013 and 2018<sup>7</sup>. Application of the local standard of provision to the 2018 population results in a requirement for 170.5 hectares, an additional 8.2 hectares to the current level of provision of 162.4 hectares.

With regard to the provision of cricket pitches, there is currently a fine balance in terms of the supply and demand of pitches both now and in the future. However, one inner city based club plays its home matches outside the city.

### **15.5.3 Bowling Greens**

There is current provision of 24 bowling greens which equates to 0.03 hectares per 1000 population. Whilst levels of participation are relatively static the increased numbers and proportion of the population over the age of 65 warrants the retention of existing bowling greens to meet future demand. This said, in retaining existing sites, it is noted that the financial viability and the club's sustainability are key factors to enable this to happen.

### **15.5.4 Tennis Courts**

There are 51 tennis courts that are fit for purpose. This equates to 0.015 hectares per 1000 population or one court per 4,992 persons. There is strong evidence of latent demand for tennis which indicates that existing provision should be at least maintained and, if feasible increased, whilst noting a range of factors would need to be considered to enable this to happen such as financial viability, funding and sustainability. A standard of 0.015 hectares per 1000 population is therefore proposed.

### **15.5.5 Artificial Grass Pitches**

A shortfall of at least one AGP has been identified. The main area of deficiency is the central area of Derby. It would therefore be appropriate to consider options for the construction of a new AGP in this location.

The recommendations are:

1. To formally adopt the quantity Standards of Provision to ensure that there is an adequacy of existing and future playing pitch provision in Derby.
2. To incorporate the quantity Standards of Provision in a Supplementary Planning Document for Planning Obligations.
3. To consider the provision of an additional long pile 3.G AGP to meet the needs of football.

---

<sup>6</sup> Based on average size of pitch plus 50% safety/run off

## 15.6 Quality Standards

The purpose of quality standards is to set out the quality of provision that will meet the expectations of outdoor sports participants in the future. The quality standards will provide a benchmark which can also be used to determine priorities for the improvement of outdoor sports provision. The standards set are considered to be achievable notwithstanding the likely budgetary constraints facing the Council.

In addition, the quality standards set out the Council's requirements for developers on the quality of provision the Council expects regardless of whether they are making provision on site or providing a developer contribution. The aim is to ensure that new facilities are constructed to a standard that ensures that they are sustainable in the longer term.

The quality standards have been determined by taking the median score for the range of quality scores for each type of facility. These are shown in **Table 15.3** below.

**Table 15.3: Local Quality Standards**

| Type of Facility | Quality Standard   |
|------------------|--|
| Football Pitches | The median quality score of 71% (A Good Pitch in the Sport England Pitch Quality Ratings)      |
| Cricket Pitches  | The minimum percentage mark of 85% as determined by the cricket leagues' pitch marking system. |
| Rugby Pitches    | The median quality score of 86% (a Good Pitch in the Sport England Pitch Quality Ratings)      |
| Bowling Greens   | The median quality score of 79%.   |
| Tennis Courts    | The median quality score of 88% - which equates to a 'Good' quality court.                     |

The recommendations are:

1. To incorporate the Quality Standards of Provision in a Supplementary Planning Document for Planning Obligations.
2. To seek to ensure that all outdoor sports facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of all users by formally adopting the Local Quality Standards.

## 15.7 Accessibility Standards

The accessibility standards are set in the form of a distance threshold. These are based on the findings of the questionnaire survey of sports clubs. The preferred mode of travel varies

---

<sup>7</sup> Interim 2011-based Subnational Population Projections

according to the type of facility. The PPG17 Study found that people preferred to drive to AGPs and walk to tennis courts and bowling greens.

There is no accessibility standard for playing pitches as it is not possible to identify a given catchment area for playing pitches. To do so, would misrepresent the actual travel patterns involved and would not be related to the location of demand, capacity of the pitches or reflect the different levels of play. From the consultation, in the case of Derby it is clear that players are prepared to travel a significant distance in order to be able to use better quality pitches and facilities. A catchment area would therefore give a misleading impression about the total picture of supply and demand.

The accessibility standards for different types of outdoor sports provision are shown in **Table 15.4** below.

**Table 15.4: Accessibility Standards**

| Type of Outdoor Sports Facility | Accessibility Standard                |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Playing Pitches                 | Not Applicable                        |
| Bowls                           | 10 minute walk time                   |
| Tennis                          | 10 minute walk time                   |
| AGP                             | 20 minute drive time                  |
| MUGA                            | 15 minute walking time (1,200 metres) |

The accessibility standards have been based on the responses to the question in the questionnaire about the area in which the majority of players in each club live. The responses provide a good assessment of the distance thresholds (that is, the maximum distance that a typical user can reasonably be expected to travel to each type of provision using different modes of transport).

The adoption of these accessibility standards provides the Council with the necessary evidence to underpin negotiations with developers over their contributions towards new outdoor sport provision to meet the needs of new residential developments. Areas of deficiency for a particular type of provision will be addressed through the planning system and not through direct provision by the Council.

The recommendation is:

1. To apply the distance threshold set out in the Accessibility Standards to identify those parts of the city that are located beyond the distance threshold for individual outdoor sports and to give priority to addressing these areas of deficiency by improving the availability and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities in these areas.

**15.8 Standards versus Deliverability**

As stated earlier, this strategy has been prepared at a time of considerable change which has, and will continue to have, a significant impact on the implementation of the strategy.

The effect of the economic downturn, which has impacted on the British economy in recent years, has been felt acutely by local government. Local authorities are faced with a number of challenges to their ability to deliver services effectively, not least the reduction in funding available to them. This has meant that local authorities such as the city of Derby have had to rethink their approach to strategy formulation to adapt to the new and intensifying challenges faced during this period of fundamental change and uncertainty.

The Council was obliged to cut £22.6m from its 2012-13 budget and it needs to save £81m over the next five years. Budget reductions on this scale cannot be achieved without changes in the range and scope of council functions. In future, facilities and services that have in the past been provided by the Council will need to be delivered by different means if the future needs and aspirations of people living in Derby are to be met.

To enable realistic and deliverable outcomes for the foreseeable future for outdoor sports provision, the strategy recommends the adoption of the outdoor sports hierarchy proposal approach below which seeks to focus on ensuring that existing and any potential future outdoor sports provision are sustainable, and meet users needs. Within the hierarchy it includes the proposed travel times that are deemed to be challenging but achievable over the foreseeable future.

### 15.8.1 Outdoor Sports Hierarchy

The outdoor sports hierarchy approach is as follows:

**Tier 1** - a **hub** which represents the peak of the hierarchy and caters for clubs in regional leagues and those developing to a recognised club or community standard. Facility requirements are commensurate with that standard of play and might include floodlighting and AGPs, alongside grass pitches, etc. Hub sites are considered primarily as facilities which provide multi-sport and multi-activity opportunities which either exist on the site or are offered in close proximity to the hub site.

For example, the Racecourse and the surrounding area; the Racecourse is a major focus for football for all age groups and in addition caters for Gaelic football. The selection of Racecourse and the surrounding area as the 'hub' (**Tier 1**) is based on the central location of Racecourse and its proximity to other outdoor facilities that offer a wider range of activities. This includes:

- Riverside Meadow, home ground for Darley Abbey Cricket Club
- Haslams Lane, home ground for Derby RFC and Derby RLFC
- County Cricket Ground, home of Derbyshire County Cricket.

The tier 1 **hub** facilities will embrace the ethos that people will travel to play there as highlighted in the findings of both the playing pitches and AGPs assessments. Therefore a 20 minute drive time distance will be applied.

**Tier 2** - the **secondary hub** level offers facilities for those teams and players that have reached a good standard of play and are playing regular league matches where there may be requirements for well-drained, 'true' playing surface and changing facilities. In addition there may be AGP provision to complement grass pitch provision. The 'secondary' hubs will be selected in part for the availability of facilities and in part because of their geographical location relating to central, north, east, south or west. This reflects the approach employed in the Leisure Facilities Strategy which seeks to ensure that facilities are well distributed across the city.



The **secondary hub** will offer a range of outdoor sport and recreational opportunities, for example Alvaston Park. These facilities are principally pitch sites providing for local football matches.

The tier 2 **secondary hub** facilities will embrace the same ethos as tier 1 which is that people will travel to play at them. Therefore a 20 minute drive time distance will be applied.

**Tier 3-** the **local level** offers facilities for those clubs that participate in regular competitive play albeit being potentially on the lower rungs or early stages of 'get into sport' and grassroots sport, where changing accommodation will on the whole be available and pitches/courts will be of a reasonable quality. These facilities are principally pitch sites or possibly single sport provision. These may provide for local matches and grassroots sports development. The ethos for these sites however is, where appropriate, to move them to self-management agreements.

From the assessment it is clear that clubs are prepared to travel to playing pitches however for tier three sites consideration will be given for other sports that demonstrate sustainability, affordability and deliverability. For the purpose of the outdoor sports hierarchy it is recognised that these factors are key to delivering realistic sports provision. It is therefore proposed to indicate a 10 minute drive time distance for tier 3 facilities.

**Tier 4 -** the **casual** level of the hierarchy will include kick-about areas, MUGAs and 'rough' pitches for casual use which encourage initial participation. These sites should be within walking distance from the place of residence, indicating a 15 minute walking distance.

Informal facilities clearly play an important part in the local hierarchy of provision. Their provision should not be considered in isolation from formal facilities.

For the purpose of the Outdoor Sports Strategy, hub sites are considered primarily as facilities which provide multi-sport and multi-activity opportunities. Moving towards (or developing) a hierarchy model for outdoor sports provision brings a range of benefits such as investment opportunities and the development of the hubs to become facilities for supporting the improvement in the coaching and voluntary workforce. By effectively adopting a campus style facility at which a number of sports take place, there will be benefits from the common elements of organised sport and physical activity. These common elements may include:

- Coaching and coach education
- Administration and facilities
- Changing and social provision
- Training and conditioning
- Child protection
- Club development.

The overall concept of the hub embraces neighbouring or "satellite" hub sites that are able to add value, as additional, complementary opportunities through their being associated with the core facility. The hub concept therefore calls for a shift in outlook away from the traditional sports approach.

The cohesion between each part will be vital in ensuring that individuals can readily access the activity that attracts them. As their skills develop, individuals will also be better placed to be able to find pathways to the level of participation or performance to which they aspire.

The hubs could enable economies of scale to be realised. These include:

- Changing facilities that service different sports;

- A direct contribution from the income generated by Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs);
- Grass pitches that can be used more frequently, due to their improved condition and increased carrying capacity;
- Improved security, through controlled access and increased presence (where a school or leisure centre site is used);

Disability Sport - In addition there is a requirement to provide disabled people with full access to all sports facilities. Full access means being able to make full use of the facility as a participant, spectator or as a member of staff. Pavilions and changing facilities should comply with the Sport England 'Access for Disabled People' guide to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 This guidance note presents the minimum requirements for achieving good access.

Detailed in **Appendix J** is a proposed hierarchy of sites for outdoor sports provision.

The recommendations are:

- 1 To implement the proposed hierarchy of outdoor sports provision with a view to ensuring that all existing and future sports provision is both available and easily accessible.
- 2 To adopt the prioritisation model in table 16.1 to enable deliverability of the recommendations outlined in the action plan in section 16.
- 3 To complete the action plan priority, lead responsibility, outcomes and partners columns to enable the delivery of the agreed prioritised.

## 15.9 Community use of Education Facilities

At present, several schools make their sports pitches available for community use. The opening up of school sports facilities is a cost effective means of maximising access for all in the community to sporting opportunities. The challenge is to promote and manage community use in ways which will achieve worthwhile results in terms of sport and generate community satisfaction, without being in any way detrimental to the over-riding educational role of the school or socially exclusive. Schools themselves can benefit from a widening of networks with a whole range of other organisations such as local sports clubs and an improved relationship with their communities.

Whilst the community use of sports pitches in schools seeks to make optimal use of existing resources there are some issues which need to be considered, including:

- The capacity of school pitches to accommodate both curricular use in school time and community use 'out of hours' without detriment to the quality of the playing surface;
- The poor quality of the playing surface of many school sports pitches with poor drainage and low quality of maintenance;
- Difficulties of providing access to changing facilities;

- Problems of availability during school terms; and
- Change of pitch use from football to cricket for curricular use may not coincide with the requirements of community use terms.

Access to existing and proposed school facilities by the general community could be secured through the following actions:-

- a) Securing Community Use Agreements for new football pitches for use by local junior football teams.
- b) Securing Community Use Agreements for school sites in Derby where there is potential for existing playing pitches to be used by community teams
- c) Securing Community Use Agreements for community access to AGP provision on school sites.

The recommendation is:

1. To promote the creation of community use agreements at key school sites and realise potential opportunities to make playing pitch together with access to toilet/changing facilities available at schools in Derby for use by the community outside school hours.

## **15.10 Management**

The Council will continue to provide outdoor sports facilities where there is a sustained community need. Where appropriate the council will work in partnership with sports clubs to develop innovative solutions to securing sustainable solutions to the management of outdoor sports facilities. In future, it is likely that the Council's role will change from being a direct provider of outdoor sports facilities to that of an enabling Council working with sports clubs and other external providers to secure the long-term sustainability of outdoor sports provision.

### **15.10.1 Self-Management**

In future it is intended that the Council will take more of an enabler than provider role for outdoor sports facilities. To this end the Council, working in partnership with individual sports clubs, will seek to develop self-management agreements on an individual basis, which take into account the varying size, nature and complexity of each community sports club and facility.

Responsibility for running outdoor grassed pitches and changing facilities has already been handed over to users in a number of successful self-management arrangements in Derby.

Self-management has the benefit of empowering the community to manage the facilities they use, instilling ownership and pride. In addition, there is the potential for facilities to be better maintained and it could help to reduce vandalism. Other benefits include an increase in help from volunteers, improved partnership working with local community groups, and an increase in external funding, often match funding for Football Foundation grants to improve facilities. This could lead to cost savings for both the Council and the clubs in terms of administration and officer time. The potential result would be the long-term sustainability of high quality local community facilities.

However, self-management is not a universal solution to every situation. The success of self-management is often dependant on two factors, commitment and capacity. No scheme for devolved management will work unless there is sustained commitment to it on the part of the local authority, the sports club and its members. The Council needs to be sure that the club to which responsibilities are devolved will remain a committed, reliable and responsible partner, even when there are changes of membership. There also needs to be a reciprocal requirement for a consistent commitment from the local authority.

The capacity of a sports club to make a success of self-management will depend in part on the extent of the responsibilities devolved but also on a wide range of other variables which may or may not be within its control e.g. the size of the site, the quality of the infrastructure, the level of rental income and the leadership abilities of present and future club representatives. This capacity may vary over time, which may be problematic, because once a local authority has devolved some of its management responsibilities it may be difficult to reassume them.

The recommendation is:

1. To work in partnership to collectively explore how existing resources can be optimised which enable more specific support and guidance to outdoor sports clubs and leagues by implementing a policy of self-management agreements where clubs are able to demonstrate long term development plans, financial stability and have achieved appropriate accreditations.

### **15.11 Funding Opportunities**

Through partnership working there will be a collaborative approach to maximising the ability to secure external funding for improving pitch facilities and working in partnership with other agencies as an important means of unlocking additional funding sources. It is recommended that

- (a) The Council should work with the Derbyshire County FA and the Football Foundation to improve facilities for football in local communities in Derby.
- (b) The Council should work with the National Governing Bodies for Cricket, Rugby and Hockey to secure additional funding for facility improvement.
- (c) The Council could seek to work in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association to exploit the substantial latent demand for tennis in Derby.
- (d) The Council should engage with the National Governing Body for Crown Green Bowls and the National Governing Body for Outdoor Flat Green Bowls (British Crown Green Bowling Association and Bowls England). Whilst these bodies do not have access to external funding, a number of clubs that are currently struggling to survive could benefit from their advice and support. In addition there may be opportunities to secure loans for improvements to facilities.

The recommendation is:

1. To work with outdoor sports clubs/other agencies to unlock additional external funding

sources for the improvement of outdoor sports facilities.

## **15.12 Planning Obligations**

The Local Plan will be the statutory instrument for implementing the Derby Outdoor Sport Strategy through the planning process. Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 can secure the provision of recreational, sports, and other community facilities as part of new developments.

### **15.12.1 On-Site Provision or Developers' Contributions to Off-Site Provision**

The need for on-site provision or developers' contributions to off-site provision may arise from applications for two types of development:

- Residential or larger employment use applications where development creates the need for outdoor sports provision in the area
- Applications relating to the redevelopment of existing outdoor sports provision for some other use i.e. replacement of lost facilities.

Both types of development require the application of adopted provision standards. The standards of provision determine whether there is a deficiency or surplus in terms of accessibility, quality and/or quantity deficiency, within a defined area. This will determine the need for either additional provision or the enhancement of existing provision.

The process proposed for considering planning obligations relating to new housing includes five steps by which the scale of any contributions due will be calculated. Developers would need to enter into discussion with the Council at an early stage in the development process in order to determine the likely outdoor sport requirements for their schemes.

The five steps start with the consideration of whether the scheme contains eligible types of development. If the scheme does include eligible types of development, the requirements for outdoor sport can be calculated based on the standards of provision. A determination of whether the provisions should be on site or off site constitutes the third step. If the provision is off site, the level of contribution can then be calculated. Step five covers the calculation of commuted maintenance sums.

The recommendation is:

1. To work in partnership with the Planning Department to secure contributions towards the provision of new outdoor sports facilities or the improvement of existing outdoor sports facilities from Section 106 Agreements.

## **15.13 Housing Growth**

A minimum of 19,230 new homes will be provided in and around the Derby Urban Area over the planned period of 2008 to 2028. A substantial proportion of this housing growth will be located on sites on the southern boundary of the city. Outside the city boundary, South Derbyshire District Council has proposed several urban extensions to Derby.

**Table 15.5: Locations of Housing Growth**

| <b>Housing Development</b>   | <b>Number of Dwellings</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Boulton Moor Phase 3 in South Derbyshire (DUA1)                                    | 190                        |
| Boulton Moor Phase 2 in South Derbyshire (DUA2)                                    | 700                        |
| Chellaston Fields (DUA3)   | 500                        |
| Land off Homeleigh Way (the Tadpole) (DUA4)  | 150                        |
| Land at Stenson Fields (DUA5)  | 98                         |
| Land to the south of Wragley Way in South Derbyshire (DUA6)                        | 1,950                      |
| Land off Primula Hill, Sunny Hill  | 355                        |
| Boulton Moor Phase 1 in South Derbyshire (DUAPP1)                                  | 1,058                      |
| Land to the south of the railway, Stenson Fields Farm in South Derbyshire (DUAPP2) | 500                        |
| Primula Way (DUAPP3)   | 145                        |
| Highfield Farm (DUAPP4)  | 1,200                      |
| Woodlands Lane, Chellaston (DER/0022)  | 56                         |
| Land to the south of Wragley Way in Derby City (DER/0104)                          | 180                        |
| Boulton Moor in Derby City (DER/0105)  | 800                        |

The recommendations are:

1. To adopt a planning policy that requires contributions towards the improvement of existing provision or new provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities from all new developments where the increase in population growth will result in an increase in demand for playing fields and outdoor sports facilities that are accessible to the residents of the new development.
2. To work in partnership with South Derbyshire District Council in securing the necessary outdoor sports facility provision to serve the new communities to be developed in the urban extensions to the south of Derby city.