

# MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/2018 REPORT NO. 184

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE:**

Cabinet – 18 April 2018

**REPORT OF:**

Executive Director –  
Regeneration &  
Environment

<b>Agenda – Part: 1</b>	<b>Item: 6</b>
<b>Subject: Adoption of Playing Pitch Strategy</b>	
<b>Wards: All</b>	
<b>Key Decision No: 4654</b>	

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy is an evidence based approach to guide future investment, development, and improvements for the Borough's sports pitches and associated facilities.
- 1.2 The Strategy has been developed by following Sport England's prescribed methodology and meets the requirements of the Planning Policy Framework.
- 1.3 Enfield Council led the development of the Borough's Playing Pitch Strategy, but it encompasses the whole Borough and includes pitches and facilities owned and managed by Enfield Council, education providers, and sports clubs.
- 1.4 The Borough's Playing Pitch Strategy focussed on the five sports of cricket, football, hockey, rugby union, and tennis. The Council's sole netball facility is included within the strategy because the Broomfield Park courts are a dual netball and tennis court facility.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet to approve adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy (2018–2023), that includes the action plan for the five sports and the site-by-site recommendations that encompass the priorities for protecting sites from development, pitch maintenance improvements, and investment to upgrade facilities.
- 2.2 Cabinet to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration & Environment to approve the allocation of capital funding sourced either externally or from developer contributions (including Section 106 Planning Agreements) to the priority projects detailed within the strategy.
- 2.3 Cabinet to approve the formation of a steering group that will be chaired by the Council's Sport & Physical Activity Team and meet biannually, to review and update the Playing Pitch Strategy in line with Sport England's guidance.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The development of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) provides a robust action plan for the sports facilities within Enfield. The Strategy is an evidence-based approach that guides the future investment, development, and improvements for the Borough's sports pitches and their associated facilities such as changing rooms.
- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework requires policies associated with open spaces and sports facilities are based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the current needs and opportunities for new provision. The PPS does this by assessing current demand for each of the sports covered by the strategy and mapping it against projected population growth to determine the need for improved or new facilities. The outcome of the PPS will inform the Council's Local Plan.
- 3.3 Enfield's PPS was developed in partnership with a range of agencies including Sport England, the national sports governing bodies, and local sports clubs. The strategy focusses on the five sports of cricket, football, hockey, rugby union, and tennis. The netball courts within Broomfield Park are included as they are a dual netball and tennis facility.
- 3.4 The PPS highlights a significant number of strategic issues and recommendations that focus on the five sports reviewed and the facilities where they are played. The strategy sets out an action plan for the period 2018–2023, but it is a forward-looking document that takes into consideration the population growth estimates up to 2037<sup>1</sup>.
- 3.5 A Steering Group consisting of Sport England, the national sports governing bodies, and Enfield Council will own the delivery of the strategy.

#### **Methodology**

- 3.6 The development of the PPS has followed the prescribed approach developed by Sport England and shared through their document "*Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy (2013)*".
- 3.7 This Strategy is based on a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS guidance. The methodology has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Greater London Authority - Round of Demographic Projections Local Authority Population Projections (SHLAA DCLG)

3.8 The Steering Group followed the staged approach, outlined within the guidance, to the development of the PPS for Enfield:

- Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach;
- Stage B – Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision;
- Stage C – Assess the supply and demand information and views; and
- Stage D – Develop the strategy.

3.8 The Borough's PPS provides:

- An accurate audit of the supply of pitches and ancillary facilities;
- An accurate audit of the current demand for pitches;
- An understanding of the future demand for playing pitches;
- Detailed views on the adequacy of provision from users and pitch providers;
- An understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community;
- An assessment of whether current provision is adequate to meet both current and future demand;
- The views and opinions of all relevant stakeholders on the adequacy of provision; and
- The key issues with the supply and demand for provision in the study area.

3.9 The individual sport and site-by-site recommendations are categorised under the three PPS objectives of:

- Protect sites;
- Enhance facilities; and
- Provide facilities where there is unmet demand.

### **Strategic Issues & Action Plan**

3.10 There are a significant number of recommendations within the strategy (section 3, the sports summaries), but a summary of the key strategic issues and recommendations for each of the sports are outlined below.

#### **3.11 Cricket**

- 1 Protect all secured and unsecured community use and education cricket pitches across LB Enfield;
- 2 Address the quality of pitch and changing provision at facilities where they are currently below a satisfactory standard;
- 3 The Council's Sport & Physical Activity Team to work with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Middlesex Cricket Board to develop cricket participation and capacity building to ensure sufficient volunteers, coaches and umpires. This should

- focus on developing cricket participation in targeted groups such as women and the South Asian Community; and
- 4 Use Section 106 match funding to bring existing facilities up to the required ECB and Sport England standards.

### 3.12 Football

1. Protect all existing playing fields across Enfield;
2. Introduce formal community use agreements including a pricing policy across all unsecured community use sites (e.g. Academies) that have unsecured use;
3. Address the quality of pitch and changing provision at facilities where they are currently below a satisfactory standard;
4. Provide long term security of playing facilities, allowing clubs to grow and develop;
5. Review over-supply of adult 11 v 11 pitches with a view of increasing youth pitch provision in the future;
6. Investigate feasibility for a second hub site to accompany to Enfield Playing Fields, this would likely be Firs Farm Playing Fields;
7. Construct more 3G rubber crumb pitches that meet the FIFA Quality Performance Standard. A planning condition of future 3G pitches should be that they achieve this performance standard and include a community use agreement with a clear pricing policy;
8. All existing 3G pitches in Enfield should be reviewed and where appropriate be included on to the FA's 3G register to allow for competitive activity;
9. Review the use of sand based hockey pitches and where there is no current or future demand identified consideration should be given to upgrading them to a 3G surface; and
10. Develop a grounds maintenance service/equipment bank to support the high number of club-managed facilities.

### 3.13 Hockey

- 1 Protection of community use artificial hockey pitches across the Borough;
- 2 Enfield Council to draft policies within the Local Plan to protect the hockey artificial grass pitches to prevent their conversion to a 3G without consideration for hockey. Ensure that a change of surface requires a planning application and detailed consultation between England Hockey, the Football Association, Rugby Football Union, and the Local Authority at pre-planning stage;
- 3 Work with partners to encourage the creation of sinking funds that will enable the maintenance of existing hockey facilities and replacement of carpets; and
- 4 The Council's Sport & Physical Activity Team to work with Enfield & Winchmore Hill Hockey Club to develop a three-year strategy to encourage more people to take up or return to hockey.

### 3.14 Rugby Union

1. Protect all secured and unsecured community use and education rugby union pitches across the Borough including the pitches at Worlds End Sports Ground;
2. Provision of training facilities including 3G pitches;
3. Address the quality of pitch and changing provision at facilities where they are currently below a satisfactory standard;
4. Reconfiguration of pitches to enable junior and mini rugby; and
5. Fencing of the 1st Team Pitch at Enfield Playing Fields to allow for higher-level rugby.

### 3.15 Tennis

1. Protect existing tennis court facilities and improve the quality of the existing supply of tennis facilities across the Borough (improving poor rated facilities to average);
2. Ensure that high quality facilities for club tennis are maintained across the borough;
3. Protect the park sites for the playing of casual pay and play tennis;
4. Where possible, increase floodlit provision in line with the aims and objectives of “*Transforming British Tennis Together*”;
5. The Council’s Sport & Physical Activity Team and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to work together to:
  - Consider the best operational model for the community parks facilities and development of booking and payment systems
  - To put sustainable operating model in place to provide for sinking funds for the future refurbishment of the courts
  - To increase participation and provide links between schools and club; and
  - Develop strong local park and community tennis venue partnerships to deliver inclusive and sustainable tennis provision.

## 4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not develop a PPS, although this has been discounted because that approach would not allow the prioritisation of future pitch improvements or access to external sources of sports funding.

## 5. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 A PPS provides an evidence-based approach to current and future supply and demand of pitches for five sports provided within the Borough.
- 5.2 The PPS sets out an action plan with site-by-site recommendations that will guide a programme of improvements for the Borough.

- 5.3 An up-to-date strategy approved by Sport England and the sport's governing bodies is required to secure a number of different sources of sport funding.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

### **6.1 Financial Implications**

6.1.1 The Strategy does not place any direct financial implications on the Council, but the strategy does provide expenditure estimates for some of the sport improvement projects recommended. The strategy is not prescriptive about the sources of the funding that are required, but it does identify potential capital funding sources including Section 106 developer contributions and external sources such as Sport England and the sport's national governing bodies.

6.1.2 Where improvements are made to the Borough's sports facilities through the strategy, the responsible manager of the facility should factor in ongoing maintenance costs and the provision of a sinking fund for future improvement.

### **6.2 Legal Implications**

6.2.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything which a private individual or body may generally do. The adoption of the proposed PPS would be in accordance with that power.

6.2.2 Any future funding received from sport governing bodies may be subject to legal agreements as to its use, and the maintenance of sports facilities for public use.

### **6.3 Property Implications**

6.3.1 The Strategy to improve the quality of playing pitches and changing facilities will be particularly beneficial to those sports clubs that make use of the Council's pitch letting arrangements.

6.3.2 In the longer term, this may improve clubs' perception of the quality of their own activities and this may be reflected by the enhancement of the rental income achievable by the Council from the leases of sports buildings through new lettings, lease renewals and rent reviews.

## **7. KEY RISKS**

7.1 It is not believed that there are any key risks to the Council through the adoption of the strategy. Once adopted the strategy will help the

Council to plan future sports provision and guide the pursuit of funding to sites with most need.

## **8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

### **8.1 Fairness for All**

8.1.1 The PPS represents a fair and equitable way of identifying the priorities for sports pitch improvements within the Borough. The strategy measures existing pitch demand against future population projections and states the key areas for improvement for each of the sports included. The delivery of the action plan within the strategy will ensure that all residents have access to good quality sport pitches.

### **8.2 Growth and Sustainability**

8.2.1 The PPS will play an important role in the Borough's growth over the next twenty years by ensuring protection of sports pitches and the provision of facilities in areas of demand.

### **8.3 Strong Communities**

8.3.1 Investment in the Borough's tennis courts will help to deliver increased sports participation. This will bring the community together and ensure its members are healthy and interactive.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Corporate advice has been sought in regard to equalities and an agreement has been reached that an equalities impact assessment is neither relevant nor proportionate for the approval of this report to agree the new Playing Pitch Strategy.

9.2 However, it should be noted that projects or the various work stream deriving from this may be subject to a separate Equalities Impact Assessment. Therefore, any projects or work stream will be assessed independently on the need to undertake an EQIA to ensure that the council meets the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010.

## **10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no performance management implications by the adoption of the PPS.

## **11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no health & safety implication associated with the adoption of the PPS.

## **12. HR IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no human resource implications from the adoption of the PPS.

## **13. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The provision of good quality pitches and associated sports facilities is an important factor in supporting sport participation within the Borough. The adoption of the PPS will help the Council to support current and plan for future playing pitch demand and secure capital funding for the improvement of our facilities.
- 13.2 Numerous studies have shown that there is a clear inverse relationship between physical activity and all-cause mortality, cardiorespiratory health, metabolic health including Type 2 diabetes, muscle mass and function, breast and colon cancer and poor mental health including depression and cognitive decline.
- 13.3 There is further limited, moderate or weak evidence for a positive effect of physical activity on weight loss, musculo-skeletal health including hip and vertebrae fracture and osteoporosis. Precise effects are dependent upon the type, intensity and duration of activity as well as biological factors (e.g. age, gender, ethnicity) but risk reduction is approximately 30% for all-cause mortality, 20-35% for cardiovascular disease, 30-40% for metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes, 36-68% for hip fracture, 22-83% for osteoarthritis, 30% for prevention / delay in decline of physical functional health, 30% for risk reduction of falls, 30% for colon cancer, 20% for breast cancer and 20-30% risk reduction of depression and dementia. However, within this it should be noted that sporting participation has not increased in the past decade and alternative and supplementary means of increasing physical activity in the population as a whole should be considered.

## **Background Papers**

None.