

## BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

### PUBLIC REPORT

**Report to:** CABINET  
**Report of:** Corporate Director - Place  
**Date of Decision:** 25 June 2018  
**SUBJECT:** BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2017 - 2020  
**Key Decision:** Yes  
**If not in the Forward Plan:** Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 004668/2018  
(please "X" box) Chief Executive approved   
O&S Chair approved   
**Relevant Cabinet Member(s)** Councillor Ian Ward, Leader  
**Relevant O&S Chair:** Councillor Tahir Ali, Economy and Skills  
Councillor Penny Holbrook, Housing & Neighbourhoods  
**Wards affected:** All

#### Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To inform members with regard to the findings of the Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 1.2 To seek approval of the recommendations and endorsement of the approach detailed in the report.

#### Decision(s) recommended:

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves the Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy as appended to the report at Appendix 2, covering the period 2017 – 2031 in line with the Birmingham Development Plan, to replace the former Playing Pitch Strategy approved in September 2011.
2. Notes that the Playing Pitch Strategy will be used to inform the development and review of local development documents.
3. Approves that the recommendations be adopted in Directorate Service and District Asset Management plans.

**Lead Contact Officer(s):** Steve Hollingworth – Service Director Sport, Events, Open Spaces & Wellbeing  
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## **Consultation**

### Internal

Officers from Sport, Parks, Wellbeing, Education, Property Services and Planning and Development were consulted and involved in the production of the Strategy and agree with the report going forward for Executive decision. Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools have been consulted and agree with the report going forward for Executive decision.

### External

The Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy and preceding Assessment Report have been produced in accordance with Sport England guidance and both have achieved sign off from Sport England and the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of all sports included within the scope of the strategy. Birmingham Schools, Sports Clubs and Leagues have been consulted on the production of the strategy.

## **Compliance Issues:**

### Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) provides options for the city to offer residents a high quality of life through the provision of well-located and high quality pitches to enable them to be healthy through sport. The strategy also recommends opportunities for people to 'make a contribution' through the community undertaking of asset management, in line with the Sustainable Community Strategy. The PPS forms part of the suite of facility strategies that were recommended within the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy approved by Cabinet in November 2010.

The Council's adopted Birmingham Development Plan contains policies that protect playing pitches from development unless it can be shown that they are surplus to requirements. The PPS will be used in decision making on planning applications that affect playing pitches and during the production and review of local development documents.

### Financial Implications

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 BCC resources as well as a prioritisation for attracting and supporting external funding including s106 monies.

### Legal Implications

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

### Public Sector Equality Duty (see separate guidance note)

A Stage One Equality Analysis has been undertaken.

### Appendix 4 Playing Pitch Strategy 2017 - Stage One Equality Analysis

## **5.0 Relevant background/chronology of key events:**

- 5.1 The Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been produced in collaboration with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council under the guidance of Sport England. Both the Strategy and the preceding Assessment Report have been produced in accordance with Sport England guidance and both have achieved sign off from National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The study covers the period up to 2031, in line with the Birmingham Development Plan. It replaces the previous version delivered in 2011.
- 5.2 The PPS has been produced by Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd, management consultants, following a full and open procurement process lead by Birmingham City Council's Procurement Service and BCC's Sports Service supported by Sport England.
- 5.3 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 field provision within Birmingham. 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 sports:
- Football pitches
  - Cricket pitches
  - Rugby Union pitches
  - Rugby League Pitches
  - Hockey pitches (sand/water-based Artificial Grass Pitches – AGPs)
  - Third generation turf pitches (3G AGPs)
  - Lacrosse pitches
  - Other grass sports pitches (i.e. American Football and Kabaddi)
  - Tennis courts
- 5.4 The aims identified by Officers and included within the brief for the Sport England approved consultants delivering the Strategy were as follows:
- Inform the review of emerging planning policy within the Local Development Framework of Birmingham;
  - Provide adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields (NPPF policy);
  - Inform land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing pitches within Birmingham, broken down into 4 geographical areas (North, South East & West);
  - Provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches and artificial Grass pitches within Birmingham;
  - Identify the opportunities for and evidence to support external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sport and physical activity facilities and playing pitches;
  - Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality, and accessibility of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision, and playing pitches.
  - Identify the cross boundary issues for Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan

Borough Council.

5.5 A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the PPS. It seeks to support the Council and its partners in delivering the following:  
 “An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports facilities that provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents at all levels of play from grassroots to elite” The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings relating to the main pitch sports from the PPS Assessment Report (Appendix 3).

Sport	Current picture	Future demand (2031)
Football (grass pitches)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 22.5 match sessions on adult pitches.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 30.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 21.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 8.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches.</li> <li>◀ Shortfall of 16 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.</li> </ul>
Football (3G pitches)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 5.14 full size 3G pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 9.75 full size 3G pitches.</li> <li>◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.</li> </ul>
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Overplay totalling 57 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfalls worsen.</li> <li>◀ Three clubs cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.</li> </ul>
Rugby union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 13.25 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Shortfall of 17.75 match equivalent sessions.</li> </ul>
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Current demand is being met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Demand from six clubs cannot be met.</li> </ul>

5.6 The existing position for all pitch sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some pitches and for some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met; or there is a requirement to replace any lost provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.

5.7 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 – PPS Executive Summary.

5.8 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 themes:

- To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.
- Ensure, through use of the PPS, that playing pitches are protected through implementation of local planning policy.
- Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

- To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.
- Improve quality.
- Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites).
- Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- Secure development contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so.
- Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate current and future demand.
- Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock.

5.9 The PPS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Birmingham. 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 Birmingham can be satisfied.

5.10 It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all relevant sections of the Council. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years, Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

5.11 Once the Strategy is adopted by the City Council, it will be monitored, delivered and updated through the Playing Pitch Development Group, led by the Strategic Sport Service with representation from Parks, Education, Property and Planning supported by Sport England and all pitch sport NGBs.

#### **Evaluation of alternative option(s):**

Not having and adopting the PPS would leave Birmingham (already short of quality and capacity) and its Playing Pitches and Open Spaces vulnerable to development.

Not adopting PPS would leave services without clear rationale for allocation of budget/resources, a plan against which external agencies such as NGBs can be engaged; leaving staff and partners without clear focus for direction and activity.

#### **Reasons for Decision(s):**

To guide future provision and management of sports pitches in the area in the context of national planning guidelines and local sports development criteria.

Protect facilities against development pressure, informing planning decision for sites where there are applications for change of use pending

Inform future policies on 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

**Signatures**

	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of Council	.....
Chief Officer: Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director - Place	.....

**List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:**

1. Playing Pitch Strategy Report – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011
2. Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy May 2011

**List of Appendices accompanying this Report:**

1. Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy Executive Summary
2. Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy 2017
3. Birmingham & Solihull Assessment Report 2017
4. Birmingham Playing Pitch Strategy – Equality Duty Statement and Stage One Equality Analysis

**Report Version**

**Dated**

## Equality Act 2010

The Executive must have due regard to the public sector equality duty when considering Council reports for decision.

The public sector equality duty is as follows:

- 1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 2 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
  - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
  - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
  - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 3 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 4 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
  - (a) tackle prejudice, and
  - (b) promote understanding.
- 5 The relevant protected characteristics are:
  - (a) marriage & civil partnership
  - (b) age
  - (c) disability
  - (d) gender reassignment
  - (e) pregnancy and maternity
  - (f) race
  - (g) religion or belief
  - (h) sex
  - (i) sexual orientation