

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY FOR NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
and
PPG17 COMPLIANT OPEN SPACE STUDY**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve both the Playing Pitch Strategy for North Lincolnshire and PPG17 Compliant Open Space Study.
- 1.2 The key points in this report are:
- A draft strategy for playing pitch provision in North Lincolnshire and a PPG17 compliant open space study have been prepared.
 - Sport England has had the opportunity to see a copy of the draft Playing Pitch Strategy and they agree with its content.
 - Both documents set out priorities and standards for action in the future.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy for North Lincolnshire and PPG17 Open Space Study were prepared at the same time, although independently of each other. They are closely linked. They both explore outdoor open space related issues. The PPG17 Open Space Study deals with planning related open space provision. The Playing Pitch Strategy focuses specifically on playing pitches. Given the linkages between the two studies it is appropriate that Cabinet deals with them at the same time.

Playing Pitch Strategy for North Lincolnshire

- 2.2 Sport England believes that all local communities should have in place an up to date Playing Pitch Strategy. This should aim to ensure an adequate supply of good quality playing pitches to meet community needs.
- 2.3 An up to date playing pitch strategy helps toward making informed planning, investment, management and sports development decisions. The playing pitches strategy was developed following the methodology outlined by Sport England in their publication "*Towards a Level Playing Field – A Manual for the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies*".

- 2.4 The underpinning vision for the strategy is to ensure that the quality and quantity of pitches meets the needs and aspirations of residents, now and into the future. The Playing Pitches Strategy considers the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby union, hockey and netball.
- 2.5 Sport England was sent a copy of the draft strategy. They have confirmed that they endorse the content of the strategy as drafted.
- 2.6 The key issues highlighted within the strategy are set out below. Officers have deposited a full copy of the strategy in each political group office for consideration by elected members. An electronic copy was provided to each member of the Cabinet. The strategy highlights significant surpluses of pitch provision across North Lincolnshire based on current demand. If demand for football, rugby, cricket and hockey increases as predicted it is possible to meet this by converting existing pitches, opening up community access in school sites and developer contributions.
- Work is needed to maintain and improve the quality of pitches and associated facilities in the area
 - Steps are required to ensure that the quantity and quality of pitches in the area is protected to levels that meet strategic needs. Opportunities potentially exist to rationalise surplus pitches in favour of investing in the quality of other pitches and their associated support facilities. Any decisions relating to the loss of a pitch should draw on the Sport England exception criteria
 - The Council should secure developer contributions wherever possible to improve the quantity and quality of existing outdoor playing fields in line with our changing strategic needs
 - The current supply of adult football pitches exceeds that needed to accommodate current and anticipated future demand. There is currently a surplus of 68 pitches
 - There is an overall surplus of 16 junior football pitches. However if forecast future demand for junior football is realised this overall surplus will reduce but demand will not exceed supply
 - There is an overall surplus of 18 mini soccer pitches. However if forecast future demand for mini soccer is realized some additional pitches may be required. This demand could be met by converting pitches from sports where there is significant over provision, gaining access to existing facilities which are not open for community use or through developer contributions
 - There is an overall shortfall of 2.5 cricket pitches. It appears at present that the existing supply is meeting the needs of the teams. If demand for cricket increases by 2026 the shortfalls could be met by converting pitches from other sports where there is significant over provision, gaining access to existing facilities which are not open for community use or through developer contributions
 - The current supply of adult rugby pitches is sufficient to accommodate current and future demand
 - Although there is a shortfall of junior rugby pitches, junior teams play on adult pitches and matches take place on separate days of the week to adults. Therefore in reality the supply of rugby pitches is sufficient to accommodate demand.
 - There are pressures on synthetic turf pitches for fixtures on peak days and there is a particular lack of provision in Brigg. There is also a need for a

football and rugby compatible synthetic pitch serving Central/North Scunthorpe.

- All facilities need to continue to fully meet the needs of disabled participants and comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act
- We could meet the under provision for junior sports by converting adult pitches or increasing the community use of school sites
- We need to secure the wider community use of school sites
- We need to improve the management and booking arrangements for pitches
- A playing pitch standard of 0.93 ha per 1,000 population is needed

2.7 The Playing Pitches Strategy covers the period between 2013 and 2018.

2.8 A key recommendation is that a joint working group is established to promote partnership working across the Council and with key stakeholders in the provision of playing pitches. This group will lead the further development and progress of an action plan to deliver the Playing Pitches Strategy (Appendix 2).

2.9 The Council continues to work with a wide range of partners and community groups to improve the quality and quantity of playing pitches. Examples of this work include:-

2.9.1 The Council has awarded £384,500 in grant funding to support 31 projects (see Appendix 1).

2.9.2 The Building Schools for the Future programme has delivered new or refurbished sports facilities including changing facilities and two full sized artificial turf pitches.

2.9.3 The Council has approved plans to invest £3.1m in outdoor sites. This includes plans to provide additional full sized artificial turf pitches in Scunthorpe and Brigg.

2.9.4 The development of the Pods has enabled Appleby Frodingham Works Athletics Club to develop a full size floodlit artificial turf pitch and third generation training pitch.

2.9.5 The Council has increased the amount of money available to support community projects including playing pitches. Since 2011 the grant aid budget has increased from £310,390 to £948,000.

2.9.6 The Council has transferred the management of local football pitches at Foxhills Sports Ground and the former South Leys School site to local football clubs.

2.9.7 The Council is an active participant in the North Lincolnshire Football partnership.

PPG17 Compliant Open Space Study

2.10 A PPG17 compliant Open Space study for the area was commissioned in April 2010. Under the then PPG17 (Planning Policy Note 17 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation) local authorities were required to undertake assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities.

2.11 The guidance expects local authorities to use the information from audits and assessments to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities in their area. These standards should then form

the basis for addressing any deficiencies through the planning process. Local development plans can include these standards.

2.12 The study focused on local needs and provision. In particular, the requirement to make the most effective use of available resources. The aims of the study were as follows.

- To identify local needs
- To audit and digitally map local provision
- To set local standards based on the findings identified in the PP17 assessment for quality, quantity and accessibility
- To apply the provision targets

2.13 In keeping with the PPG 17 guidance the study focuses on provision that is publically accessible. Analysis was undertaken at a North Lincolnshire wide level and also on seven sub-areas.

2.14 The study sets standards of provision for the differing types of open space, outdoor sport and recreational facilities within North Lincolnshire. These include the following.

- parks and gardens
- natural and semi-natural green space
- amenity green space
- outdoor sports facilities
- provision for children and young people
- allotments
- cemeteries and churchyards

The standards were set using the baseline data from the quantity and quality auditing and the accessibility evidence of consultation with stakeholders, user groups and local residents.

2.15 The development of local standards will help guide the planning process. In particular, they will help to address gaps in provision in local communities relating to open space and outdoor sport/recreation facilities. The standards will establish clear targets for quantity, quality and accessibility of provision. They will guide the space and facilities required from future developments.

2.16 Officers have deposited a full copy of the study in each political group office for consideration by elected members. An electronic copy was provided to each member of the Cabinet.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 The following options are suggested for consideration by Cabinet.

3.1.1 **Option 1** - That Cabinet approves the North Lincolnshire Playing Pitches Strategy and PPG17 Compliant Open Space Study.

3.1.2 **Option 2** - That Cabinet does not approve the Playing Pitches Strategy and/or the PPG17 Compliant Open Space Study and requests changes to the draft documents.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Option 1** will allow work to commence toward delivering the objectives and targets set out in this report.
- 4.2 **Option 2** will delay implementation of the strategies and their respective action plans.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

- 5.1.1 The delivery of some actions will depend upon successfully securing capital funding.

5.2 Property

- 5.2.1 Subject to securing capital financing, the opportunity exists to improve facilities reaching the end of their useful life with new or refurbished buildings. This will reduce the maintenance back-log and help reduce maintenance and running costs.

- 5.3 There are no other immediate resource implications.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 Officers have completed an Integrated Impact Assessment. Some of the key implications are set out below.

6.2 Environmental

- 6.2.1 Some of the existing support facilities (changing rooms etc) are highly inefficient in energy terms. The buildings may have poor insulation qualities and the services in some cases are antiquated. Any replacement/refurbishment programme would incorporate modern design standards and technologies aimed at reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. This will therefore result in positive environmental impacts and reduced energy costs.

6.3 Diversity

- 6.3.1 Removing barriers to participation by offering modern and accessible facilities should help increase participation in pitch sports across the broadest possible range of communities in North Lincolnshire.
- 6.3.2 Securing the availability of public facilities on education premises and voluntary/private pitches, especially those in rural communities will assist those who are unable to attend other facilities towards becoming more physically active.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder

6.4.1 One of the benefits of increasing participation in sport and active recreation is the opportunity to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. This is by using active recreation as a diversionary activity.

6.5 Risk

6.5.1 Generally pitch quality and support facilities is good. In some cases however, the condition of the existing facilities present a risk to the ongoing operation of the facility. This could lead to disruption in provision. Replacing facilities would reduce these risks.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The governing bodies of relevant sports, schools, parish councils, voluntary sector providers, clubs and league secretaries were invited to comment on the provision and quality of playing pitch provision in North Lincolnshire. Their responses contributed significantly to the development of the strategy.

7.2 As part of the PPG17 Compliant Open Space Study, wide consultation was undertaken involving relevant stakeholders, specialist interest groups and the general public. The responses received were used as part of the audit process and subsequent detailed qualitative and quantitative issues.

7.3 Sport England has endorsed the Playing Pitches Strategy as drafted.

7.4 Further consultation will be necessary in relation to individual projects in taking forward both the strategy and open space study. Officers will develop a forward communications plan to these ends in consultation with relevant cabinet members.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Cabinet approves the adoption of the North Lincolnshire Playing Pitches Strategy and the PPG17 Compliant Open Space Study.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

North Lincolnshire Council

Community Grants Awarded to Support Playing Pitches Sites

Year	Group	Details	Amount
11/12	Appleby Frodingham Works Athletics Club	Purchase and installation of pitch furniture for new hockey astro turf	£10,000
11/12	Barton Town Cricket Club	Construction of new score box and purchase of score board	£1,175
09/10	Barton Town Cricket Club	Replacement of wicket/ground roller	£2,250
12/13	Belton Playing Field Association	Supply and erect fencing along border with bridleway	£10,000
11/12	Bottesford Town Football Club	Improved access/car parking facilities and purchase of grounds maintenance equipment	£5,000
09/10	Bottesford Town Football Club	Multi purpose changing facilities and meeting complex	£30,000
12/13	Broughton Cricket Club	Replace and upgrade grounds maintenance equipment	£7,442
12/13	Burton Playing Field Association	Purchase of goal posts	£1,564
11/12	Burton Playing Fields Association	Pavilion Refurbishment	£22,000
12/13	Crosby United JFC	Refurbishment of tennis pavilion to become changing rooms – Foxhills Sports Ground	£14,986
09/10	Epworth Town Colts AFC	Replacement goalposts	£750
12/13	Epworth War Memorial Playing Field	Epworth Thurlow Pavillion Regeneration works	£10,000
10/11	Garthorpe & Fockerby Community Field Association	Purchase and development of village playing field	£16,844
12/13	Goxhill Parish Council	Purchase and installation of MUGA	£25,500
12/13	Haxey Cricket Club	Purchase equipment to enhance facilities for young members	£5,119

Year	Group	Details	Amount
09/10	Haxey Cricket Club	Installation of synthetic cricket wicket	£600
12/13	Heslam Park	Building of new pavilion/changing facilities	£30,000
12/13	Klassic - Kirton in Lindsey Actively Supporting Sport	Build new pavilion	£15,000
11/12	Klassic - Kirton in Lindsey Actively Supporting Sport	Construction of new bowling green and associated facilities	£30,000
12/13	Messingham Cricket Club	Training of coaches	£1,600
09/10	Messingham Memorial Playing Field Association	Boundary fencing on sports field	£6,000
12/13	Messingham Parish Council	Recreation field drainage	£2,300
12/13	Normanby Park Sport & Activity Club	Grounds maintenance equipment	£6,980
09/10	Scunthorpe Rugby Union Football Club	Security Fencing	£500
09/10	South Ferriby Parish Council	MUGA	£6,650
12/13	West Butterwick Parish Council	Installation of MUGA	£30,000
09/10	Westwoodside Playing Field Association	MUGA	£30,000
12/13	Winterton Rangers Community Interest Company	Refurbishment of main room	£10,000
12/13	Winterton Town Council	Newport Drive Playing Field Clubhouse	£22,224
09/10	Worlaby Recreation Committee	Build new village hall	£30,000
		TOTAL	<hr/> £384,484 <hr/>

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE PLAYING PITCHES STRATEGY

ACTION PLAN

Recommendation	Strategy Reference	Lead	Monitoring Success	Timescale to be achieved
PPS1	All pitches should be afforded protection within the Local Development Framework (LDF). Any decisions relating to the loss of a pitch should draw on the Sport England exception criteria. Protection policies should link with policies for other types of open space.	Planning	LDF Safeguarded policy Number of pitches improved or new pitches provided	Immediate
PPS2	The Council should develop policy to secure developer contributions to improve the quality of existing outdoor playing pitches or alternative sporting provision in the District in areas where the quantity of provision is sufficient, and to provide new playing pitches where a shortfall has been identified.	Planning	LDF Safeguarded policy	Immediate
PPS2a	The Council should create a standard planning condition to be attached to a planning permission to enable the development of effective community use agreements.	Planning	LDF Safeguarded policy	Immediate
PPS3	0.93 hectares per 1,000 population should be dedicated to accessible playing pitch provision for football, cricket and hockey.	Planning, Sport Leisure & Culture, Schools Improvement	LDF Safeguarded policy	Immediate
PPS4	Monitor bookings and Artificial Grass Pitch provision to ensure that the stock of AGP's is appropriate to the level of demand once the 3G AGP at Frederick Gough School is completed	Sport, Leisure & Culture	Development of additional facilities/reconfiguring of existing to meet demand	Medium

Recommendation	Strategy Reference	Lead	Monitoring Success	Timescale to be achieved
PPS5	Ensure the modelling spreadsheet is kept up to date to reflect the ongoing changes in population, housing developments and sports development initiatives in addition to improvements made to the pitch stock.	Sport, Leisure & Culture	Strategy data maintained up to date	Ongoing
PPS6	<p>The focus for the Council should be on the improvement of those 'poor quality' sites and those Tier 1 flagship sites which could be further improved. Improvement priority should be based on the strategic importance of the site and where it fits into the pitch hierarchy.</p> <p>Furthermore, a policy of rest and recovery should be brought into operation at all pitch sites ensuring that the quality of pitches does not deteriorate over the course of a season or from season to season.</p> <p>The programme of improvement should concentrate on Tier 1 and Tier 2 pitch sites.</p>	Sport, Leisure & Culture	Number of pitches/sites improved	Long
PPS7	Consider the potential to rationalise surplus pitches in favour of investing in the quality of other pitches. The disposal of any pitch can only be considered if one of Sport England's five exception criteria is met.	Sport Leisure & Culture	Number of pitches/sites improved	Long
PPS8	Consider reallocation of teams to pitches which are currently underused in order to reduce overplaying and maintain the quality of pitches.	Sport, Leisure & Culture, Local football Partnership	Number of teams reallocated	Short
PPS9	Seek to secure formal community use agreements at all schools in North Lincolnshire.	School Improvement / Estates	Community Use agreements secured	Medium
PPS10	Where possible, any school pitches available for community use should be assigned for youth/junior/mini games to protect the site and ensure it is able to serve its primary purpose.	Schools, Local football partnership	Pitch sports on school sites played by young people	Short

Recommendation	Strategy Reference	Lead	Monitoring Success	Timescale to be achieved
PPS11	Seek to ensure all facilities meet DDA requirements. Consider undertaking an access audit of facilities in the District.	Schools Improvement, Sport Leisure & Culture, Independent facility providers	% facilities compliant Number of facilities improved	Medium/Long
PPS12	Work with providers of pitches to ensure a consistent and efficient approach to the management, cost and booking of pitches. Assess the potential and suitability of extending the leasing of Council owned facilities to clubs.	Sport Leisure & Culture		Short/Medium
PPS13	Seek to develop a joint working group to assist in the implementation of this strategy	Sport Leisure & Culture	Working group created. Communication process developed	Short

- * **Immediate = upon adoption of this strategy**
Short = 6 to 12 months
Medium = 1 to 3 years
Long Term = 3 to 5 years