

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**Report of Executive Director
Place**

Playing Pitches and Sports Facilities Strategy

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek adoption of the Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy 2016 – 2019

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommend that:

- The Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy 2016-2019 be adopted.
- The strategy is updated every 3-5 years to comply with planning policy reviews.

3. Background

3.1 The previous Barnsley Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy was completed in 2010/11 by Strategic Leisure, part of Scott Wilson Group, on behalf of the Council. Dialogue with Sport England indicated that the current strategies are considered to be out of date.

3.2 The council has a statutory responsibility to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England funding to have an up to date Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy.

3.3 The sports facility and playing pitch strategy has been conducted to reflect current and best practice in developing sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy with Sport England's guidance. Essential to the completion of the strategy is the requirement to conduct assessments of Local authority playing pitches and sports facility stock to address the following elements:

- **Quantity** - are there enough facilities with sufficient capacity to meet needs to 2033.
- **Quality** - are the facilities fit for purpose for the users? Does the quality meet the level of play needed?

- **Accessibility** - Are the facilities in the right physical locations for users?
- **Availability** – are the facilities available at the right time to users who want to use them?

3.4 As the key strategic and statutory planning lead for the Barnsley borough the council has a statutory duty to meet the requirements of the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). **The NPPF outlines in paragraph 73:**

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning Policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required.”

3.5 **additionally, paragraph 74 of the NPPF** emphasise that existing open space, sports and recreational facilities and land, including playing field, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- Any loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The developments are for alternative recreation or open space facilities, the need for which clearly outweighs the loss.

3.6 The Council’s Local Plan sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Barnsley, and the approach to its long term physical development to achieve the Council’s vision of what sort of place Barnsley wants to become. As such in order to ensure the Local Plan complies with paragraph 73 of the National Planning Policy (NPPF), the Barnsley Playing Pitch and Sports Facility strategy required updating in order to be considered sufficiently robust.

3.7 Having an up to date, formal Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy will not only underpin policy, but is also a requirement of any Sport England funding that, the Council, or any organisation in the Borough, maybe looking to bid into in the future.

3.8 Against this backdrop the rationale for producing the strategy is that it will support us to deliver on the broader public health agenda to increase participation in sport and physical activity. This is key to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and will play an important role in the development of community cohesion and integration.

4. Proposal and justification

4.1 To adopt the Playing Pitch and Sport Facility Strategy and its associated action plans.

- 4.2 Adopting the strategy will guide future provision and management of sports facilities, outdoor playing pitches and community use services to serve existing and new communities in the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough area.
- 4.3 The strategy will underpin the contribution that sport, and the facilitation of opportunities has toward achieving a healthy lifestyle, sitting within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2018 which has 3 priorities:
- Thriving and vibrant economy
 - People achieving their potential
 - Strong resilient communities
- 4.4 The Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy delivers on three specific priorities:
- Prioritise the reduction of health inequalities between different parts of the borough and the borough to the rest of the country.
 - Make the improvement of people's health and wellbeing everybody's business, with an emphasis on prevention and the contribution that all services can make
 - Ensure that we play a strong part in keeping the borough clean, green and safe, working with partners to improve community safety.
- 4.5 In addition, the Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy supports the delivery of our Sport and Active Lifestyle Strategy's (2015-2018) vision to ensure that Barnsley's environment enables people to live healthier and more active lifestyles.
- 4.6 It is essential for BMBC, as the statutory planning lead for Barnsley Borough, to understand both current and future playing pitch and sports facility need in the borough, taking account of other providers; the importance of education, private and voluntary sector provision and under the duty to co-operate, cross boundary supply and demand issues.
- 4.7 The development of this new Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Strategy will enable BMBC to shape the future playing pitch and sports facilities offer. Barnsley's population is predicted to grow significantly over the next few years, so there is a need to ensure sufficient provision of accessible, quality and affordable facilities and pitches to meet local need.
- 4.8 The development of the strategy is an opportunity to set out a strategic vision for the future provision of playing pitch and sports facilities, based on robust evidence and appropriate needs assessments.
- 4.9 Furthermore, the strategy will provide a rationale to enable National Governing bodies to further invest and deliver their working outcomes as outlined in their various strategic development documents.
- 4.10 The outcomes arising from the strategy and its associated assessments will inform the BMBC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which underpin the Local Plan. The IDP's purpose is to set out an analysis and assessment of existing infrastructure

provision within BMBC including playing pitches (indoor and outdoor) and sports facilities, by identifying current shortfalls, existing and future needs and the demands for the Council to support new development and a changing population.

5. Key findings and recommendations

5.1 The strategy is split into two sections, sports facilities and outdoor playing pitches, the key findings and recommendations are presented to reflect this:

5.2 Facilities

Overall, Barnsley has a good range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area; however, some are now ageing, and will require replacement in the future. This is particularly true of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council owned sports hall and swimming pool facilities with regard to both current and projected future demand.

The sports halls built in 2011 on education sites are very good quality facilities. However, they do not benefit community participation as much as they have the potential to do so, despite having formal Community Use Agreements (CUAs) in place. This is because Advanced Learning Centres prefer community use times to be blocked booked by clubs and organisations/groups, meaning that they are rarely available for individuals on a pay and play basis. The sports halls and pools which do offer pay and play community use are already at capacity; supporting other schools to offer more pay and play community use could increase and develop pay and play participation.

There are options available for the council to alter the current CUAs in place. A report presented to Purple Cabinet on 2nd November 2016 and subsequently approved by a member delegated decision recommended that the current level of subsidy for community use be reduced from 1,000 hours to 400 hours per annum for every Advanced Learning Centre within the Borough. This report also recommended that ALC's are supported to develop community use that meets the needs of the Sport & Active Lifestyle Strategy (2015-2018) either directly through the ALC's themselves or through a third party.

To this end we have 2 options:

Option 1: Outsource the running of community use to an external provider i.e. Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL).

Part 3 of the Management of the Trust Leisure Operation contract states that we can ask BPL to operate any additional leisure properties and in this case we could ask BPL to manage the leisure operation and management at our Advanced Learning Centres.

Option 2: Support ALC's to increase community use.

Schools may wish to manage community use themselves and we could support them to do this by:

- Promoting and influencing local physical activity initiatives (Barnsley Young People's Health and Well-Being Strategy 2013-2026)
- Working with local communities to develop community use

Discussions are already taking place to explore both options through the Playing Pitch and Sports Facility working group in partnership with schools to establish the most appropriate option.

It is important that there is increased access to opportunities for physical activity at local level, so it is easy for residents, particularly those who are currently inactive, and those without access to private transport, to participate, and become physically active. This is important given the existing low levels of physical activity and the high level of obesity in the Borough, together with the significant health inequalities across the borough, in particular between the West and the East.

Some facility capacity issues can be addressed by working with our partners to address their current timetabling, which, with adjustments, could increase capacity for community use in some of the borough's swimming facilities for example. Recommendations outlined in the strategy and reflected in Appendix B need to be explored for feasibility and where feasible delivered by the relevant services / partners.

Given current funding restraints it is important that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council works with partners moving forward, to develop and deliver facility provision. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council can no longer be the provider and funder of last resort, but needs to adopt more of an enabling and facilitating role.

5.2 Playing Pitches

In most cases playing pitches are part of the wider park and open space environment and enjoyed by the community on a regular basis.

The (Playing Pitch Strategy) PPS identifies the formal sports needs for football, cricket, hockey, rugby and rugby league.

5.3 Football

There are 213 individual grass football pitches across Barnsley Metropolitan Borough (BMB). In total 158 are secured communities use football pitches across BMB, and 55 unsecured.

Pitch quality – 50% of football pitches have been rated as poor, 4% as good and 46% standard.

School sites that do provide community use are not currently secured for formal use, in such instances formal community use agreements need to be put in place if possible and practicable to increase pitch stock further.

Through maximising the use of existing resources, changing community use agreements at school sites and re-marking pitches to accommodate different size football pitches; will help support the council to address future deficiencies in senior and junior football.

5.4 Artificial Grass Pitches

There are currently 10 full artificial grass pitches (AGP's) available for community use and club training. 3 are deemed suitable for competitive matches. These are Barnsley FC's training ground, Netherwood School and Penistone Grammar.

The calculations and scenario testing with regards to future provision suggests that the number of teams in the Borough would require 7 full size 3G pitches to accommodate training requirements.

5.5 Cricket

25 sites provide community cricket across Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. 22 provide secured community use and 3 provide unsecured community use. There are 25 cricket squares providing 253 grass pitches and 20 no turf pitches.

In general pitches and ancillary facilities are considered to be of a good condition – 16 are considered to be good and 9 standard.

The sub areas of North East and Penistone have pitches to meet current demand less so than the North and south areas.

There is a need for additional cricket pitches overall, particularly at the grounds that are currently over capacity. This means we need to ensure that established clubs that are currently over capacity are supported to, where possible, provide additional wickets to meet future growth and facilities will need to be improved to cater for new residential population growth.

5.6 Rugby Union

We have 2 club sites at Shaw Lane Sports Club and Wortley, providing 4 senior pitches, 1 mini and 1 small sided Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with floodlights. There is a current over play of pitches across Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. This requires attention to provide additional match and training pitches.

5.7 Rugby League

There is only 1 venue that provides pitches suitable for Rugby League at Ingsfield Sports and Social Club this is in council ownership and leased to a club.

Both pitches are classed as 'Standard' quality. There is current overplay on these two pitches. With current, latent and future population demand there is an under capacity of 7 match and training equivalents by 2030.

5.8 Hockey

There is only 1 artificial turf pitch on 1 site suitable for Hockey at Darton College. This pitch is classed as poor and is in urgent need of replacement.

Key priorities are to ensure the community use artificial hockey pitch site or seek to provide a community use artificial turf pitch.

There is currently overplay on these two pitches of 5 match / training equivalents. Drainage is an issue for all clubs particularly at Wortley and is something over time that needs to be addressed to assist with capacity issues.

5.9 Recommendations for Playing Pitches

There is an identified surplus of poor quality community use pitches in the Borough. Where appropriate we need to protect and enhance existing pitches and ancillary facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management, providing new pitches and facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

Recommendations outlined in the strategy and reflected in Appendix C need to be explored for feasibility and where feasible delivered by the relevant services / partners.

Officers with responsibility for providing, protecting and enhancing pitches across Barnsley Metropolitan Borough need to keep the strategy alive by:

- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions
- Provide up to date annual supply and demand for pitch stock
- Address changing trends and formats for the different pitch sport as they develop and monitoring participation of these change and trends.

The on-going monitoring of the strategy will be led by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and will be linked to the relevant Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Steering Group. The strategy will be updated every 3-5 years to fit in with planning policy reviews.

6. Implications for local people / service users

There are no immediate or direct implications for local people or service users as a result of the completion of the strategy.

The actions and recommendations referred to in the strategy have the potential to have implications for services and local people but these will need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

7. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of this strategy. However, the report identifies a number of potential improvements to the facilities in Barnsley, which may have an impact on financial resources should they be implemented.

Further reports will therefore be presented to Cabinet once recommendations have been investigated and the specific financial implications of these have been calculated, on a site by site basis

This may include working with partners/3rd parties to build the types of facilities required, in the locations needed,

8. Employee implications

None

9. Communications implications

We will communicate the acceptance of the strategy via the Council's webpages

The strategy will be made available online.

There is also a potential for the local media to raise some further enquires regarding the strategy and its recommendations which will be addressed as these questions arise.

10. Consultations

Phil Hollingsworth – Stronger Barnsley Locality Manager,
Paul Clifford – Group Leader Planning & Building Control
Jeremy Sykes – Service Director Assets
Stacey White – Planning Officer
Anthony Devonport - Group Leader Bereavement Sport and TPT
Sue Thiedeman - Head of Culture and Visitor Economy
Julie Tolhurst – Public Health Principal
Jo Birch – Parks Supervisor, Parks Services

A comprehensive consultation has taken place in line with statutory guidance from Sport England. This has included consultation with relevant National Governing Bodies (NGB) and local sports clubs.

11. Tackling health inequalities

This strategy supports the priorities for physical activity as outlined in both the Councils Public Health 2016-18 and Sport and Active Lifestyles Strategy 2015-2018.

12. Glossary

- NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework
- IDP - Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- CUA – Community Use Agreements
- ALC – Advanced Learning Centres
- BMB – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough

13. List of appendices

Appendix A – Finance Report (N/A)

Appendix B – Facilities Action Plan

Appendix C – Playing Pitch Action Plan

14. Background papers

Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 -2019
(Available via SharePoint [Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy](#))

Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy Executive Summary 2016-2019
(Available via SharePoint [Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy](#))

Sports and Active Lifestyles Strategy 2015-2018
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/3698/bmbcsportactivelifestylestrategy-web.pdf>

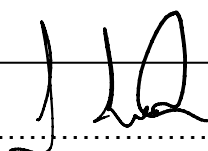
Public Health Strategy 2016 – 2019
(<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/1950/public-health-strategy-2016-18.pdf>)

Financing Community use in ALCs, ACADEMIES and SPECIAL SCHOOLS 26/10/2016
(Available on request)

Officer Contact - Adam Norris
Telephone No 01226 787431

Date: 13th December 2016

Financial Implications /
Consultation



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(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where no financial implications)

