

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: Barnsley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2023

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting	18 October 2023
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Environment and Highways
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is for Barnsley Council to adopt the proposed Barnsley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy to:

1. Ensure Barnsley Council performs its statutory duty to meet the requirements of the national Planning Policy Framework.
2. Ensure that Barnsley Council has a robust evidence base for both existing and future playing pitches and associated facilities provision in Barnsley.

Council Plan priority

Healthy Barnsley

- People are safe and feel safe.
- People live independently with good physical and mental health for as long as possible.
- We have reduced inequalities in health and income.

Growing Barnsley

- Business startups and existing local businesses are supported to grow and attract new investment, providing opportunities for all.
- People have a welcoming, safe, and enjoyable town centre and principal towns as destinations for work, shopping, leisure, and culture.

Sustainable Barnsley

- People live in great places, are recycling more and wasting less, feel connected and valued in their community.
- Our heritage and green spaces are promoted for all people to enjoy.

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommends to Council:-

1. Adoption of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and its associated recommendations.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Barnsley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) (Appendix 1) is the guiding document for how Barnsley Council, with partners, maintain and develop our playing pitch and outdoor sports facility stock. This is an important function in the promotion of sporting opportunities for our residents to feel the benefit of being more active.

The PPOSS builds upon a preceding assessment report (Appendix 2) to provide a clear strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sport facilities and accompanying ancillary provision. The Barnsley PPOSS is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports).

The Barnsley PPOSS will provide an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities, with paragraph 98 discussing the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraph 99 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 100 and 102 also promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields and outdoor sport facilities.

Strategy Vision

The vision for the PPOSS reflects the Council's vision in the Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2021-2030) which is:

"All Barnsley residents are enabled to enjoy long, fulfilling and healthy lives in safe, strong and vibrant communities where every person is equipped with the skills and resources, they need to thrive."

Strategy Aims

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England objectives (see Figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS as well as Sport England's planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

AIM 1 – To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

AIM 2 – To **enhance** playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3 – To **provide** new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

2. STRATEGY DELIVERY

2.1 The PPOSS has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision and usage (See Appendix 2) within Barnsley to provide:

- A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of facilities.
- A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- A range of sport-by-sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

PPOSS Summary Recommendations

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of the Assessment Report, as well as key drivers identified for the study. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

Objective 1

To protect the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- 1.2 Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- 1.3 Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Objective 2

To enhance playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

- 2.1 Improve quality.
- 2.2 Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- 2.3 Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- 2.4 Secure developer contributions

Objective 3

To provide new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- 3.1 Identify opportunities to increase add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- 3.2 Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock.

PPOSS Steering Group

The monitoring of progress and the annual updating of the PPOSS will be completed via the continuation of Barnsley PPOSS Steering Group made up of BMBC staff from Sport & Physical Activity, Planning and also external partners including Sport England and representatives of National Governing Bodies of Sport. The updating process will be done on an annual basis to extend the lifespan of the strategy.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial

Consultations have taken place with representatives of the Director of Finance (S151 Officer).

There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of this strategy.

The strategy itself does look at the resourcing the protection, enhancement and provision of playing and outdoor sports facilities via section 106 agreements and the securing of external investment. This will be done on a case-by-case basis related to the availability of funds, value for money and

the opportunity to implement within any given restrictions.

3.2 Legal

If any direct grant funding were to be given to organisations managing playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities then this must be done in compliance with the council's obligations under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

3.3 Equality

Equality Impact Assessment included in Appendix 4.

3.4 Sustainability

An overarching decision-making wheel has been completed to reflect the main areas of sustainability that the Barnsley PPOSS will contribute to. Not all developments within the strategy will involve BMBC as clubs can progress their own pitch improvement and facility developments. Where BMBC is involved, we will encourage the principles of sustainability on a project-by-project basis.

Decision-making wheel



3.5 Employee

None

3.6 Communications

The PPOSS will be available through the council website following its adoption by cabinet.

Any further enquiries will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and through the pipeline of development projects.

4. CONSULTATION

Consultation has been built into the initial assessments with sports clubs being encouraged to complete an assessment survey, their national governing bodies of sport, facility operators related to the scope of the PPOSS. Additional consultation has taken place through the PPOSS steering group including:

BMBC Planning Team
BMBC Sport & Physical Activity Team
BMBC Parks Services
The FA
The Football Foundation
Rugby Football Union
Rugby Football League
Sheffield and Hallamshire County FA
The Lawn Tennis Association
England Athletics
English Cricket Board
Yorkshire Cricket Board
England Hockey
Sport England

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 No alternative options available.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Perform our statutory duty to meet the requirements of the national Planning Policy Framework.

6.2 Plan strategically for the protection, enhancement and provision of outdoor sports.

6.3 To ensure we have a strategic approach to investment of pitch and outdoor facility developments.

7. GLOSSARY

PPOSS – Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy
FA – Football Association

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Barnsley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy – Executive Summary
- Appendix 2: Barnsley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy
- Appendix 3: Barnsley Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Assessment Report
- Appendix 4: Equality Impact Assessment

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Barnsley Council Plan

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/18156/council-plan.pdf>

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

10. REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date. <i>No appendix A required.</i> <i>Ashley Gray 12/09/23</i>
Legal consultation & sign off.	Legal Services officer consulted and date. <i>Bob Power 12/09/23</i>

Report Author: Stuart Rogers

Post: Service Manager – Sport, Physical Activity and Active Travel

Date: 19th September 2023