



Report To: Planning Portfolio Holder 7 June 2016
Lead Officer: Director of Planning & New Communities and Director of Health and Environmental Services

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council - Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 and Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2016

Purpose

1. To consider the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 and Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2016.
2. This is not a key decision, and it was first published in the December 2015 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder:
 - a) endorses the following strategies in their current form:
 - Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 (Appendix A)
 - Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2016 (Appendix B)
 - b) agrees that delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and New Communities to make any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes, in consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 and Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2016 will guide future provision and management of sports pitches, built facilities and community use services to serve existing and new communities in the City and South Cambridgeshire. In line with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, the strategies set out to assess existing built facilities, the future need for sport and active recreation and, as the region grows and develops, for opportunities for new provision and expansions of existing facilities.

Background

5. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 states that "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.
6. Representations received from Sport England during the public consultation on the South Cambridgeshire Proposed Submission Local Plan supported the provision of for sport through new development but recommend a robust assessment of need to be carried out using Sport England methodology, and (b) an action plan being

developed via this assessment which identifies the priorities for new open space provision based on outputs from the study in terms of existing and proposed needs.

7. In response, the Council in partnership with Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Sport England commissioned two sports strategies: a Playing Pitch Strategy 2015-2031 for grass and all weather pitches covering both areas; and an Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2031 to guide future provision of indoor sports halls, swimming pools and outdoor cycling facilities to serve existing and new communities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategies assess existing facilities, the future need for sport and active recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision.
8. Consultants Strategic Leisure Limited was commissioned to produce both strategies.

Considerations

Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)

9. The Playing Pitch Strategy was commissioned by Cambridge City Council (CCC) on behalf of itself, South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), Cambridgeshire County Council (CsCC) and Sport England (SE), with support from other stakeholders including Living Sport (LS) and Cambridgeshire Football Association (CFA).
10. The Playing Pitch Strategy 2015-2031 addresses the needs of football, rugby, hockey and cricket and the provision of and need for both grass and artificial pitches.
11. The Playing Pitch Strategy has been developed in accordance with Sport England's methodology which has involved significant consultation with pitch/facility providers and users as well as the relevant National Governing Bodies. The Playing Pitch Strategy provides an action list of where new provision should be provided on-site and how off-site contributions should be used to support new and improved provision.
12. The PPS includes a comprehensive quantity and quality assessment (including accessibility) of current provision, usage and demand took just over a year to complete. This phase included the consultants making contact with parish councils and other site owners, carrying out site visits at appropriate times of year and consultation with local clubs and National Governing Bodies.
13. The Playing Pitch Strategy considers current levels of active participation from clubs based within Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, their playing pitch requirements and the facilities available for use. Peak time of play and current and future carrying capacity has also been considered. Consideration is also given to the potential for clubs to increase teams in the future, quality of facilities and the secured future of playing pitches. The Playing Pitch Strategy includes sites assessments for all pitch sites listing the sport played, the type of pitch and quality as well as the teams which use the pitch(es).
14. It should be noted that the long term future of many sites is outside the control of the local authorities, particularly football, cricket, hockey and rugby pitches on university, college and school sites, which form part of the existing useable provision, particularly in Cambridge. These sites have a significant influence on the level of provision available, and need to be protected. The Council will need to engage with landowners to ensure the continuing availability of these sites for sport.

15. The Playing Pitch Strategy provides action plans for each sport are also provided explaining what actions should take place and where to ensure sufficient provision is available to 2031. These recommend if the pitch should be protected, how it can be enhanced (e.g. drainage) and what further provision could be provided on site, e.g. outdoor storage or pitch improvements.

Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (ISFS)

16. The Indoor Sport Facility Strategy 2015-2031 addresses the future provision of indoor sports halls, swimming pools and outdoor cycling facilities to serve existing and new communities in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
17. The Indoor Sports Facility Strategy has been developed in accordance with Sport England's methodology which has involved significant consultation with pitch/facility providers and users as well as the relevant National Governing Bodies. In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategy has assessed existing facilities, the future need for sport and active recreation facilities, and opportunities for new provision.
18. The information for the ISFS came from Sport England's Facilities Planning Model data, quality assessments, by the consultants, of the main facilities, consultation with clubs and National Governing Bodies. For this project, the scope included:
 - a) Sports halls
 - b) Swimming pools and leisure pools
 - c) Indoor bowls
 - d) Health and fitness facilities (including dance/aerobic studios)
 - e) Sports stadia
 - f) Squash courts
 - g) Indoor tennis courts
 - h) Cycling
19. The Indoor Sports Facility Strategy has identified a need for some additional provision, across a range of facility types, as well as more generic needs in terms of improvement to the quality of existing facilities, and the accessibility of provision.
20. The Indoor Sports Facility Strategy provides an action list of where new provision should be provided on-site and how off-site contributions should be used to support new and improved provision. This particularly relates to the population growth anticipated in the area.

General Considerations

21. Having followed the advised methodologies, the strategies recommendations will help to guide future provision and management of sports pitches, built facilities and community use services to serve existing and new communities in the City and South Cambridgeshire. Both Strategies will be used to help to plan effectively for future sports facility provision; current and future need; population growth and increased participation to 2031. They will form part of the evidence base for the plan making process and a material consideration for decision-making on relevant planning applications.
22. A particular issue for South Cambridgeshire is that planned new settlements include significant elements likely to be development after 2031. Whilst Northstowe has a Sports Strategy prepared through the planning application process, the proposed new settlements at Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield are at a much earlier stage. The

Strategies identifies the need for specific facilities from these developments, but will need to be refined as proposals for the new settlements are developed. Reflecting Policy SC/4 of the submitted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, proposals will need to be accompanied by detailed assessments and strategies prepared in consultation with services providers.

23. The strategies recommendations are also accompanied by action plans. The strategies suggest that the action plans should be overseen by an officer group, including CCC, SCDC, Sport England, National Governing Bodies (as appropriate), local clubs and schools (as appropriate) and key stakeholders (as appropriate). Given that South Cambridgeshire District Council does not own or run any of the facilities included in the strategies, the Council will need to work in partnership with facility owners, including parish councils and schools, in order to deliver against the recommendations. The strategies do not commit the Council to any capital expenditure.
24. Understanding the needs of different pitch sports enables appropriate provision to be made to meet the needs of the community. It is inevitable that needs change over time, just as the playing and participative requirements of individual sports change. It is recommended (within the strategies) that the strategies and analysis are reviewed and updated every 5 years to ensure the needs analysis remains robust and relevant and properly informs decisions about facility provision beyond 2031. The documents should be seen as working documents.

Options

25. The Portfolio Holder has the following options:
 - a) Endorse the strategies in their current form.
 - b) Do not endorse the strategies in their current form. Any amendments or further considerations would need to be considered in consultation with Cambridge City Council and Sport England.
 - c) Agrees, or not, that delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and New Communities to make any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes, in consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder.

Implications

26. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

27. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The preparation of the Local Plan and the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2015-2031 has already been included within existing Development Plan Fund budget plans.

Equality and Diversity

28. The Strategies have a positive impact on access to sports facilities, which can improve health and wellbeing across the Greater Cambridge areas' communities.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

29. The Strategies were not subject to direct public consultation. Consultation has taken place with Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies for sport.

Effect on Strategic Aims

Aim 1 – Living Well

30. Delivery of appropriate facilities for sport will support the objective of helping communities to remain in good health.

Aim 4 – An Innovative and Dynamic Organisation

31. The Strategies have been produced in partnership with Cambridge City Council and Sport England, and help focus resources efficiency to meet future sporting needs.

Background Papers

Where [the Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Meetings and Access to Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) require documents to be open to inspection by members of the public, they must be available for inspection: -

- (a) at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council;
- (b) on the Council's website; and
- (c) in the case of documents to be available for inspection pursuant to regulation 15, on payment of a reasonable fee required by the Council by the person seeking to inspect the documents at the offices of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

National Planning Practice Framework

<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/policy/>

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