

	<h2>Environment Committee</h2> <h3>11 January 2017</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Playing Pitch Strategy 2017/2022</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director: Environment</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet Accessible at Open Barnet</p>
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Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the development of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Barnet. The purpose of the PPS is to ensure appropriate current and future levels of pitch provision: taking projected population growth into account.

The draft PPS can be accessed via the Open Barnet portal.

The draft has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidelines and with the involvement of the National Governing Bodies of the sports to which it relates: Cricket, Football, Hockey, Rugby Union and Tennis; in addition to Sport England. The draft strategy also takes into account the requirements Gaelic Football in Barnet.

Sports clubs and leagues, together with pitch providers based in the Borough were all involved in the development of the draft strategy; ensuring the capture of the views and opinions of the local sports community on the adequacy of provision of playing pitches in Barnet. It is now proposed that the draft PPS will be subject to a wider public consultation process prior to it being formally adopted by the Council.

The consultation outcome will be reported to the March meeting of the Environment Committee together with any consequential amendments to the draft PPS. The Environment Committee will be requested to formally adopt the updated draft PPS for Barnet.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment Committee agrees the draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet goes to public consultation.**
- 2. That the Environment Committee agrees that the draft Playing Pitch Strategy may be put to public consultation.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The development of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is a key component of the future development of Barnet's parks and open spaces as it quantifies the present and future need for outdoor pitch provision in the Borough. An approved PPS allows proper planning for the delivery and playing of outdoor pitch sport into the future; as well as informing proposals for the development of new parks and open spaces and improvements to existing sites.
- 1.2 The development and ongoing updating of a PPS is also required to inform the Council's Local Plan, specific planning policies and its responses to individual applications for planning consent.
- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that planning authorities' Local Plans should meet objectively assessed need and positively seek to meet the development needs of an area. Specifically, planning policies for open spaces and sport and recreation 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 information gained from these assessments should be used to determine what open spaces, sports and recreation provision is required which, going forward, will provide evidence for the revision of Barnet's Local Plan in 2017
- 1.4 Sport England is a statutory consultee regarding applications for planning consent that have sports pitch and/or recreational green space implications and will develop its consultation responses in the context of the existence and currency of the Council's PPS.

The PPS process

- 1.5 The draft PPS for Barnet has been developed, by specialist external consultants, in accordance with the current Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance produced by Sport England. A link to the Guidance can be found in the Background Papers.
- 1.6 The Guidance recommends the establishment of a Steering Group to oversee the development of the draft PPS and a collaborative approach with Sport England and relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport. In Barnet's case the development of the draft PPS has been overseen by a Steering Group comprised of representatives from:-

- Sport England;
- England and Wales Cricket Board;
- England Hockey Board;
- Football Association;
- Lawn Tennis Association;
- Rugby Football Union;
- LB Barnet Planning;
- LB Barnet Sport and Physical Activity;
- LB Barnet Environment Commissioning Group;
- LB Barnet Greenspace Delivery Unit;

1.7 The Steering Group followed the staged approach, included within the Guidance, to the development of the PPS for Barnet:-

- A: Prepare and tailor the approach;
- B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision;
- C: Assess the supply and demand information and views;
- D: Develop the strategy.

The draft PPS process outcome

1.8 The Stage D outcome forms the draft PPS for Barnet and provides:-

- An accurate audit of the supply of pitches and ancillary facilities;
- An accurate audit of the current demand for pitches;
- An understanding of the future demand for playing pitches;
- Detailed views on the adequacy of provision from users and pitch providers;
- An understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community;
- Whether the current study area is adequate to meet both current and future demand;
- The views and opinions of all relevant parties on the adequacy of provision;
- The key issues with the supply and demand for provision in the study area.

1.9 It is a document which sets out a significant number of individual pitch, sport and site specific recommendations which, following adoption by the Council, will constitute a useable strategy document which is owned by all relevant parties and which sets out a clear set of recommendations for playing pitch provision into the future together with a prioritised sport, area and site specific action plan.

1.10 The draft PPS in full can be accessed via Open Barnet. However, on a sport by sport basis, the key emerging strategy issues include:-

1.11 Cricket

- Investment in quality pitches and ancillary facilities at a number of sites to ensure the ongoing sustainability of Cricket in Barnet. Improvements are required to nets facilities, car parking, changing facilities and cricket squares at a variety of sites;
- Current pitch supply together with planned pitch supply meets current and future demand. Improvements to the quality of pitches are required to ensure that sites are used to their full potential; together with capacity building to attract volunteers, including coaches and umpires, to develop cricket participation into the future;
- Continued protection of all secured and unsecured community use and education use cricket pitches across the Borough;
- The Council to work with the ECB and Middlesex Cricket Board to develop participation and capacity building amongst the Barnet communities to ensure sufficient volunteers, coaches and umpires;
- Where possible, apply CIL or Section 106 funding as match funding to bring existing facilities up to the required ECB and Sport England Guidance Standards for playing pitches and changing accommodation.

1.12 Football

- Addressing future playing pitch demand to 2031 for senior adult and junior football and mini soccer to respond to latent and football development demand; together with an increase in population;
- Move away from under 15 11 v 11 youth sides playing on adult size pitches as this is not satisfactory in terms of player development. The Council should action this change in partnership with the Middlesex County Football Association and the local clubs;
- Protect all existing playing fields across Barnet. However, it is recognised that if 3rd generation rubber crumb (3G) pitches are developed areas of playing fields currently laid out as pitches could be used for alternative greenspace or sport and physical activity purposes;
- Introduce Community Use Agreements for all unsecured community use sites;
- The draft PPS supports the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy objective of developing Sports Hubs at 3 locations: Copthall, West Hendon and Barnet Playing Fields so as to provide new facilities, including 3G pitches, in Barnet;
- The Council should consider the strategies (including the Sport England/Football Association Parklife initiative) available to it for the funding of 3G pitches at both the 3 identified Sports Hubs and additional sites;
- Improve the maintenance of existing Council pitches and associated changing accommodation;
- Ensure the sustainability of junior clubs by providing long term security of tenure of playing facilities: allowing junior clubs to grow and develop as well as investing in multi pitch hub sites.

1.13 Gaelic Football

- The replacement of the Cophall Leisure Centre will result in the loss of the Gaelic Football pitch currently located in the site; leading in turn, to a requirement to relocate the Gaelic Football Club. Work has commenced on the relocation in partnership with the club as part of the Leisure Centre project.

1.14 Hockey

- Protect community use of all artificial grass pitches used for Hockey in the Borough;
- Ensure that Community Use Agreements are in place for the use of artificial grass pitches for the playing of hockey in education sites to ensure sufficient capacity in the Borough for current and future training and playing of matches;
- Encourage the ongoing development of junior hockey through school and Hockey club links: working through London Sport satellite programmes and England Hockey teacher training programmes;
- Ensure that renewal funds are in place to maintain the existing facilities for Hockey;
- Encourage and enable Hockey clubs to become self-sufficient;
- Promotion of the Back to Hockey programme by the clubs working with Sport England to increase participation in Hockey; building on the success at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio;
- Ensure detailed consultation with and between England Hockey, the Football Association and the Rugby Football Union regarding the use of sand dressed and sand filled artificial grass pitches: particularly in the context of any proposed shift from sand filled/dressed to 3G pitches.

1.15 Rugby Union

- The Council to work with the RFU and Barnet based Rugby clubs to ensure appropriate leasing arrangements are in place to contribute to the sustainability of the clubs;
- Consider the possible reconfiguration of a number of football pitches to rugby pitches at a number of sites throughout the Borough;
- The Council to work with the RFU and Barnet based Rugby clubs to support the clubs, where possible, to improve the quality of pitches by improving pitch drainage, clubhouse facilities and floodlighting;
- The Council to work with the RFU to support the development of 3G Rugby compliant World Regulation 22 pitches at a site within the Borough.

1.16 Tennis

- Protection of community use of Tennis courts throughout the Borough;
- The Council and the Lawn Tennis Association to work together to develop strong Local Park and other community tennis venue

partnerships to deliver inclusive and sustainable Tennis provision for all;

- Consider further development of facilities with 3 or more courts;
- Upgrade 1 and 2 court sites according to latent demand.

Public consultation

- 1.17 There has been significant engagement with local sports clubs and leagues, local pitch providers Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport in the development of the draft PPS.
- 1.18 If the draft PPS is approved, formal public consultation will commence following the Environment Committee; on the 11 January 2017 before the final strategy is presented to Environment Committee on 15 March 2017.
- 1.19 The draft strategy document can be accessed at Open Barnet and includes a commentary on the condition of pitches in Barnet together with detailed statements of current and future demand for pitch use. The document will be reformatted in March to meet corporate design guidance.
- 1.20 The public consultation will run for 6 weeks and will include:-
- An online consultation published on Engage Barnet which will include a link to the full strategy and a consultation document summarising the strategy and posing key questions. Residents will be able to give their views via an online questionnaire. Alternative formats will be available on request;
 - Publicising the consultation through Members, Area Forums, Parks, local media and social media;
 - Contacting local sports clubs and interest groups to invite them to comment on the draft strategy as part of the consultation process.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Recommendation 1** – It is recommended that the Environment Committee agrees the draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet. Whilst the draft Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet has been subject to detailed and comprehensive consultation with local sports clubs and leagues, outdoor pitch providers, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, it has yet to go to a wider public consultation process.
- 2.2 **Recommendation 2** – To date, consultation on the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy has been restricted to sports clubs and leagues, pitch providers and National Governing Bodies of sport. As sports pitches are provided within parks and open Spaces available to all sectors of the community, it is appropriate to extend the consultation to all Barnet's residents.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 No alternative options have been considered at this stage as the Council's

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy requires the development of a Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet.

- 3.2 In addition, the Playing Pitch Strategy is required to inform the Council's Local Plan, specific planning policies and responses to individual applications for planning consent. Sport England will respond to consultation requests regarding applications for planning consent with playing pitch and/or recreational green space implications in the context of an approved PPS.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 If the Committee is minded to agree the above recommendations:-

- The draft PPS will be subject to a public consultation process, following which the draft PPS will be reported to the March meeting of the Environment Committee for adoption;
- Following adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet, individual sport, site and area action plans will be developed with National Governing Bodies of sports and other stakeholders in accordance with the Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme agreed within the Council's wider budget process.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan says:-

- Barnet's Parks and Greenspaces will be amongst the best in London;
- Resident feedback consistently shows that Barnet's Park and Greenspaces are amongst its biggest assets and a strong influence for people deciding to live here;
- The Council recognises this and will continue to ensure that the Borough's Parks and Greenspaces are looked after;
- The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough.

- 5.1.2 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy says:-

- Barnet is now the largest Borough in London by population (367,265 at the end of 2015) and is continuing to grow. The highest rates of population growth are forecast to occur around the planned development works in the west of the Borough; with over 113% growth in Golders Green and 56% in Colindale by 2030;
- Barnet Sport and Physical Activity Needs Assessment (2012) highlighted that whilst health behaviours and outcomes are more favourable in Barnet than in England as a whole, sport and physical activity rates and the use of outdoor spaces are below the national

average;

- A breadth of evidence demonstrates that a more active lifestyle is essential for physical and mental wellbeing. Regular physical activity helps reduce the risk of stroke, type II diabetes, development of dementia, incidences of heart disease, cancers and high blood pressure. Physical activity supports the prevention and management of long term conditions as well as being a component of achieving and maintaining a healthy weight;
- Physical inactivity currently costs the UK economy £7.2 billion. Additional costs are incurred via the wider economy through increased sickness absence, premature death of productive individuals and increased costs for individuals and their carers;
- Within Barnet the health costs of physical inactivity currently amount to £6.7 million. This is approximately £1.9 million per 100,000 of the Borough's population. However, as measured by the Sport England Active People Survey Data (APS9 Quarter 2) 43.8% of the Borough are currently inactive and would like to do more;
- The number of people with mental health conditions is predicted to increase as the population grows. In November 2014, the Health and Wellbeing Board identified prevention of and early intervention in mental health problems as a priority. Mental health is our key priority in year one of the LHWB Strategy with partners coming together to make a positive impact for all of our residents;
- Maximise the potential of improvements to and changes in the management of open spaces where this could support improved mental wellbeing.

5.1.3 Local Plan Policy CS7 says the Council will create a greener Borough by:-

- Enhancing open spaces to provide improvements in overall quality and accessibility;
- Meeting increased demand for access to open space and opportunities for physical activity;
- By tackling deficiencies and underprovision.

5.1.4 The development and adoption of a Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet will assist in attracting and targeting investment in and improvement of Barnet's greenspaces to support growth and wellbeing in Barnet will also result in the delivery of a range of outcomes linked to other Council strategies:-

- Growth Strategy: creating the environment for growth;
- Regeneration Strategy;
- Fit and Active Barnet Strategy;
- Community Safety Strategy;
- Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy.

5.1 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 **Finance, Value for Money and Procurement** – The draft greenspaces investment programme is designed to put into place a framework for the funding of improvements to Barnet's parks and open spaces, including outdoor pitches, over the next ten years. Approval of the draft investment plan through the Council's wider budget setting processes will maximise the potential for the Council to attract and benefit from external funding although some Council capital will be required as partnership funding for the programme.

5.2.2 The draft programme, in the attached Strategy, for 2017/2022 anticipates (though this is not shown in the Strategy) Council capital attracting external funding of £3.50 for every £1.00 invested: equating to 78% (56% developer contributions and 22% grants) external funding and 22% Council capital funding. The 2017/2022 draft programme is over 5 years, and totals £41.200m. The Council budgets for capital over a three year period and, subject to formal budget setting, Policy & Resources Committee on 1st December 2016 agreed the following new allocation for Greenspaces improvements and investments:-

2017/18 £4.633m
2018/19 £8.989m
2019/20 £10.275m
Total £23.897m.

5.2.3 The greenspaces investment programme will create financial allocations against which funds for specific projects, including outdoor pitch projects, will be drawn down subject to proposals and their funding packages being considered and approved by the Greenspaces Board and the appropriate committee of the Council prior to their delivery. The procurement of detailed design work and construction works will be subject to competitive tender processes in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. This prior scrutiny and approval of schemes will ensure that value for money is achieved when capital schemes are developed and delivered.

5.2.4 The revenue effects of schemes will be defined and considered by the Greenspaces Board and the appropriate Committee of the Council as part of the project approval process. It is intended that schemes, once completed, will be revenue neutral, taking alternative delivery and funding mechanisms into account.

5.2.5 **Staffing** – None at this time but future delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet outcomes will require appropriate capacity and capability in the organisation; including within the commissioning arrangements.

5.2.6 **IT** – None at this time

5.2.7 **Sustainability** – The implementation of the Playing Pitch for Barnet outcomes will be undertaken in compliance with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and associated initiatives which seek to protect, improve and enhance the natural environment of Barnet. The individual projects to be delivered during

implementation of the strategy will be developed and delivered in accordance with both environmental and financial sustainability and outcomes.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. The key themes within the Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet are:-

- Social outcomes and benefits;
- Environmental Outcomes and Benefits;
- Economic Outcomes and Benefits.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Local authorities have a number of different statutory powers in relation to parks and open spaces, including the Public Health Act 1875 which permits the purchase and maintenance of public walks or pleasure grounds and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which gives wide powers to provide recreational facilities; including pitches and facilities for the playing of sports.. The Open Spaces Act 1906 provides that local authorities shall hold and administer open space in trust to allow the enjoyment of it by the public and shall maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

5.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Clause 15A: Responsibility for Functions, Annexe A) sets out the terms of reference for the Environment Committee. This includes:-

- Commissioning parks and open spaces, refuse and recycling, waste minimisation and street cleaning;
- Approve any non-statutory plan or strategy within the remit of the Committee that is not reserved to Full Council or Policy and Resources Committee;
- Approve fees and charges for those areas under the remit of the Committee.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The management of risk is undertaken on a continual basis and reported as part of the Council's Quarterly Performance regime and considered as part of the Performance and Contract Management Committee quarterly monitoring report.

5.5.2 Risks are managed through the project boards and are reviewed and revised at board meetings. The current key risk areas are:-

	Rating Criteria	1: Low	2: Medium	3: High
1.	Total investment required		X	
2.	Potential benefits	X		
3.	Return on investment	X		
4.	Level of risk	X		
5.	Political sensitivity	X		
6.	Fit with corporate objectives	X		
7.	Users/DU's impacted	X		
	Total score	8		

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The Equality Act, 2010 sets out the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:-

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act, 2010;
- Advance equality of opportunity;
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities..

5.6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are:- age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

5.6.3 The purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet is to ensure that the broad diversity of Barnet's residents and communities have access to and benefit from these community assets and that their needs and aspirations are reflected in the provision that the Council makes.

5.6.4 Agreement by the Council to the Playing Pitch Strategy for Barnet and the draft Greenspaces Capital Investment Programme will put into place the resources required to allow individual sport, project and site proposals to be developed. Equalities Impact Assessments will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis so as to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2010 Act and that the needs of the communities and groups are fully taken into account in the development of schemes.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The draft PPS has been developed following detailed and comprehensive consultation with local sports clubs and leagues, pitch providers, Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport and will now be subject to a wider public consultation process.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 [Environment Committee 12 May 2016 Papers](#)

6.2 [Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for Barnet: 2016 to 2026.](#)

6.3 [Open Barnet Data Portal](#)

6.4 [Sports England Guidance](#)