

	<p>Environment Committee</p> <p>15 March 2017</p>
<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>None</p>
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Summary

At its 11 January 2017 meeting, the Environment Committee considered the draft Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Barnet. The Committee approved the draft PPS to go to public consultation, with the consultation outcome and the updated draft PPS being reported to this meeting for adoption by the Council.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment Committee note the outcome of the public consultation and adopts the updated Playing Pitch Strategy on behalf of the Council.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report informs the Environment Committee of the outcome of the public consultation relative to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), following consideration of which, the Committee is requested to adopt the updated draft PPS on behalf of the Council.
- 1.2 The adoption of the PPS will create a policy framework for future pitch provision to support 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 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 sports 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 provisions. The information gained from these assessments should be used to determine what open spaces, sports and recreation provisions are required which, going forward, will provide evidence for the revision of Barnet's Local Plan in 2017

Consultation

- 1.5 Public consultation on the draft PPS for Barnet was undertaken from 16 January to 27 February using the following methodology:-
 - Questionnaire on Engage Barnet;
 - Direct email to all sports clubs with links to the questionnaire to be circulated to all members;
 - Council promotion methods, such as facebook.
- 1.6 The response to the public consultation is available at Engage Barnet; from which it will be seen that:-
 - A total of 31 responses were received to the consultation;
 - 77.42% of respondents had taken part in formal sport activity during the year prior to the consultation;
 - Lack of time (42.86% of responses) was given as the main reason for respondents not taking part in sporting activity;
 - 86.36% of respondents are members of sports clubs;
 - More respondents agreed or strongly agreed (average 49.98% across all sports) with the strategic directions for the individual sports than disagreed or strongly disagreed (average 7.91% across all sports);
 - The 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64 age groups returned the most responses (73.33% when taken together);
 - The majority of the respondents were male (71.43%).

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Recommendation 1** – It is recommended that the Environment Committee note the outcome of the public consultation and adopts the updated draft PPS for Barnet. The adoption of the PPS will create a policy framework for future pitch provision to support 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 and informing the Council's 2017 Local Plan Revision.

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 recommendation, the Steering Group comprising representatives of the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England and the Council will be re-established to:-

- Act as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area;
- Monitor, evaluate and review progress with the delivery of the PPS recommendations and Action Plan;
- Share lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and applied;
- Ensure the PPS is used effectively to input to any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relative programmes and initiatives;
- Maintain links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;
- Review the need to update the PPS together with the supply and demand and assessment information on which it is based.

Arising from the review process, the Steering Group may:-

- Provide short annual progress or update papers;
- Provide highlight reports focussing on individual sports, pitch types or sub-areas;
- Lead a full PPS review as required.

The Steering Group will meet at relevant points throughout the year to progress the above and oversee the development and implementation of individual sport, site and area development plans.

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 well 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, sports 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** – A Greenspaces Investment Programme is being developed to put into place a framework for the funding of improvements to Barnet’s parks and open spaces, including outdoor pitches. This programme will seek to maximise opportunities for the funding of schemes from external sources; including CIL, section 106 contributions, partnerships and grant giving bodies.

5.2.2 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.

5.2.3 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.

5.2.4 **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.

5.2.5 **IT** – None at this time

5.2.6 **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 a wide range of 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 decision is within the remit of the committee and therefore it is deemed appropriate for the Environment Committee to consider and determine this report.

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 Development of the Greenspaces Investment Programme will put into place the resources required to allow individual sport, project and site proposals to be worked up. 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 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.

5.7.2 The public consultation on the draft PPS and its outcome are reported in Section 1 of this report, above.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

6.2 [Environment Committee 11 January 2017 Papers](#)

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

6.4 [Open Barnet Data Portal](#)

6.5 [Sport England Guidance](#)

6.6 Draft Playing Pitch Strategy Public Consultation Response 27 February 2017