

Cabinet: 14th February 2024

Report title : Playing Pitch Strategy

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Steve Collella
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	Living independent, active & healthy lives. Communities which are safe well-maintained & green. Green Thread
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Committee RESOLVE that:-

- 1) The Playing Pitch Strategy at Appendix A be endorsed**
- 2) That delegated responsibility be granted to the Head of Planning, Regeneration and Leisure following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Climate Change to implement the following recommendations**

Playing Pitch Strategy Executive Summary Appendix B: 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.3, 8.5

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Bromsgrove District Council resolved that delegated authority be granted to the then Head of Leisure and Culture Services to produce a Leisure and Culture Strategy.
- 2.2 Given the current context for the public sector, as well as the wider economy, budget constraints and increasing costs, it is becoming necessary for expenditure on leisure and culture services, to be objectively justified, developed, and delivered against a strategic

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framework. Consultants, Strategic Leisure and Community First Partnership, were appointed in February 2021 to produce a Leisure and Culture Strategy for Bromsgrove District Council.

2.3 This Leisure and Culture Strategy ('the Strategy') for Bromsgrove District Council that was adopted in the autumn of 2022 set out our future direction of travel for Leisure and Culture services (LCS) and identified the priorities for provision of these important, and highly valued community services. This Strategy is aligned to the Corporate Plan which recognises the contribution that leisure and culture can make to the achievement of our corporate and community priorities, and in particular community health and wellbeing.

2.4 The Strategy that was endorsed in the autumn of 2022 comprised the following supporting evidence:

- Arts and Culture Strategy. – Analysis of existing provision, key issues, priority needs, followed by recommendations.
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy – Analysis of existing provision, key issues and priority needs, production of management plans for key sites followed by recommendations.
- Built Facility Strategy : an assessment of the quality and quantity of existing built facility provision in the context of Leisure in the Bromsgrove District. It goes on to provide an analysis of how accessible it is and the evidence required to confirm both current and future demand for built facilities between now and 2040.

At the time of endorsement the Cabinet were informed that an additional component of the Leisure and Culture Strategy known as the Playing Pitch Strategy required more time to be completed and it would follow later in 2023.

2.5 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Bromsgrove District Council that we are asking the Cabinet to endorse today will contribute to the overall vision as set out in the Leisure and Culture Strategy that was endorsed in late 2022. That Vision is as follows:

VISION: Healthier and happier communities actively engaged in leisure and culture.

AIM: To improve community health and wellbeing through inclusive access to parks, open spaces, sport, physical activity, arts, heritage, culture and everyday creativity. This way we will inspire our communities to lead longer, happier, healthier and more successful lives.

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- 2.6 The Playing Pitch Strategy we present today is an assessment of the quality and quantity of existing playing pitch provision in the Bromsgrove District. It goes on to provide an analysis of how accessible it is and the evidence required to confirm both current and future demand for playing pitches between now and 2040.
- 2.7 The Playing Pitch Strategy was produced with the support of external consultants and a team of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) for relevant outdoor sports (eg Football, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey) to oversee the work. Sport England act as supervisor and sign off the work upon completion.
- 2.8 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Bromsgrove District Council will give confidence to the decision making of our Planning Authority as a result of the process sitting within the context of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. The strategy is designed to help protect the spaces where people get active because local planning authorities are required by law to consult Sport England on planning applications that affect outdoor playing pitches. The document helps them to assess and respond to these applications accurately.
- 2.9 It is recommended that members pay particular attention to the contents and recommendations found in the Executive Summary for the Playing Pitch Strategy that can be found at Appendices B
- 2.91 Further considerable detail in relation to process, evidence collected and other relevant data can be found in the full strategy documents at Appendices A
- 2.92 The Playing Pitch Strategy contains a number of recommendations that fall into one of two categories: 1) those recommendations which can be implemented through the use of existing Council budgets, 2) those recommendations that could only be implemented if extra resources are to be identified from either an external source or Council funds.
- 2.93 In the case of those Recommendations that fall under category 1 officers will proceed to implement that work further to Cabinet endorsing the strategies. These recommendations are listed in Recommendation Two in this report.
- 2.94 In the case of those Recommendations that fall under category 2 the Head of Planning Regeneration and Leisure will return to Council with a budget bid as and when deemed necessary and appropriate.

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3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no immediate financial implications as a consequence of the prospective endorsement of Playing Pitch Strategy Recommendations 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.3, 8.5
- 3.2 In the event that external funds are made available to take forward the remaining recommendations made in either of the strategies then Leisure Service officers will bring this to the attention of the relevant Portfolio Holder and further capital or revenue bids will be made at the appropriate time if required.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The provision of leisure and culture services by local authorities is a non-statutory service which Councils, including Bromsgrove District Council, provide and incur expenditure on, under discretionary powers.
- 4.2 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Bromsgrove District Council will give confidence to the decision making of our Planning Authority as a result of the process sitting within the context of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. The strategy is designed to help protect the spaces where people get active because local planning authorities are required by law to consult Sport England on planning applications that affect outdoor playing pitches. This document helps them to assess and respond to these applications accurately.
- 4.3 Due regard to the implications of the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Equalities Act (2010) is described within Equalities and Diversity Implications below at 7.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 The most relevant strategic purposes are:
- Living independent, active & healthy lives.
 - Communities which are safe well-maintained & green.
 - Green Thread
- 5.2 The strategy describes how accessible and high quality outdoor LCS facilities and opportunities can have a positive impact upon peoples' lives. Access to Leisure and Culture helps people to live independent,

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active, and healthy lives, and contribute to providing communities which are safe, well maintained, and green. When communities engage well with LCS aspiration increases and people are more likely to volunteer, be successful at work and be financially independent.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The implementation of this strategy can make a positive change in terms of climate change objectives. These include promoting healthier lifestyles, and lower carbon footprints, encouraging outdoor activity and fostering a connection with nature.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 7.1 Inherent in this Leisure and Culture Strategy is the significant opportunity for Bromsgrove District Council to bring forwards a positive difference to the quality of life for residents from the broadest range of backgrounds
- 7.2 The identification of community needs (including the broad range of demographic representation to be found in a District like Bromsgrove) is of paramount importance to the effective delivery of any quality Leisure and Culture Strategy. Subsequently recommendations made as part of this strategy work have made clear the requirement for service users to be engaged on an ongoing basis.
- 7.3 The Equalities Act of 2010 sets out clearly the requirement for public authorities to comply with the public sector equality duty. In summary this provides a need to “remove or reduce disadvantages suffered by people because of protected characteristics”.
- 7.4 Due process in relation to equality impact assessment will be delivered throughout the term of the strategy

8. Operational Implications

- 8.1 None at this stage.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 Failure to deliver the opportunities for better quality of life described in the Leisure and Culture Strategy

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8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A Playing Pitch Strategy for BDC

Appendix B Executive Summary for Playing Pitch Strategy for BDC

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Steve Colella	23/01/2024
Lead Director / Head of Service	Guy Revans Executive Director Ruth Bamford Head of Planning Regeneration and Leisure Services	23/01/2024
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter (Section 151 Officer)	23/01/2024
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings Principle Solicitor (Governance)	23/01/2024
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Emily Payne Equalities Officer	23/01/2024
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Eccles	11/01/2024