

**Title of meeting:** Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

**Date of meeting:** 16 March 2018

**Subject:** Portsmouth City Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2018-2022

**Report by:** Director of Culture and City Development

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Full Council decision:** No

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present a framework for future provision and management of sports pitches to serve existing and new communities across Portsmouth.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the attached Playing Pitch Strategy 2018-2022 is adopted as the key document to guide future planning and decision-making around playing pitches.**
- 2.2 That the city council undertakes to monitor and review the strategy on an annual basis in line with Sport England guidelines.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In 2016, Portsmouth City Council commissioned two key documents to support its future approach to sports and leisure provision in the city, and to support the local plan refresh. The first was the Indoor Facilities Strategy, which was adopted by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport in early 2017. The second was a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). In line with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, the PPS sets out to assess existing sports pitches, the future need for sports pitches, and opportunities for new provision. Sport England made some funding available towards the cost of completing these documents, considered vital in engagement with funding partners for sport.
- 3.2 The PPS will run to 2022 (five years based on Sport England recommendations), but should be reviewed on an annual basis to keep it up-to-date and robust. However future demand is taken into account to 2033 (in line

with the draft new Local Plan) and should be reviewed in accordance with Stage E of the Sport England PPS guidance.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

4.1 The PPS has been developed in partnership with a range of agencies including Portsmouth City Council, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport including football, cricket, rugby union and hockey and local football, hockey, rugby union, and cricket clubs.

4.2 This PPS is based on a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a PPS 2013:<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-andguidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/> . The development of the PPS has been overseen by a Steering Group made up of representatives of the City Council, Sport England, England and Wales Cricket Board, England Hockey, Football Foundation, Football Association and the Rugby Football Union.

4.3 The PPS is for the whole city, not just the Council. The aim of the PPS is:

***‘to provide an assessment of the “fit for purpose” of the sports pitches and facilities, whilst identifying opportunities for retaining, reducing or removing this provision and prospects for new provision and partnerships. The assessment should identify specific needs and quantitative and/or qualitative deficits or surpluses of sports pitches and facilities in Portsmouth.’***

4.4 The PPS will provide the evidence base for the following:

- The Council's New Local Plan, 2034
- Identification of projects for which contributions can be sought as part of new development.
- Funding bids from National Sports bodies like Sport England and the National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport
- the PPS will guide decisions about revenue and capital spending in the medium term, as part of the whole planning and policy framework for the organisation.

4.5 The key conclusions arising from this work are set out in detail in the full Playing Pitch Strategy document, but the key findings are:

- There is a shortfall of high quality football provision in the city, particularly 3G pitches, and this applies across the age ranges for the game. The city council is currently working with the Football Foundation to see if there is any scope to attract investment to football in the city through the Parklife funding programme.
- There is a theoretical underplay of cricket pitches in the city, but this is projected to reduce significantly over the period of the Local Plan. The key issues for cricket in the city are to protect the United Services Sports Ground in the Portsmouth City Local Plan, and improving the quality of PCC cricket

pitches eg protecting pitches and outfielders from dog walkers, providing non-turf pitches for midweek games and junior cricket. Due to land constraints developer contributions should be used to increase the existing quality of pitches and clubhouses.

- The current and future demand for hockey teams can be met by existing hockey AGP pitches. However, this will be dependent on the protection of the main hockey pitch AGPs across the City in the Local Plan and sink funds being in place to refurbish carpets at existing sites. If the AGPs at HMS Temeraire were not available for community use, then a facility of better or equivalent quality in a suitable location would need to be provided to meet demand.
- There is a current shortfall of 4 match and training equivalent sessions for Rugby. This increases to 24 match and training equivalent sessions in 2034. There is a need to protect the unsecured World Rugby Compliant 22 3G pitch and grass pitches at HMS Temeraire/Burnaby and Long Curtain Road. There is no demand for additional rugby pitches for community access on education sites. There is a need to work with Portsmouth Rugby Club and Southsea Nomads on ensuring solutions for their needs.

4.6 On the basis of these sport-specific issues, the PPS then considers recommendations for various sites based on three principles:

- **PROTECT:** The strategy seeks to make sure that the right amount of playing pitches and ancillary facilities of the right quality are in the right place. This could involve providing protection of sites through the local planning framework, or recommending where issues around tenure or usage could be made more secure.
- **ENHANCE:** Key partners such as Portsmouth City Council, local schools, private and voluntary sector sports clubs, and NGBs must work together to maximise the full potential of playing pitch assets and the long term sustainability of these assets and recognise that an improvement in quality and ongoing maintenance can have an impact on the capacity of use.
- **PROVIDE:** In times of public sector austerity, investment needs to be directed at sites which will provide the best impact and highest increase in participation. It is the policy of Portsmouth City Council to support projects and sports clubs that are able to; demonstrate sustainable long term development, increase participation and have achieved the appropriate accreditations e.g. Clubmark and / or Charter Standard providing player and sports development pathways.

4.7 The site-specific plan identifies priorities and categorises these in terms of whether they are aspirations for the short, medium or long term. In this way, the PPS can guide thinking about resource allocation and focusing activity.

4.8 It is important that regular monitoring and review occurs through meetings of the Steering Group following sign off by the National Governing Bodies and Sport England and adoption of the Strategy and Action Plan by Portsmouth City

Council.

- 4.9 The Steering Group should be led by Portsmouth City Council. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS to be out of date.

## **5. Equality impact assessment**

- 5.1 A preliminary EIA was completed for the document and concluded that there will be no negative impact on any of the protected characteristics arising from the strategy. Any individual projects arising from the strategy will be subject to impact assessments in their own right. The preliminary EIA is attached as Appendix 2.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1 The strategy articulates how the local authority will deploy its resources and structure its working in support of achieving a range of objectives related to sports facilities. While the preparation of the strategy is not in itself a statutory function of the authority, the adoption of an up to date strategy plays an important role in particular in appropriately informing the Council's statutory planning policy and development control decision making as Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2 The Cabinet Member has the authority to approve the recommendations proposed.

## **7. Director of Finance's comments**

- 7.1 Any proposals that are going to be taken forward as a result of the consideration of this strategy will be assessed from an operational and financial perspective. Any proposals that have financial implications will be appraised and any required funding will need to be identified. Currently there is no dedicated funding set aside for the implementation of proposals contained within the playing pitch strategy.

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Signed by: Stephen Baily, Director of Culture and City Development

## **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 - Portsmouth City Council Playing Pitch  
Appendix 2 - Equalities Impact Assessment**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: