



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT COVER SHEET**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Review of Updated Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Indoor Facilities Strategy 2023/24	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
<b>Meeting of:</b>	Corporate Management Team – 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	X
	Pre-Cabinet – 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	X
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group – 7 <sup>th</sup> March/ 13 <sup>th</sup> March	X
	Cabinet – 25 <sup>th</sup> March	



<b>Is this an Executive Decision:</b>	YES	<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	NO
<b>Is this in the Forward Plan:</b>	YES	<b>Is the Report Confidential:</b>  <b>If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:</b>	NO  N/A

**Essential Signatories:**

**ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE**

Monitoring Officer: **John Teasdale**

Date ..... Signature .....

Chief Finance Officer: **Lloyd Haynes**

Date ..... Signature .....

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Cabinet**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**REPORT TITLE: Review of Updated Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Indoor Facilities Strategy 2023/24**

**PORTFOLIO: Tourism and Cultural Development**

**HEAD OF SERVICE: Mark Rizk**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Dan Langford Ext. No. x1132**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: Non – specific**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a review of the updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) and the Built Facilities Strategy. This is in line with Corporate Target TCD11.
- 1.2. The report has analysed and reviewed information provided by key consultants during the process, such as Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP), Staffordshire FA and Sports England. This was to acquire a clear picture of the supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in East Staffordshire as well as provide a documented assessment of current and future needs for indoor sports and aquatics facilities within the Authority. This focused on the quantity and quality issues in relation to supply and demand.

**2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. A review of the updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) and the Built Facilities Strategy, has been undertaken in line with Corporate Plan Target TCD11.

- 2.2. Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included within the PPOSS, irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web-based database, with the ESBC and NGBs supporting this process by checking and updating this initial data as well as by supplying their own affiliation data and booking information.
- 2.3. The Indoor Facilities report provides a facility breakdown of what exists in the Authority, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth and takes into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities/ sports covered include, sports halls (and associated indoor sports), swimming pools, health and fitness, squash, gymnastics, indoor tennis, indoor bowls and community centres/ village halls.
- 2.4. A number of actions and recommendations have been identified, as detailed in this report, as a result of the assessments carried out by KKP.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. A project team from the Council worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information was readily available and to support the consultants as necessary. This was to ensure that project stages and milestones were delivered on time, within the dictated cost and to the required standard to meet Sport England guidance.
- 3.2. Further to this, Officers, alongside representatives from Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) have been responsible for the direction of the PPOSS and Built Facilities Strategy from a strategic perspective. This included supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team.

### **4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1. This report contributes directly to the Corporate Plan Target TCD11 "Updated Playing Pitch Strategy and review of indoor facilities completed".

### **5. Overview of the Reports**

#### **5.1. Updated Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)**

5.1.1. The full reports can be found at Appendix 1a (full assessment) and 1b (strategy report). Below is a summary of the key points detailed in the reports in regards to the different sports:

##### 5.1.2. Football:

- There is a clear shortfall of 3G pitch provision in East Staffordshire to meet requirements, as evidenced through the significant levels of unmet demand identified for football.

- With current demand totalling 301 (including exported demand) teams, it is feasible that at least eight full size community available 3G pitches are required in East Staffordshire, meaning an existing shortfall of 4.75 pitches.
- Additional 3G provision for rugby union may also be warranted to provide a solution to the identified overplay of grass pitches.

#### 5.1.3. Cricket:

- Overall, there is a current sufficient supply of cricket squares in East Staffordshire to cater for all forms of cricket (Saturday, Sunday and midweek)
- Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- Improve existing and provide additional training facilities where there is demand.

#### 5.1.4. Rugby

- Protect existing quantity of pitches.
- Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems.
- Explore options to provide additional pitch provision at Barton Under-Needwood and Uttoxeter rugby clubs.
- Ensure future demand can be adequately accommodated, particularly concerning women and girls' demand.

#### 5.1.5. Hockey

- With 15 senior teams currently playing in East Staffordshire, this suggests that current supply is sufficient to accommodate demand, with capacity remaining for an additional three teams.
- Such spare capacity is based on the assumption that quality improvements are made at Thomas Alleyne's High School.
- Supply is also sufficient to accommodate junior demand.

#### 5.1.6. Tennis

- For club-based tennis, no clubs in East Staffordshire have potential capacity issues through using LTA guidelines. A similar picture is apparent when accounting for future demand, with no clubs due to experience capacity pressures. This therefore suggests that supply is sufficient to meet such demand.
- For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it is clear that the existing supply can be improved upon through roll out of LTA products and, where required, quality improvements. This should therefore be of focus, with the Strategy document to identify priority sites.

#### 5.1.7. Netball

- The current stock of outdoor netball courts requires investment in order to adequately accommodate for the demand that exists. This can be achieved through improving quality and through installing sports lighting where such provision would accommodate and attract greater levels of demand.

#### 5.1.8. Bowling Greens

- There are some capacity pressures on bowling greens in East Staffordshire; however, where these do exist, none of the affected clubs reports any issues. Furthermore, most of the impacted greens are good quality, which can assist with enabling clubs to operate with higher levels of demand.

#### 5.1.9. Athletics

- The existing 400-metre track at Shobnall Leisure Complex requires protection and future improvement to ensure that existing demand can continue to be met. Despite it being assessed as good quality, quality improvements will be likely be needed within the lifetime of the PPOSS given its age.

#### 5.1.10. Golf

- With six golfing sites in East Staffordshire (five actively serving the Borough, excluding JCB Golf & Country Club) and a mix of 18-hole courses, 9-hole courses and two driving ranges, the Borough is relatively well placed to meet demand.
- Based on the above, it is considered that supply is sufficient to meet demand; however, it must be noted that membership levels are above the national average. This means that some sites will have capacity pressures that would only be amplified if any sites were to be lost.
- There is an adequate quantity of golfing facilities in East Staffordshire that offer a good variety of facilities to ensure that most golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also high, which means that all existing provision needs to be protected.

### 5.2. Indoor Built Facilities Strategy

5.2.1. The full reports can be found at Appendix 2a (Needs Assessment) and 2b (Action Plan), but below you will find the key summary points.

5.2.2. Currently, there are good levels of accessibility and availability of provision across the core indoor facility types: swimming pools, sports halls and health & fitness. The three contracted facilities; Uttoxeter Leisure Centre, Meadowside Leisure Centre and Shobnall Leisure Complex, all of which are managed by Everyone Active, serve the key towns of Uttoxeter and Burton upon Trent. Their quality is generally good reflecting recent investment, particularly in the health and fitness offer.

5.2.3. It is essential that the Local Authority maintain and further improve, if necessary, the sport and leisure facilities to meet community need, increase participation amongst inactive groups, address health inequalities and provide accessible, inclusive activities for residents as part of an active lifestyle. Delivery of the strategy will employ a variety of methods, with S106 monies being only one of the funding mechanisms to help deliver it. The report by KKP refers to all facilities across the borough, not just council owned ones, so there will be opportunities for local clubs, Parish Councils and similar organisations to enhance facilities within the borough in consultation with relevant NGB's. Therefore, elements of partnership working between said organisations and ourselves will be essential to help deliver the strategy outcomes.

5.2.4. The existing Local Plan contains policies to deliver new provision and protect and enhance existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The needs identified in the Local Plan and those which have been calculated and in some cases delivered through housing growth were based upon previous playing pitch and indoor facilities studies. These new studies provide robust and up to date evidence to ensure provision of facilities in the future for the health and wellbeing of communities as they identify where deficiencies exist. Where new development is proposed which directly impacts upon facilities the reports can support the collection of monies through S106 planning obligations to mitigate the impact where this accords with applicable Regulations and adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). In addition, the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy Action Plan provided as part of the KKP report on Indoor Facilities (attached as Appendix 2b) also has recommendations for consideration to be taken forward.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1.1. In conclusion, the report indicates that, across the majority of sports, the outdoor and indoor facilities within East Staffordshire currently have the capacity to supply the needs and demands of the borough, although the provision of 3G football pitches are the exception. Should there be the predicted population growth through increased housing developments though; future capacity across most sports may not be able to meet the demand.

6.1.2. Therefore, an assessment of the Open Spaces and Playing Pitches SPD and Planning Obligations SPD will be necessary to establish if a review is required in light of the new evidence or if a non-material addendum advising of the new evidence can be added. The reports at Appendix 1 and 2 will inform the review of the Local Plan, when a review is commenced.

6.1.3. As a result of this, moving forward, the following outcomes can be worked towards:

1. To protect the existing supply of outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs through ensuring, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
2. To enhance outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites, working in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding and securing developer contributions.
3. To provide new outdoor sport provision and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so (namely 3G football pitches), either by rectifying shortfalls through current facilities or identifying opportunities to increase the number of facilities/sites through investment, to accommodate the current and future demand.
4. The Local Authority maintain and further improve, if necessary, the sport and leisure facilities to meet community need, increase participation amongst inactive groups, address health inequalities and provide accessible, inclusive activities for residents as part of an active lifestyle.

## **7. Financial Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: **James Hopwood***

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 7.2. The Action Plan set out in Appendix 2b sets aligns the provision of playing pitches and indoor facilities with future household growth. These could impact on the Council's future Capital Programme, its revenue budget and financial resources: however, any impacts would be considered within separate reports to committee.
- 7.3. As also set out in the Action Plan and in 5.2.4, planning agreements sometimes require Developers to contribute to the Council's resources via the provision of ring-fenced grants – known as section 106 monies. These grants can be ring-fenced to the provision of new playing pitches and indoor facilities. The current Capital Programme, for instance, includes the usage of section 106 monies to contribute to the funding for the Uttoxeter Sports Hub.
- 7.4. As also noted in 5.2.4, the strategies and action plans within Appendix 1 and 2, contribute to ensuring section 106 funding for new facilities is identified within future planning agreements.



## **8. Risk Assessment and Management**

8.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

8.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

8.2.1. Allocating appropriate funding towards improvement and maintenance of current facility stock will protect the current levels of indoor and outdoor provision across the borough.

8.2.2. Allocating funding to provide new indoor and outdoor facility stock in line with KKP recommendations will ensure that future need and demand can be catered for.

8.2.3. Ensuring current supply of grass pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy will mean current provision can continue and in turn increased.

8.3. **Negative** (Threats):

8.3.1. If funding is not allocated effectively towards existing facility stock and potential new investments, both current and future demand will not be able to be met.

8.3.2. If local planning policy is not adhered to, the loss of an already shortage of grass pitches will happen, meaning current capacity is decreased even further.

8.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

## **9. Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:*  
**John Teasdale**

9.1. Section 106 contributions should be spent in accordance with their intended use. This will be dependent on the reason why each contribution has been requested. This will be detailed in individual agreements. Each contribution will also have a time limit by which it must be spent. However as the impact of any development can affect the wider community, contributions can; for example, be used to deliver improvements to facilities away from a development.

## **10. Equalities and Health**

10.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

10.2. **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

## 11. **Data Protection Implications – Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

11.1. A DPIA must be completed where there are plans to:

- use systematic and extensive profiling with significant effects;
- process special category or criminal offence data on a large scale; or
- systematically monitor publicly accessible places on a large scale
- use new technologies;
- use profiling or special category data to decide on access to services;
- profile individuals on a large scale;
- process biometric data;
- process genetic data;
- match data or combine datasets from different sources;
- collect personal data from a source other than the individual without providing them with a privacy notice ('invisible processing');
- track individuals' location or behaviour;
- profile children or target marketing or online services at them; or
- process data that might endanger the individual's physical health or safety in the event of a security breach

11.2 Following consideration of the above, there are no Data Protection implications arising from this report which would require a DPIA.

## 12. **Human Rights**

12.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

## 13. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

13.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

## 14. **Recommendation(s)**

14.1 To update the Open Spaces and Playing Pitches Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document as necessary.

14.2 To use the reports at Appendix 1a, 1b and 2a, 2b to inform the annual review of the Local Plan and forward on at an appropriate time to the Development Plan Committee.

## 15. **Background Papers**

15.1 None

16 **Appendices**

- 16.1 Appendix 1a – East Staffordshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) – Full Assessment
- Appendix 1b - East Staffordshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) – Strategy Report
- Appendix 2a – East Staffordshire Indoor Strategy – Needs Assessment
- Appendix 2b - East Staffordshire Indoor Strategy – Action Plan