

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

13 March 2018

Subject: Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Update

**Cabinet member: Cllr John Thomson
Cabinet Member for Communities, Communication,
Leisure and Libraries**

Key Decision: No

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Environment Select Committee about the development and the delivery of actions following the adoption of the Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy in February 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy (WPPS) was developed to support the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the need for a single Wiltshire wide open spaces standard. The Playing Pitch Strategy forms Part 3 of the Wiltshire Open Spaces Study.
- 2.2 The strategy was developed in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and informed by the former guidance provided in 'Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' and its Companion Guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities'.
- 2.3 The draft WPPS was endorsed by the Environment Select Committee on 13 December 2016. Cabinet reviewed the draft WPPS on 7th February 2017 and resolved:

(A) To formally adopt the Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy, Action Plan, Community Area Profiles and Needs Assessment to inform decision making and policy development.

(B) That the Strategy Development Steering Group is to evolve into the body overseeing the Playing Pitch Strategy on behalf of the Council and reporting to the relevant Cabinet officers on an annual basis, with an annual report to be provided to Environment Select Committee. This group to be renamed the Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Implementation Group.

3. Development and delivery of actions

- 3.1 Following the adoption of the WPPS by cabinet, the existing Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group converted into the Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Implementation Group. The group has prioritised key projects and opportunities arising from the strategy, community area action plans and needs assessment to form a Year 1 Action Plan. Appendix A is attached; 'Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Priority List' and provides an overview of all year 1 pitch and ancillary facility developments and the implementation group actions.
- 3.2 To date more than £0.460m of s106 contributions has been allocated to three key projects;
 1. A new cricket facility including newly laid cricket square, pavilion and nets at Chippenham Rugby Club financed by the Westinghouse residential development;
 2. New and upgraded cricket facilities in the Trowbridge area financed by the Hospital Sports Field development;
 3. Upgraded changing and social accommodation at Corsham Rugby Club financed by s106 contributions linked to residential developments in the Corsham town area agreed by Corsham Town Council.
- 3.3 Additional s106 funding has been received from developers that has been identified for playing pitch use and can be allocated against other identified projects within the plan. There is also identified playing pitch s106 funding that has not yet not been received. Working with town and parish councils and the National Governing Bodies of Sport the most appropriate use of this s106 funding will be determined based on the priority list.
- 3.4 Wiltshire Council is working closely with Wiltshire Football Association (Wilts FA) to progress the provision of six 3G pitches across the county. It is likely that once feasibility studies have been carried out and match funding identified, that the Football Foundation (FF) will contribute between 70-75% of the total funding required for these new facilities. Wilts FA has identified the Salisbury area as high priority for 3G pitches and it is likely that 75% funding will be allocated in this area. Feasibility studies have been completed in Boscombe / Amesbury and Devizes. Should all six 3G pitches progress, this will realise additional third party financial investment of circa: £3 million into Wiltshire.
- 3.5 The Rugby Football Union (RFU) will be releasing their national facilities strategy imminently, with potentially two Wiltshire rugby clubs identified within that document, that are likely to receive financial support for development. The WPPS Action Plan will be updated, as appropriate, to incorporate these aspects.

- 3.6 Key to the long-term success of the WPPS is the alignment to the Core Planning Strategy. Leisure services and spatial planning are looking at the best way to incorporate the WPPS and its associated standards into the revised Core Strategy with a deadline of spring 2018.
- 3.7 Following feedback from sports clubs a more user-friendly public facing document is being drafted to assist in the marketing of the WPPS.
- 3.8 The development of a new facility takes a considerable amount of time to come to fruition, but good working relationships with internal and external stakeholders is seeing Wiltshire benefit from significant financial investment in facilities that support community infrastructure, access to leisure and sport and improved health and wellbeing.

4. Proposal

The Environment Select Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the update about the development and the delivery of actions following the adoption of the Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy in February 2017;
- ii) Consider whether further overview and scrutiny engagement, by way of an annual update, could continue to add value in this area.

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Date of report: Tuesday 13 March 2018

Appendices

Appendix A: Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Priority List

Background Papers

Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy, Action Plan, Community Area Plans and Needs Assessment