

## **Overview of the Open Space Study, Playing Pitch Strategy and Core Strategy**

### **Open Spaces Study**

The aims of the study are to provide a robust assessment of needs and deficiencies in open spaces upon which emerging policy within the revised Wiltshire Core Strategy should be based, and create an up to date evidence base which can be maintained to aid implementation of the policies and the provision of open spaces during the plan period (2026).

The study covers all forms of public open space as referred to in Annex A of the PPG17 Companion Guide. Indoor facilities are not included.

In order to deliver the aims of the study, the following objectives will be met:

- Evaluate the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space, sports and recreational facilities (Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy to cover the main sports of Football, Cricket, Rugby Union and Hockey) for all Community Areas, identifying any specific needs or deficiencies;
- Identify mechanisms to meet future needs including recommendations for appropriate standards of provision by new development;
- Provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to underpin the development and implementation of detailed planning policies, and facilitate the management future management of open space and recreational assets;
- To provide information to justify the collection of developer contributions towards open space;
- To provide information to help to inform the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy.

Latest draft version is on the website at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-open-space-study-draft.pdf>

### **Playing Pitch Strategy**

This is a strategy and action plan for playing pitches in Wiltshire Council. It covers the period to 2026.

- 1.1 This document is based on a substantial needs assessment and associated community consultation undertaken for the Council, and following recognised national guidance.

- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires local planning authorities to set out policies to help enable communities to access high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation. These policies need to be based on a thorough understanding of local needs for such facilities and opportunities available for new provision.
- 1.3 The Government's public health initiatives have seen local authorities assume more responsibility for improving levels of public health. Studies show that living a healthy lifestyle and maintaining a healthy weight can reduce the risk of developing chronic disease, improve quality of life, and increase life expectancy. The Council is now responsible for many factors which impact on mental and physical health, including sports and leisure provision, environmental health, green spaces and housing standards. The Council is therefore now aiming to support its residents and encourage health improvements by implementing the new Public Health Strategy alongside the Council's other policies and strategies.
- 1.4 Other national policy and strategies also point to the critical role of local authorities in both providing and facilitating new and improved sports provision to provide not just sports but also wider recreation and health benefits.
- 1.5 The remit of the strategy covers the major 'pitch sports': Association Football; Cricket; Hockey; and Rugby.
- 1.6 The Strategy and Action Plan, as well as the underpinning Needs Assessment follows national guidance produced by Sport England, and the entire project has been overseen by a Steering Group comprising representatives of relevant authorities and organisations.
- 1.7 The document is divided into the following sections:
  - Description of some of the important characteristics and other factors that influence sports and physical activity in the local authority, and which have been taken into account in developing the strategy;
  - Summary of relevant sports provision and activity across the local authority;
  - Description of the main issues that have been identified as affecting each sport, now and in the coming years;
  - Provision of a strategic vision, aims and recommendations to guide the actions and decisions of the Council and its partners over the coming years (The Strategy);
  - Provision of a sport-by-sport and site-by-site schedule of recommendations covering each sport considered. (The Action Plan); and,
  - Explanation of how the Strategy should be kept up-to-date, and its implementation resourced.

## **The Core Strategy**

The Wiltshire Core Strategy is the most important part of the Local Development Framework (LDF), a suite of planning policy documents that will eventually replace the four local plans covering Wiltshire.

The Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) covers the whole of Wiltshire (excluding Swindon) and sets out the council's

- spatial vision,
- key objectives, and
- overall principles for development in the county.

The key objectives of the spatial vision has been derived from an analysis of the county's characteristics, a review of our own corporate plans and priorities, and national planning guidance. At its heart is the delivery of viable and vibrant communities based on the principle of sustainability.

The core strategy outlines a sustainable spatial strategy for future development in the county and includes:

- key principles of development
- the location of strategic sites for new housing and employment development
- policies with which planning applications will be assessed
- a key diagram displaying the spatial aspects of the core strategy.