

4 December 2018

Community, Health and Housing Committee

Play Pitch Strategy, Built Facilities Strategy and Local Football Facilities Plan

Report of: *Kim Anderson, Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager*

Wards Affected: *All Brentwood Borough Wards*

This report is: *Public report*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Sport England require Local Authorities to have an up to date Play Pitch Strategy (PPS) to ensure “there is a good supply of high-quality playing pitches and playing fields to meet sporting needs of local communities.” The Play Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Strategy (BFS) are evidenced based documents which inform the Council’s Local Development Plan and Leisure Strategy to plan and develop modern, efficient and sustainable community-based sports facilities. The Strategies has been undertaken in consultation with the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport, Sport England and the local clubs that own/use leisure facilities develop the recommendations and a priority action plan of improvement. It also will identify future strategic development requirements to meet anticipated demand. There is also a wider piece of work which has been undertaken as part of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) in the development of the Joint Strategic Plan to identify cross-cutting themes that can be addressed across local authority boundaries across South Essex area.
- 1.2. The Local Football facilities Plan for Brentwood has been developed with the Football Association to focus on the specific requirements for football. The Football Association are developing plans for each district authority.
- 1.3. The Play Pitch Strategy, Built Facilities Strategy and the Local Football Facilities Plan have been agreed and signed off by the NGBs and Sport England, and they are before Members tonight for their consideration.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Members note the Play Pitch Strategy, the Built Facilities Strategy and the Local Football Facilities Plan for Brentwood; and**
- 2.2 That Members agree that these recommendations will be incorporated into the overall Leisure Strategy 2018-28 Action Plan.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1. The Council commissioned 4Global to undertake assessments of play pitches and built facilities in 2017 as a requirement from Sport England to ensure “there is a good supply of high-quality playing pitches and play fields to meet sporting needs of local communities.” (Sport England, Play Pitch Strategy Guidance.
- 3.2. The Play Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Strategy (Appendix A and B) set out the methodology for the assessment of current provision, its current condition and identifies current and future demand. This is aligned with the projected population/housing growth in Brentwood. The clear aims from both strategies is to protect, enhance and provide community-based sports facilities to support local need.
- 3.3. For the Play Pitch Strategy, the consultants contacted the relevant National Governing Body (NGB), local sports clubs for Football, Rugby, Tennis, Bowls and Hockey to assess the condition and usage of the facilities and identify unmet need and any future improvement plans that would be required for each site. These are set out in the draft recommendations.
- 3.4. For the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy, the consultants looked at the condition of current facilities and assessed current and future need in the planning for sporting facilities.
- 3.5. The Association of South Essex Authorities (ASELA) which includes Brentwood, Basildon, Castlepoint Rochford Thurrock and Southend, are in the process of developing a Joint Strategic Plan across South Essex. One of the workstreams of this plan is the strategic development of community sports facilities across South Essex. Some of these facilities may have a regional pull and some may serve just their local community.
- 3.6. The Play Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy for South Essex is also appended to this report in Appendix C and Appendix D for information. The report and the recommendations from Brentwood Borough Council’s Play

Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy will feed into the overarching ASELA workstream for sport and leisure provision.

- 3.7. In conjunction with the Play Pitch Strategy the Football Association has also developed a Local Football Facilities Plans for each local authority across the UK. The Plan for Brentwood is also appended to this report in Appendix E.

4. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1. As part of the evidence required by Sport England to support Brentwood's Local Development Plan and the Council's Leisure Strategy a Play Pitch and Built Facility assessment was commissioned in 2017.
- 4.2. 4Global undertook the assessments and their reports set out the findings from the assessments around the current provision, the condition of that provision, its usage and also identifies what improvements would be required.
- 4.3. The Play Pitch Strategy action plan sets out the recommendations for each of the sites. Some of the recommendations will be the clubs' responsibility and some will be for the Council to work with the clubs and the relevant NGBs to assist in the development of their improvement plans.
- 4.4. There are also a number of overarching recommendations in relation to each of the sports which are set out in the Play Pitch Strategy document.
- 4.5. It is proposed that these overarching recommendations together with those that directly relate to the Council for the specific sites will be fed in the overarching action plan for the Leisure Strategy. The progress on the Leisure Strategy action plan will be reported annually to the relevant committee for consideration.
- 4.6. The Indoor Built Facilities Assessment also sets out the action plan and recommendations and again it is recommended that these will also be fed into the Leisure Strategy Action Plan.
- 4.7. It is also recommended that joint work across South Essex on the sport and leisure workstream continues to identify strategic facility development across the whole area.

- 4.8. The Local Football Facilities Plan recommendations will also be fed into the Leisure Strategy Action Plan.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 Sport England requires local authorities to have an up to date Play Pitch Strategy (PPS) to ensure “there is a good supply of high-quality playing pitches and playing fields to meet sporting needs of local communities.” That together with the Built Facilities Assessment the Play Pitch Strategy will inform the Council’s Local Development Plan and its Leisure Strategy to ensure facilities are high quality and meet the current and future need of the residents. Working with the other South Essex authorities means that strategic investment is planned across the whole area ignoring local authority boundaries.

6. References to Council Priorities

- 6.1 In the Corporate Plan 2016-19, the Play Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategies sits under the Environment and Housing Management - work with key partners to make better use of leisure facilities available across the borough and increase access to the borough’s leisure opportunities; Community and Health and Planning and Licensing – have a local development plan in place to manage change in the borough for the next 15 years.

7. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Interim Chief Finance Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312829/ jacquelinevanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications within the report. Recommendations will be added to the Leisure Strategy Action Plan and any projects requiring expenditure will have to be allocated from existing budgets or be identified as part of the budget setting process and referred to Policy, Projects and Resources Committee and Ordinary Council.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Daniel Toohey, Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email: Daniel.toohey@brentwood.gov.uk

- 7.2 There are no direct legal implications within the report.

8. Appendices

Appendix A –Brentwood Play Pitch Strategy

Appendix B – Brentwood Built Facility Strategy

Appendix C – South Essex Play Pitch Strategy

Appendix D – South Essex Built Facility Strategy

Appendix E – Local Football Facility Plan for Brentwood - To Follow

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Kim Anderson

Telephone: 01277 312634

E-mail: kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk