

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting6th October 2011

1. Title of Item/Report

Playing Pitch Strategy

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report relating to a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The strategy provided a comprehensive picture of pitch sports provision across the borough and made recommendations about how, through partnership and appropriate rationalisation, the Council could ensure that there was a stock of playing pitch facilities that met the needs and aspirations of the borough's communities

A copy of the PPS was attached for members' consideration. The supporting appendices to the PPS were also made available.

It was explained that the Playing Pitch Strategy had been developed to provide a commonly agreed direction for the development of playing pitch facilities within the Borough. In general the publicly funded playing pitch infrastructure required significant investment to bring it to a standard which met the needs and aspirations of the communities they served. Allied to this was the fact that in many cases secondary school gates remained firmly locked at weekends when they could be providing quality pitches and the associated infrastructure, especially for the football fraternity.

The Strategy considered the Borough as a whole but also provided analysis of four distinct sub areas (Billingham & North Stockton, Central and Western, Eaglescliffe & Yarm and South East). It was important to ensure that players could access facilities within the locality they lived and the Council had to cater for pitch sports across the Borough. This strategy provided a framework for how this might be achieved.

Although this Strategy fulfilled the requirements laid out by Sport England and was entirely consistent with playing pitch strategy's across the country, it had been decided to commission an additional piece of work to look at primary school provision. The purpose of this additional work was to identify opportunities for facility improvements and how the Council might maximise its stock of primary school fields, many of which lay idle

most evenings and weekends. This additional information would be available for consideration as an appendices to the main document in November 2011.

It was explained that Sport England had only recently provided comments which required some superficial changes to the detail of the strategy. However those would not affect the proposed recommendations and outcomes and as such it was suggested that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Culture and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture, to approve any further minor amendments to the strategy.

RESOLVED that

1. the 2011 Playing Pitch Strategy be approved.

2. delegated authority be granted to the Head of Culture and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture, to approve any further minor amendments to the strategy.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To confirm the Playing Pitch Strategy as an official Council Strategy enabling immediate commencement of its delivery and assisting the evaluation of planning applications in relation to pitches and amenity open space.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Beall declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Stockton on Tees Playing Pitch Strategy as he was a school governor.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable.

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 14 October 2011

Proper Officer
10 October 2011