

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....19th January 2023

1. Title of Item/Report

Playing Pitch Strategy & Outdoor Sport Strategy 2022 - 2025

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Playing Pitch Strategy & Outdoor Sport Strategy 2022 – 2025.

As part of the Stockton Council's (SBC) commitment to improving leisure facilities and encourage participation in sport and active leisure, the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) was designed and developed to identify investment and improvement opportunities across eight sports and different facility types. The development of the strategy had followed relevant Sport England guidance.

The PPOSS provided a strategic framework which described how playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Stockton-on-Tees can meet the needs of existing and future residents of the Borough. It would be used to prioritise and target resources, to stimulate investment into sport and physical activity, and provide an evidence base to support decision making.

The format of the strategy followed guidance set out by Sport England, ensuring that it was acceptable as a basis for planning recommendations where they affect playing pitches and where Sport England would be a statutory consultee.

The PPOSS was specifically written to fulfil the following objectives:-

- provide an updated understanding of supply and demand for playing pitches across each site in Stockton-on-Tees
- set out the current and future picture of playing pitch and outdoor sports facility provision across the Borough as a whole, and also within specific neighbourhoods
- identify the key issues that impact on the delivery of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities

This new strategy will update the existing document (2015) and build on the interim review work carried out in 2019, which maintained our

framework and helped secure investment in sports facilities.

A copy of the PPOSS was attached to the report. The aim of the PPOSS was the continued existence of an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities which provided opportunities for all residents.

The 2015 Strategy (updated in 2019) assisted the Council in securing investment in a number of facility improvements. These included;

- The provision of a new 3G AGP at Stockton Town FC and the conversion of the sand based AGP at Northfield Academy to 3G
- A new World Rugby compliant 3G AGP to support rugby in the area – located at Billingham RUFC
- The relocation of Stockton RUFC to a new home ground
- The refurbishment of sand based AGPs to support hockey clubs at Egglecliffe School and Norton Sports Complex
- Improvements to the quality of several football and rugby pitches through investment into enhanced maintenance via the Pitch Improvement Fund
- Significant investment into the improvement of cricket grounds and training facilities.

Officers would work through the Action Plan and bring forward proposals for improvements or new facilities as resources become available, including those resources that arise from new property development.

RESOLVED that the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (POSS) and Action Plan be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Adoption of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy will enable investment and rationalisation decisions to be taken in relation to playing pitch sites, based on robust evidence and an understanding of current and future needs.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight Friday 27 January 2023

Proper Officer  
23 January 2023