

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	27th AUGUST 2015	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: ZOE SEWTER (Ext: 5753)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND COMMUNITY FACILITY STRATEGY UPDATE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To approve the process for the development of the Open Space, Sport and Community Facility Strategy.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To update Members on the progress made on the Open Space, Sport and Community Facility Strategy.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Council first adopted an Open Space Strategy in 2005, which has been used as the principle document for guiding the development of open spaces and sports facilities in the District.

3.2 Between 2004 and 2014, the provision of open space in terms of quality and quantity has radically changed:

Typology	2004	2014	Reasons for change
Formal open space (hectares)	56.69	59.82	Additional sites adopted on new residential developments
Informal open space (hectares)	59.37	69.27	Amenity greenspace adopted on new residential developments

Semi-natural greenspace (hectares)	31.53	89.70	Inclusion of publicly accessible National Forest sites into 2014 database
Local Area for Play	26	11	Investment in play facilities to improve level of equipped play has resulted in a raise to the next level of sites
Local Equipped Area for Play	14	38	Improved standard of equipped play
Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play	10	15	Investment in youth facilities
Play areas (total)	50	64	Additional sites adopted on new residential developments

- 3.3 Over the past decade the Council has been focussed on the delivery of a significant programme of facility development across the District. This development has been enabled through the proactive use of Council capital receipts and successful but often speculative funding applications. Indeed, since 2004 in excess of £8 million pounds has been received by the Authority from Developer contributions and external grants, to improve our parks, play areas, sports pitches and leisure centres.
- 3.4 Whilst this programme of development has been very successful it is becoming increasingly important that we have an up to date Open Space, Sports and Community Facilities Framework in place that will help to shape and contribute to the delivery of its Sport and Health Strategy.
- 3.5 The Strategy is important in itself to direct the provision of facilities in the District but it is also an important contributor to the Local Plan. To ensure new communities are built with the required sport, recreation and physical activity options then the Local Planning Authority will be reliant on having a robust and evidence based Strategy.
- 3.6 In 2011, the census recorded the population of South Derbyshire at 95,511. During the term of the proposed local plan the rate of development is significant, and by 2028 the population is estimated to grow to 126,963; a 32% increase.
- 3.7 Clearly there is a requirement to ensure that the increased population is adequately provided for in terms of open space, sports and community facilities. The population growth is not likely to be even across the District, so some areas will see additional pressure on existing facilities.
- 3.8 The Strategy will be written to align with the timescale of the proposed Local Plan and is particularly relevant in terms of justifying the case for developer contributions towards local community facilities such as playing pitches, multi-use

games areas, village halls and significantly their quantity, quality and spatial distribution.

3.9 The work will build on existing local strategies and studies, and will reflect national guidance.

3.10 The strategy process is as follows:

- Desktop research will be undertaken during August.
- Consultation with stakeholders, land owners, National Governing bodies, Parish Councils and sports clubs will take place during September and October.
- Action Planning will take place following consultation, with a Strategy Framework prepared for approval in late November 2015.

3.11 A briefing note explaining the need for the Strategy is located at Appendix 1.

3.12 A contents page for the strategy is located at Appendix 2.

3.13 A list of consultees is located at Appendix 3.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no increased financial implications currently arising from this strategy. If the strategy is not adopted then the Council is vulnerable to challenge from developers when entering into s106 negotiations, as there is no firm and robust evidence base. This source of funding is potentially at risk without this Strategy in place.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The Framework development and the projects being progressed are a key action within the 'Promoting Healthy Facilities and Lifestyles' objective and the 'promotion of cultural events' in the 'Lifestyle Choice' priority. The project would also contribute to supporting the 'Safer Neighbourhoods' objective of the 'Safe and Secure' priority in that it would provide significant opportunities for youth engagement.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The ongoing consultation and engagement with local people, community sports groups and Parish Councils throughout the development and delivery of the strategy will identify opportunities for significant investment and improvement in sport, recreational and community facilities across the District.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 South Derbyshire is continuing to plan for and provide its growing community with quality sport and recreation facilities which will promote health and well being as well as enabling people to achieve their sporting potential.