

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	26th NOVEMBER 2015	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ZOE SEWTER, OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (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 update Members on the development of the Open Space, Sport and Community Facility Strategy and gain approval for the Vision and Principles, and to establish the notion of a hierarchy of provision.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To update Members on the progress made on the Open Space, Sport and Community Facility Strategy and feedback on emerging principles and priorities following consultation.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 As reported at the H&CS Committee meeting of 27th August work is progressing on the development of a strategy for the development of Open Space, Sport and Community facilities.
- 3.2 The strategy process has concluded the consultation with stakeholders, land owners, National Governing bodies, Parish Councils and sports clubs and there has been general support for the following Vision:

“Partners of South Derbyshire Sport will work together to improve opportunities within sport and health activity across the district of South Derbyshire.”

3.3 There has also been agreement that the following principles apply to the Strategy (See Annexe No.1):

- **Ensure basic provision close to home** - all villages and urban neighbourhoods to have access to at least a basic level of open space and indoor community recreation provision within easy reach (walking distance).
See Annexe No.2 – Hierarchy of provision
- **Offer a choice of activity within each Sub Area** – residents to have a choice of indoor and outdoor sports and recreational activities within their Sub Area.
- **Ensure district-wide large scale and specialist provision** – to pursue opportunities across the District (and beyond) to offer residents a wide range of choices and experiences to enhance their levels of interest, commitment and performance including: activities within the natural environment; extreme sports; large scale events and wide range of sports.
- **Encourage multi-use hubs** – encourage facility providers to cater for a range of activities and sports on their sites. Prioritise the development of community use facilities on school sites.
- **Facilitate growth and development** – support local communities, sport and recreational organisations to increase use of their facilities for sport and recreation and expand or develop new facilities where there is a proven need.
- **High quality design and management** – encourage proposals for improving existing and building new sport and open space facilities to be of high quality design and meet national standards where these exist; encourage other types of developments to incorporate features into the design that are ‘participant friendly’. Drive up use of facilities by reaching new markets and retaining existing user through high standards of management and effective marketing campaigns.
- **Support sustainability** – explore ways of increasing the sustainability and viability of facilities in terms of long term business / financial models and their carbon footprint. All new projects and developments will need to demonstrate their long term sustainability. Support voluntary sector management of facilities in line with localism policies and the Quirk Review.
- **Satisfy future demand for District residents** – to meet the needs of the future population, taking account of projected growth, residential development, changing demographics and latent demand of residents living in the District.
- **Promote cross boundary provision** – map catchment areas for use of facilities and take into account cross boundary ‘traffic’ especially for larger and more specialist facilities when assessing supply and demand.
- **Align national insight with local priorities** – in determining development and investment decisions take into account the policies, strategic priorities and insight studies of national sport, play and recreational agencies, with local assessments of need and consultation with local residents and users.

3.4 A set of headline themes have also been developed which set the context for the further development of the Strategy:

A Growing and Ageing Population

- South Derbyshire is one of the fastest growing districts in England with a projected increase of 32% in its population between 2011 and 2028.
- The population is aging with a predicted 33.5% increase in residents over 55 years by 2021.
- The Local Plan includes for approximately 12,500 additional dwellings to meet the projected required supply of housing demand increasing population growth further across all sub areas of the District, with especially large concentrations proposed for the southern fringes of Derby.
- The profiles of older residents that move into new residential developments are more active.

Implications for the Strategy

- ✓ District-wide and local capacity of community facilities, playing pitches and open space needs to increase to meet the needs of its growing population.
- ✓ Consideration needs to be given to the range of activities that will encourage older people to stay or become more active for maintaining their health, wellbeing and independence.

Geography – A Mix of Urban and Rural Settlements

- Mechanism for assessing needs within Sub Areas and at village/neighbourhood levels.
- Overlapping catchment areas with adjacent local authorities resulting in cross boundary movement.
- Good supply of local open space and community facilities that need to be assessed for their quality
- Rural isolation is an issue/potential issue for older people

Implications for the Strategy

- ✓ In conjunction with the LPA a hierarchy of village and urban services are proposed for the five Sub Areas of the District.

Strategic Direction and Focus

- Significant Countywide and District Plans that set the direction are under review making the future focus less certain.
- The value of being active is recognised as a priority theme in the various plans and in the long term Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Key considerations at national and local level are whether to target inactive people and encourage them to become active and/or to cater for those who are already active and encourage them to become more active (to optimise the health benefits and strengthen the infrastructure through supporting clubs and volunteering).
- New Countrywide Strategies are emerging for cycling and green ways.

Implications for the Strategy

- ✓ Proceed based on local consultation and insight and seek to influence the emerging strategies.
- ✓ Consider including a 'fourth' strand to the Strategy – to cover greenways.

Local Access

- Consultation findings support local access to a range of open space and facilities.
- Insight studies reveal the importance of 'doorstep' activities close to homes.

Implications for the Strategy

- ✓ Explore how the SDDC can work with Parish Councils, Village Halls and the Urban Core to improve access to and quality of local provision.
- ✓ Identify barriers to access and work with partners to remove/reduce them
- ✓ Importance of well-connected network of footpaths & routeways
- ✓ Identify significant gaps in existing provision.

Choice of Activity

- Local consultation and insight indicates the demand for:
 - A wide range of sports and activities
 - Popularity of outdoor recreational activities including walking, cycling and gardening
 - Swimming
 - Formal sports
 - Indoor activities such as fitness, dance etc.

Implications for the Strategy

- ✓ Local provision (as above)
- ✓ Sub Area – choice of sports and activities
- ✓ Districtwide – offer for large scale and specialist facilities
- ✓ Connective greenways

3.5 This set of principles and the proposal for a hierarchy of provision from local neighbourhood level to Districtwide facility provision will, if accepted, provide the basis for the final stage of Strategy development in terms of consultation on the draft Strategy, and individual area development plans.

3.6 The Strategy and Action Plan will be presented to this committee in February 2016 for adoption.

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 Strategy 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 wellbeing as well as enabling people to achieve their sporting potential.