

**REPORT NO. 1**

**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL  
MEETING OF 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

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**Status:** For Discussion  
**Title:** Built Sports Facilities Strategy  
**Report of :** Matthew Bills  
**Cabinet Member :** Cllr P. King  
**Where from:** Planning Policy  
**Where to next:** Cabinet

Objective: To review the final Built Sports Facilities Strategy and to note and comment on the outcomes of the Strategy

1 Outcome sought from the Panel

1.1 The purpose of the meeting is to review the final Built Sports Facilities Strategy and to consider the outcomes identified as part of the preparation of the Strategy. Scrutiny Panel are also invited to make comment on the outcomes of the Strategy, which will be communicated to Cabinet.

2 Background

2.1 The Council does not currently have a Built Sports Facilities Strategy (BSFS).

2.2 The BSFS forecasts the future needs for sport and recreation up to 2031 and takes into account the housing requirements in the recently adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Harborough District Council, 2019) and is complementary to the Playing Pitch Strategy adopted in 2018.

2.3 The assessment methodology follows the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) (Sport England, 2014), including consultation with the local clubs and national governing bodies, as well as the District and Parish Councils.

2.4 The final Strategy makes clear that the facility proposals identified in the strategy are not all intended to be provided or funded directly by the District Council and it should not be assumed that the Council will automatically make additional funds or resources available to assist other bodies to provide new or improved facilities. The Strategy also states that the Council will not necessarily take on responsibility for providing or managing more facilities.

- 2.5 Delivery of the recommendations associated with the District Council or other stakeholders are subject to capacity and resources being available to realise them. Inclusion in the Strategy does not guarantee delivery of all recommendations within the lifetime of the Strategy.
- 2.6 A key driver for the production of the BSFS is to deliver an evidence base which can support the planning policy for the Harborough Local Plan. The strategy will help the Council and its partners to:
- Understand provision needs now and in the future.
  - Determine planning applications.
  - Ensure that the management and maintenance of sports facilities is appropriate and sustainable.
  - Prioritise local authority capital and revenue investment, including S106 and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
  - Prioritise and support bids for external funding to assist in the delivery of sporting infrastructure.
  - Identify the role of the education sector in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities.
  - Contribute to the aims and objectives of improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- 2.7 The scope of the strategy is Harborough district, but it takes into account the availability of facilities in adjacent local authority areas where appropriate.
- 2.8 As part of the Strategy preparation the District Council commissioned a Facilities Planning Model (FPM) for Swimming Pools from Sport England. The FPM results are set out in the Strategy.

#### Draft Built Sports Facilities Strategy recommendations

- 2.9 The final BSFS forecasts the future need for built facilities for sport and recreation up to 2031. The Strategy considers all the main built sports facilities in the district and the full Strategy can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 2.10 The BSFS also considers village and community hall provision now and in the future. The outcomes for this work can be found at **Section 14 of Appendix B**.
- 2.11 Some of the recommendations are fundamental to the delivery of sport and have implications for provision of sport in built facilities within the District. The recommendations are all evidence based and clubs and National Governing Bodies have been consulted as part of the preparation of the report.
- 2.12 A summary of the Strategy and recommendations for each sport can be found at **Appendix A**.

2.13 The BSFS outcomes and recommendations have been reported to the BSFS Steering Group (HDC officers, Leicestershire and Rutland Sport and Sport England) and Corporate Management Team.

### 3 Points for discussion

3.1 These are as follows:

- To discuss the final version of the Built Sports Facilities Strategy;
- For Members to ask questions of HDC officers; and
- To agree comments to Cabinet.

### 4 Impact on Communities

4.1 The Council has a key role in promoting healthy lifestyles and should therefore have a coherent strategy that engages the public, private and voluntary sector. The provision of built sports facilities in the right locations and with the right 'offer' of activities is a key part of healthy lifestyles.

4.2 Recommendations of the Strategy will have a direct impact on provision of sport within the District.

4.3 Support for facilities and the sports they host is subject to limitations of capacity and resources for both the District Council and other stakeholders.

4.4 Inclusion of a recommendation in the Strategy is not a guarantee of delivery of that recommendation during the lifespan of the Strategy.

### 5 Legal Issues

5.1 There is no statutory duty for the local authority to develop a Built Sports Facilities Strategy or provide leisure facilities, however, to not do so would be contrary to the Councils vision and values.

5.2 There may be justified challenges from statutory consultees or others if a fully evidenced strategy is not in place and the Council seeks to remove provision of certain activities from the Leisure Centre or other sites.

### 6 Resource Issues

6.1 The BSFS has been produced by Nortoft and has been a fully funded, stand alone and time limited project.

6.2 The village and community hall study has been provided through the Community Partnership team.

6.3 To deliver the outcomes of the Strategy the Authority will need to consider how it works with partners to help realise new or improved facilities and whether resource and capacity is available to deliver the recommendations. Consideration of whether new facilities are provided through additional

borrowing or grant applications and how the Council works with developers to provide S106 contributions for community facilities will need to be made.

- 6.4 The Built Sports Facilities Strategy should be updated every 3 to 5 years in order for it to remain relevant and up to date. A new study will need to be funded through the Council's budget planning.

## 7 Equality Analysis Implications/Outcomes

- 7.1 The BSFS has been prepared in accordance with: *Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) (Sport England, 2014)* and '*Sport England: towards and active nation Strategy 2016 to 2021*', which focusses on the less active sectors of the population and seeks to remove barriers to participation through gender, age, sexual orientation and ethnicity.
- 7.2 The Playing Pitch Strategy reflects the demographic profile of the District and the demand for sports provision through consultation with clubs.
- 7.3 Accredited Clubs must comply with equalities requirements of their National Governing Bodies.
- 7.4 A Due Regard Analysis has been completed as part of the preparation of the Strategy and can be found at **Appendix C**.

## 8. Risk Management Implications

- 8.1 The development of a Built Sports Facilities Strategy is an opportunity to ensure that Council services, Club and private sector provision have a common vision and delivery; it will ensure the Council helps clubs and other stakeholders to deliver the right facilities in the right place and residents receive the best possible outcomes from a new leisure centre.

## 9 Consultation

- 9.1 Full consultation has been undertaken with the following
- Harborough District Council – Officers and Elected Members
  - Sport England
  - Leicestershire and Rutland Sport
  - Sporting National Governing Bodies
  - Clubs
  - Parish and Town Councils
  - Village Hall Committees

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### **Background papers:**

**Previous report(s):** **Draft Built Sports Facilities Strategy Scrutiny report June 2019**

### **Appendices:**

- A. Summary of Strategy Recommendations**
- B. Final Built Sports Facilities Strategy**
- C. Due Regard Analysis - BSFS**