
REPORT TO:	Housing & Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	19 th April 2012	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Mark Alflat (Director of Operations)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Zoe Sewter Open Space & Facilities Development Manager, zoe.sewter@south-derbys.gov.uk 01283 595753	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Sports Facility Strategy Framework	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	District wide	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS 07

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members approve the proposed Facility Strategy framework, which will be used to prepare a development strategy for the built sport and recreational infrastructure in the District.
- 1.2 Members approve the further development of the Green Bank Leisure Centre, Etwall Leisure Centre and Rosliston Forestry Centre projects, including applications to the Sport England Inspired Facilities fund.
- 1.3 Members note progress with the Melbourne Sporting Partnership, Melbourne Leisure Centre, Gresley Old Hall and Eureka Park projects.
- 1.4 Members approve the declaration of Cockshut Lane (Melbourne) and Newhall Park as Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The report provides a framework for the production of a Facility Development Strategy and an update on the progress on a number of facility related projects, which are being developed in partnership with public, charitable and voluntary sector partners. Also outlined is the proposal to nominate two recreation areas in the District as QEII Playing Fields to commemorate the Queens Jubilee.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The report provides a framework for the production of a district sports facility strategy plus updates on progress with current facility projects and nominations for the QE II Fields Challenge. Members are requested to approve the framework and also further development of projects and facilities which the Council has shared ownership/management.

4.0 Detail

Strategic Context

- 4.1 Following the adoption by this Committee of the South Derbyshire Playing Pitch Strategy, it is now appropriate to develop a strategy which covers built sport and recreational facilities and other outdoor activities. Such a strategy is vitally important as an underpinning document for the emerging Local Plan / Local Development Framework and to ensure the District is competitive in acquiring external funding by having robust evidence for facility development applications.
- 4.2 As part of the strategy preparation work officers have worked with Sport England and been able to commission the Facility Planning Modelling tool which provides a statistical and needs based assessment on current deficits of swimming, sports hall, artificial grass pitch and fitness station provision in the District. The headlines are:
- Etwall pool is estimated to be used at 100% capacity, leaving no room for growth as there is no learner pool. Green Bank, with a learner pool, is operating at approx 84% of capacity. Across the district an additional area equivalent to 1 lane of a 25m pool is required to satisfy unmet demand.
 - 95% of the overall capacity of indoor halls is used, whilst Green Bank and Etwall are theoretically operating at capacity at peak times. Across the district an area equivalent of 1.8 badminton courts are required to satisfy unmet demand.
 - Pingle Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) is theoretically full to capacity and 75% of South Derbyshire residents have to travel out of area to meet their sporting demands. The largest area of unmet demand is in the Etwall/Hilton area and a new AGP in this location would satisfy the most demand due to ease of access and catchment area.
 - Due to high levels of car ownership, the planning models suggest that new facilities are best located along the A50 corridor for ease of access and the widest catchment.
 - The District has the lowest capacity ratio of Fitness Stations per 1,000 population in Derbyshire
 - Historically public satisfaction with local sports provision in the District is in the bottom quartile in the national rankings.
- 4.3 The model assumes population at current levels so work is required to factor in predicted growth. It does however take into account developments out of area (Derby City, North-West Leicestershire and East Staffs), which will impact on our required provision.
- 4.4 The Strategy needs to ensure adequate provision to meet the current needs, and plan ahead for future needs in line with growth areas and population projections for the District.
- 4.5 The proposed framework looks to provide a structure for the provision of indoor sports, outdoor sports and ancillary facilities for current and future population levels.

Funding Sources

- 4.6 The District Council has traditionally been very successful in attracting external funding for the development of community facilities. The current infrastructure of built and open space provision is an illustration of that historical success.
- 4.7 Whilst capital resources at the current time and the future are restricted compared with previous years there will still be opportunities to attract funding. To maximise this potential it is vital that the District has a Strategic Plan for its facility infrastructure so that the 'need' and 'demand' for projects can be demonstrated in a resilient manner.
- 4.8 The principal current and future funding sources for sports facilities are as follows:-

Sport England

Inspired Facilities – funding towards built sports facilities, criteria is for protecting existing facilities and creating new opportunities (3 funding rounds left).

Protecting Playing Fields – funding towards protecting and developing playing pitches (3 funding rounds left).

The above 2 schemes will operate into 2013 and then be replaced by funding regimes that will focus on: -

Young People Aged 14 – 24 and Community Use of School Buildings

Section 106 Funds

The largest source of funding which should remain for a period of time is the Section 106 planning obligation funding. Currently off site contributions are placed into one of three geographical 'Leisure Pots' which cover:-

- Built Sports Facilities
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Open Space Facilities

Community Infrastructure Levy

This may take over from S106 for charging developers for contributions and the Facility Strategy will provide list of projects that will benefit from this funding.

Strategy Principles

- 4.9 The following principles are proposed to be applied to guide the development of the Strategy:
- Green Bank Leisure Centre will remain as the principal leisure facility for the urban core for up to 10 years, with investment in the development and maintenance of the building pursued to protect this facility
 - To prioritise development of community use facilities on school sites, in line with the most recent Sport England Strategy and future funding programmes – i.e. support

the development of sports halls and multi use areas that can be used for both curriculum and community use

- To support voluntary sector management of facilities, in line with Big Society/Localism policies and as recommended by Quirk Review – i.e. club or community managed facilities to be favoured that support sustainable operation
- To support the development of Multi sport clubs – i.e. facilities to be encouraged where a number of sports clubs can share a facility, and/or the site can offer a range of sporting activities
- Multi use space to be provided within new-build community facilities, as a minimum standard hall space to be equivalent of 1x badminton court to enable sustainable operation
- Indoor extreme sports facilities to be planned into major developments – i.e. indoor multi sports facilities to include space for extreme sports such as climbing, roller and cycling activity in line with Youth Needs Survey and current market trends
- Links with Governing Bodies of Sport to be developed – i.e. facilities to have an element of performance sport linked to governing body ‘whole sport’ plans
- Council facilities or projects supported by the Council should establish ‘sinking funds’ within their Annual Income and Expenditure Accounts so that a capital replacement fund is available to ensure the sustainability of the facility.

Strategy Scope and Structure

4.10 The following table identifies the scope of facilities which would be covered by the Strategy.

Indoor Sports Facilities	Outdoor Sports Facilities (not pitches)	Other
Sports halls (minimum 4 badminton courts)	Multi-use games areas	Off road / cycle / access routes
Swimming pools	Youth / extreme sports	Allotments
Indoor bowls	Specialist club facilities	Play equipment
Multi-use areas (within community facilities)		Formal Parks

4.11 The Strategy will be structured as follows:

Where are we now? (Baseline Information)

- 1) Analysis of current provision including:
 - Primary centres: Etwall & Greenbank
 - Secondary centres: Melbourne & Hilton
 - Village Halls/Community Centres
 - Schools (Secondary/Primary/Private)
 - Private facilities (e.g. gym/health clubs)
- 2) Condition of provision
- 3) Restrictions to use (e.g. club use/access)
- 4) Barriers to use (e.g. cost/availability/condition)

- 5) Current user profile of facilities
- 6) Profile of management of facilities
- 7) Collation of existing site-based consultation/information/feasibility work
- 8) Facility Planning Modelling information
- 9) Conclusions (Map and Gap analysis etc)

Where do we want to get to? (Vision)

- 1) Options Appraisal for future of Greenbank (using the principal that it is the central venue in the Urban Core)
- 2) Location of centres of performance and/or excellence
- 3) Hierarchy of built facilities – where and why
- 4) Zoning and principles of catchment areas
- 5) Growth of population – linked to Local Development Framework
- 6) Type of provision and sports catered for – user needs & aspirations, linked to Active People information

How will we get there? (Action planning)

- 1) Action Plan with realistic objectives
- 2) Site-specific development plans
- 3) Investment plans – linked to LDF/s106, National Governing Bodies, Sport England

4.12 It is intended to develop facility development plans for key locations in the District. The sites chosen for such plans will be those which offer significant potential for multi sport development, have strategic importance as sports/recreation sites, involve partners and have the potential to meet several of the principles identified previously.

Site Development Plan Complete or in Production:

Green Bank Leisure Centre
 Etwell Leisure Centre / John Port School
 Melbourne Sporting Partnership (Cockshut Lane)
 Melbourne Assembly Rooms
 Gresley Old Hall
 Eureka Park

Planned or intended:

Rosliston Forestry Centre
 Granville Sports College
 Pingle School
 William Allitt School
 Swadlincote Woodlands (including Woodhouse Skateboard Park)
 Chestnut Avenue, Midway
 Newhall Park

Other sites owned by Parish Councils will be considered as part of a wider consultation exercise.

Project Updates

4.13 **Etwall Leisure Centre** – there are a number of elements included within this overall project. The most significant is the provision of a full size floodlit Artificial Grass Pitch on the school playing field. This element of the project has been prioritised by Derbyshire FA and an invitation made to apply for a Football Foundation grant of over £250k. Further elements of the project include: fitness suite extension, tennis / netball court refurbishment, dance studio provision and exercise area development in the existing foyer. The total cost of these elements will be in excess £1.1 million and funding applications for over £500k will be made.

4.14 **Green Bank Leisure Centre** – this facility requires a combination of works to protect its operation for the next 10 years and improve the customer experience for existing and future visitors. The swimming pool hall, foyer, dryside changing, and toilets will have a facelift, the bar area and health suite will be redeveloped into fitness studio space and some minor improvements will be made to the Grove Hall. This project will cost £500k of which it is hoped to attract £150k of Sport England Inspired Facilities funding.

Active Nation has committed £155k to the above projects.

4.15 **Melbourne Sporting Partnership, Cockshut Lane** – planning permission for the multi sports club facility has been granted and Sport England have awarded a £50k Protecting Playing Fields grant towards pitch improvement works. Bids for further funds are being made. The conditions of the Sport England grant also require the landowner to consider dedicating the site as a Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field (see below).

4.16 **Melbourne Leisure Centre** – now named Melbourne Assembly rooms, it will be leased to the Melbourne Community Centre group in the near future who are developing plans to enhance the centre. A Development Manager has been appointed.

4.17 **Rosliston Forestry Centre** – works are currently being undertaken to provide further off road cycle paths and the soft play room has been refurbished and enhanced to provide better facilities for disabled young children. These works have been funded with a grant from the Derbyshire County Councils 'Aiming High' scheme. Plans are currently being agreed for the provision of a toilet block at the Glade performance area. The total investment for all these works will be £130k of which £80k will be external funding.

4.18 **Eureka Park** – the Heritage Lottery Fund has invited the authority to submit a Stage 2 application which is currently being worked up to be submitted in August 2012. The project will refurbish the Park reinstating the areas of particular value in a similar way to the successful Maurice Lea Memorial Park refurbishment completed several years ago. Consultation events will be held in the spring/summer, and the total project value will be approx £500k.

4.19 **Gresley Old Hall** – officers have been working with the trustees of the Old Hall to agree on the works which will be funded from a S106 agreement linked to nearby housing developments. The project will result in improved playing pitches and changing accommodation, refurbishment of the outdoor bowls green, car park and landscaping works. Planning permission has been granted for the site and it is planned to relocate the Maurice Lea Memorial Park Bowls Pavilion onto the site this

Summer. The project should also result in the provision of a Multi Use Games Area on the Castleton Park housing development for community use. It is intended that further funding applications to the Protecting Playing Fields Scheme will be made.

Consultation

- 4.20 The consultation process for this strategy will be comprehensive and exhaustive. Elected members and Parish Councils will be consulted on their priorities for principal leisure, sport and recreational facilities.
- 4.21 Specific meetings will be held with partners for the development of the site plans, e.g. secondary schools, Active Nation, Forestry Commission, clubs, friends of groups, users, governing bodies of sport. These specific plans will be developed over a longer period with sites that could acquire external funding in the medium term being a priority for completion.
- 4.22 The Strategy, once completed, will be communicated back to the Sports Clubs, National Governing Bodies and the wider public. It will be a public document, which will outline the Council's vision for built sports facility provision, and will be a supplementary planning document in the Local Development Framework.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge:

- 4.23 It is proposed that the land owned by The Council at Newhall Park and Cockshut Lane is submitted to the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. This is billed at the 21st Century version of the King George V Playing Fields initiative, and aims to dedicate 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces for sport, play and recreation across the Country by 2012 in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. *See Annexe A for more information.*
- 4.24 The scheme is promoted by Fields in Trust (formerly National Playing Fields Association) and is designed to protect and improve outdoor recreational space in perpetuity. Dedicating land to the scheme opens up opportunities for funding and will deliver increased participation in volunteering and outdoor activities.
- 4.25 Fields in Trust, in partnership with Rural Action Derbyshire, has been working with the District and Parish Councils to promote the scheme to other landowners, and is encouraging the dedication of local sites through a public vote.
- 4.26 The landowners must sign up to a deed of dedication which protects the land from loss by development or sale.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The resources required for delivering the capital elements of the action plan will be sought largely through external grant funding along with recent capital allocations made by the Council. Opportunities exist within current and future Planning obligations to secure funding for capital investment, either through Section 106 contributions, on-site provision or the proposed Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 5.2 Additionally, the principle to improve working relationships with clubs and schools could have a positive impact on revenue costs, with a sharing of resources and responsibilities.

- 5.3 The completed Strategy will offer an opportunity to review and revise current maintenance and management obligations which could lead to efficiency savings in terms of actual management costs and resources.
- 5.4 With regard to existing Council facilities dilapidation surveys have or are being commissioned to provide a programme for future expenditure required to ensure the continued operation of those facilities. Work to date highlights that significant investment will be required to maintain the infrastructure of Green Bank Leisure centre.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The intended Strategy and the current projects deliver against the following Corporate Plan Themes:

Sustainable Growth and Opportunity – this Strategy will help set a clear direction for the vision of the District in terms of the provision of outdoor sport and recreation facilities and will ensure that future provision meets current and future need. This is a key requirement in planning for Sustainable Development and the Strategy will be one of the key evidence bases in the preparation of the Core Strategy in the Local Development Framework.

Lifestyle Choices – the Strategy and currently being developed projects will help deliver the outcome of providing improved leisure facilities and leisure opportunities for the community, and will contribute to the objective of promoting healthy facilities & lifestyles.

Value for Money – opportunities highlighted in the report for asset transfer and management of facilities, together with a review of accessible sites and service delivery will ensure the Council is offering best value for money and increasing efficiencies.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The proposed Strategy and projects contribute to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy by delivering against the following themes:

Healthier Communities – the delivery of the Strategy will increase participation in active sport and recreation, and will contribute to a healthier and active lifestyle across all communities.

Vibrant Communities –working closely with sports clubs to improve their facilities will lead to increased membership of clubs and ultimately provide more opportunities in community and voluntary action.

Sustainable Development – effectively planning for future growth, tested against a robust evidence base, will ensure successful existing and new communities which meet the population's needs and aspirations.

Children & Young People – by providing improved access to better quality facilities which meet the needs of the District, the delivery of the Strategy will improve the aspirations of children in South Derbyshire and help to create opportunities where all children and young people can achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The framework and subsequent strategy will help achieve the aim of all residents to have access to good quality sports facilities across South Derbyshire, to meet the current need and future demands of residents of the District, and the aspirations of local clubs.