

**Wards Affected:**

*All Wards.*

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor L Gifford, (Cabinet Member for Community Services)

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**Executive Summary:**

This report proposes the adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), as an action from the adopted Sport and Active Communities Strategy (S&ACS) adopted in March 2014.

On 12 August 2014 a delegated decision approval was given to go out to full 12 week consultation.

Comments received back during the consultation period have been incorporated into the new strategy document at Annex A. These comments whilst confirming some of the priorities and highlighting any omissions did not change the overall findings of the original draft report.

**1. Recommendation(s)**

1.1 That the Playing Pitch Strategy be adopted in line with the overall Sport and Active Communities Strategy.

**2. Issues**

2.1 When the Sport and Active Communities (S&AC) Strategy was updated, Sport England (SE) were finalising a new guidance for playing pitch research. To ensure that the Playing Pitch section of the strategy was up to date and fit for purpose, it was agreed to wait until the SE methodology was ready. A full assessment of each playing field within MK was then undertaken in line with the new SE guidance.

2.2 Officers engaged with all the relevant governing bodies for football, rugby and cricket in the form of a steering group who met and agreed the consultation requirements and who also consulted with their own clubs and members. Sport England was also represented on this steering group and has been engaged fully in the whole process.

2.3 Other consultations were undertaken with meetings with Parish Councils, sports groups and clubs as well as an on-line survey.

- 2.4 Following the delegated decision in August 2014 on the draft strategic report, a full 12 week consultation was undertaken. This was circulated to all clubs, governing bodies, all Ward Councillors and Parish Councils and the Parks Trust.
- 2.5 Comments received have been incorporated into the strategy and changes made where appropriate. Consultation comments are at Annex B.
- 2.6 The final consultation did not change the overall findings of the draft strategy and the issues and challenges remain as: the quality of existing sites, how to improve their attractiveness and usefulness to sport and the requirements for the expansion of Milton Keynes. Priorities for investment have been identified for an initial period of 5 years with some longer term proposals. These priorities will form part of the action plan for the main S&AC Strategy and the Local Investment Plan and for the new emerging Plan:MK.

### 3. **Options**

#### 3.1 Option 1

To adopt this report as the new Playing Pitch Strategy for Milton Keynes. This will ensure that Milton Keynes has an up to date and relevant strategy for its playing fields and for sport. It gives clear priorities and aims for the future.

#### 3.2 Do nothing

The report is not adopted and Milton Keynes does not have an up to date and relevant strategy for playing fields.

### 4. **Implications**

#### 4.1 Policy

This new strategy will contribute to the Councils Corporate Priorities by: enabling MK to deliver projects that establish Milton Keynes as a premier sporting city; raise participation and opportunities to take part in sport, leisure and cultural activity and volunteering; improve the health and wellbeing of all MK citizens and communities.

#### 4.2 Resources and Risk

There are no financial implications to the council arising from this strategy. Projects identified are already within the Community Facilities service area Capital Programme. MKC are leading on the delivery of this strategy but the onus is not on the council to deliver all the actions and priorities arising from the document. The strategy gives support to clubs, groups and operators to lever in funding for their respective projects.

The previous Sport & Leisure Strategy (including Playing Fields) levered in over £39m of funding enabling the development of 5 new playing fields and associated facilities and investment into 5 existing playing fields.

Any works related to facilities within MKC ownership are identified within the Community Facilities service area Asset Management Plan. The strategy did not identify any unknown issues that relate to facilities within MKC ownership.

Y	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	Y	Medium Term Plan	Y	Asset Management

#### 4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

*None.*

#### 4.4 Legal

A full 12 week formal consultation was carried out on this strategy and responses noted and incorporated.

#### 4.5 Other Implications

*None*

N	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

#### Annexes

Playing Pitch Strategy – Final Report (Annex A)

Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation Comments December 2014 (Annex B)

The Annexes can be viewed at the following link:

<http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4956/Committee/949/Default.aspx>

#### Background Papers:

Draft Playing Pitch Strategy Delegated Decision 12 August 2014

*Link to the Sport and Active Communities Strategy 2014 documents*

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/sport-and-active-communities-strategies>