

Report of	Meeting	Date
Deputy Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Member Economic Development and Public Service Reform)	Executive Cabinet	21 Jan 2021

## **CHORLEY OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2020-2036**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To grant approval to consult on the draft Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy (OSSR) Action Plan and where there are no significant amendments or additions, to grant adoption of the plan through Executive Member decision.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. To grant approval to consult on the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy Action Plan at Appendix 1.
3. To delegate to the Executive Member for Economic Development and Public Service Reform formal adoption of the final version of the action plan subject to no significant alternations being made.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT**

4. In order to support the preparation of the new Central Lancashire Local Plan, consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd were commissioned by the three councils of Preston, South Ribble and Chorley to produce evidence detailing the need for open space, sports and recreation provision. The evidence is used to inform future investment decisions including where developer contributions are required and how they should be used to meet future demand in the Borough through to 2036.
5. A suite of evidence documents was produced by the consultants at both District and Central Lancashire level. The consultants worked with many stakeholders including sports clubs, teams, parish councils, ward members, national governing bodies, and organisations to produce robust, accurate data. These extensive evidence documents have been distilled into a concise Chorley Action Plan. This action plan focuses on our priorities and informs future investment. It is split into three sections spanning the years 2020 – 2036.
6. It is proposed to reconsult with key stakeholders, sports club, teams, members, landowners, and parish councils who are referenced in the action plan to ensure that all projects and ambitions are captured. Open Space, Sports and Recreational assets in the Borough are highly valued and have been very well used, more so than ever during the COVID pandemic of 2020. A reassessment of the action plan will allow any changes to open space, timescales, financial implications or new projects to be captured.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	<b>Yes</b>	No
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<b>Reason</b> Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	<b>4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards</b>

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

### (If the recommendations are accepted)

7. Consultation of the document will ensure that the action plan is robust and has the longevity needed to support the forthcoming Local Plan.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8. To not refresh the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy, which was rejected on the basis that it would not enable a plan-led approach to improving open spaces and would not support the Local Plan process.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

9. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

## BACKGROUND

10. In order to support the preparation of the new Central Lancashire Local Plan, consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd were commissioned by the three councils of Preston, South Ribble and Chorley to produce evidence detailing the need for open space, sports and recreation provision. The evidence is used to inform future investment decisions including where developer contributions are required and how they should be used to meet future demand.
11. The suite of evidence the consultants produced include:
- (District level) Open Space Study
  - (District level) Open Space Study Standards Paper
  - Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report
  - Central Lancashire Open Space Assessment Report
12. As evidence documents, these are not routinely publicly consulted, however the consultants worked closely with a very wide variety of stakeholders across the three districts including sports clubs, national governing bodies, sports teams, residents, schools, parish councils and elected Members in order to produce robust, accurate data.

13. The evidence documents serve a number of functions not least to inform future investment and the calculation of developer contributions required for open space, play and sports when planning applications are being determined and section 106 agreements negotiated.
14. It is important to note that the OSSR strategy evidence includes all provision across all sectors, public, private and charitable/voluntary.

### **Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report**

15. The PPS provides a strategic framework which ensure that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet local and community needs of existing and future residents and visitors. It is produced in accordance with national planning guidance and presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a PPS.
16. In summary, the assessment includes an audit of playing pitches (football, artificial grass pitches, hockey, cricket, bowls, cycling, golf, tennis, athletics, rugby union, rugby league) explores demand and produces a series of recommendations for future actions and investment.

### **Open Space Assessment Report**

17. The open space assessment sets out the detailed findings of the existing open space provision which exists in the area, its condition, distribution, and overall quality.
18. The typologies included within the open space evidence include
  - Parks and gardens
  - Natural and semi natural greenspaces
  - Provision for children and young people
  - Allotments
  - Cemeteries and Churchyards
  - Green Corridors
  - Civic Space

### **Open Space Study Standards Paper**

19. The Open Space Standards Paper follows on from the Open Space Assessment Report which together form the evidence to help inform the future provision for open space in Chorley. Each known space is identified and mapped, classified based on its primary purpose so it is only counted once.
20. Sites have been scored for value and quality and the report sets out deficits/surplus for each typology and also provides the policy framework for calculating the appropriate on/off site contribution when seeking developer contributions. This ensures that any contributions sought and secured are robustly defensible and will contribute to meeting an identified local need.

### **Central Lancashire Strategy and Action plan**

21. The strategy brings together all components of the evidence and provides strategic vision, objectives and a prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.
22. The strategy action plan provided by KKP is on a Central Lancashire footprint and includes actions across all sectors many of which are simply for ongoing maintenance, therefore do not require capital investment. Further, many of the schemes are on sites which are not owned by Chorley Council and propose actions which do not involve the council.

## **Producing a Local Open Space Sport Recreation (OSSR) Strategy Action Plan**

23. The evidence documents by KKP have been distilled into a succinct, accessible strategy action plan for Chorley which will contribute to the development of an Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) for plan-making purposes, and inform future pooling of section 106 contributions, as well as supporting external funding bids. The action plan comprises a priority list of actions based on local priorities as is attached at Appendix 1. Schemes identified as high and medium priority by KKP are listed in the action plan which include some projects which are complicated to enable/deliver and schemes on non-council owned assets. Low priority actions (many of which refer simply to 'ongoing maintenance') have been excluded for now and will be reviewed through an annual review of delivery and refresh of the programme.
24. The proposed consultation ensures that everyone with sites or projects identified in the action plan are aware of the timescales and project delivery detail to co-ordinate delivery.
25. The OSSR Strategy action plan forecasts the necessary funding required to deliver the schemes proposed to address the quality/deficit issue to feed into future budget planning. These are often high-level estimates which can change once more detailed work is undertaken and issue like site constraints, ground conditions are investigated.

### **Action Plan delivery and funding sources**

26. Delivery of many of these schemes is reliant on the availability of capital funding which generally comes from external sources such as developer contributions (section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which are proposed to become the Infrastructure Levy (IL) with rates set by the Government linked to the financial value of the development, subject to the proposals in the Planning For the Future White Paper. Where schemes cannot be delivered solely through developer contributions they can be brought forward using additional external and capital funding where possible.
27. S106 developer contributions can take years to be secured which needs to be considered when planning action plan delivery. Planning for future need including securing brand-new provision as part of plan-making can be very costly unless secured on large mixed-use sites and even then, can be resource intensive to deliver for example AGP pitches. Action Plan delivery will be through a partnership approach where possible to bring forward skill sets and scheme success.
28. The OSSR action plan also includes schemes from the previous action plan 2013 – 2019 which are still in train or require further funding to commence.
29. It is important to note that the OSSR Action Plan includes some projects that have not originated from the evidence suite produced by KKP. For example, neighbourhood priority projects, adoptions arising from new development and other corporate priority projects that have come forward since the documents were finalised in 2019.

### **How the programme will be Monitored**

30. All S106 contributions and other funding sources are tracked through Exacom. Each project from the action plan is inputted into the software and monitored in relation to pooling the required finance, confirming that enough money is in place to progress the project and also tracking when the project is carried out and what is spent. This allows reports to easily be run for transparency purposes.

### **Local Plan**

31. The OSSR action plan document engages with the Local Plan team and 'home team' and will continue to do so as the emerging Local Plan progresses. It is essential that this document is a living resource that can be updated to reflect changing policies, legislation and government

guidance. This document will be reviewed periodically. For example the White Paper and housing standards will determine the future growth of the Borough which will impact on the quantity of allotments, cemeteries, artificial grass pitches (AGPs), grass pitches and play areas that are required to support the growing population.

32. The Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy action plan will continue to be reviewed as the Local Plan work continues, including at key stages such as land allocation and relevant policy development.

**Consultation**

33. It is proposed to consult the draft OSSR action plan over a four week period in February 2021 with the following stakeholders; sports clubs, national governing bodies, sports teams, parish councils, housing associations, landowners and members who have an interest or own the sites listed in the action plan. All comments will be fed into the final version of the action plan which is proposed to be delegated to the relevant Executive Member for adoption subject to no fundamental amendments/additions needing to be made.
34. Upon completion of the consultation and approval to adopt the strategy action plan, it will be published on the Council website. The action plan will be used to inform the work programme within the Open Space Strategy Team and timescales for delivery.
35. The timescale for the strategy action plan reflects the (current proposed) dates for the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan which presently is a fifteen-year period however it will be subject to regular review and can be refreshed periodically as and when required.

**IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT**

36. The OSSR does carry some risk owing to delivery being linked to planning permissions, developer contributions, external funding, and capital investment. It is also guided by policies, legislation and government guidance which change over time. The strategy is written over the Local Plan period and includes short, medium and long-term ambitions in order to guide expectations and allows for annual reviews.
37. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors’ comments are included:

Finance	*	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	*	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

**COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

38. Schemes will be monitored on an individual basis alongside the relevant source of financial contribution. These will be reported within the financial monitoring reports.

**COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

39. The proposed delegation is appropriate for this decision.

CHRIS SINNOTT  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### Background Papers

Document	Date	File
Draft Chorley OSSR Action Plan 2020-2036		
Central Lancashire Open Space Assessment.		Central Lancashire Open Space Assessment. This can be found <a href="#">here</a>
Chorley Council Open Space Study Standards Paper.	Dec 2020	Chorley Council Open Space Study Standards Paper. This be found <a href="#">here</a>
Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report.	Nov 2019	Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report. This can be found <a href="#">here</a>
Central Lancashire Strategy and Action Plan.		Central Lancashire Strategy and Action Plan. This can be found <a href="#">here</a>

Report Author	Ext	Date
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