

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director Planning and Development (Introduced by the Executive Member (Planning and Development))	Executive Member Decision	26 August 21

Adoption of Chorley Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020 - 2036

Purpose of report

- To approve the Chorley Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020 - 2036

Recommendation(s)

- To adopt the Chorley Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020 - 2036

Executive summary of report

- A report taken to Exec Cabinet on the 21 January granted 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.
- Consultation on the Chorley Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020-2036 took place over 6 weeks from Monday 15th February 2021 to Monday 29th March 2021.
- Consultees included all Parish Councils, sports clubs, organisations and companies who have a site identified for enhancement in the action plan. All comments have been considered and the action plan amended accordingly. The table in Appendix 1 summarises the consultee comments and how this has influenced the action plan. Consequently, no significant changes have been made to the Action Plan which can be found at Appendix 2.
- Subject to sign off, the plan will be adopted and published on the Councils website. The action plan delivery will be monitored and reported on annually and regular reviews made of the content to keep it relevant over the Local Plan period.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reasons for recommendation(s)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- No significant changes have been identified through the consultation to alter the general aims of the Action Plan. This ensures 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 improve 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. 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 spans the years 2020 – 2036. See Appendix 2.
13. It was 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 2020/21. A reassessment of the action plan has allowed any changes to open space, timescales, financial implications or new projects to be captured. All comments have been considered and the action plan amended accordingly. The table in Appendix 1 summarises the consultee comments and how this has influenced the action plan.
14. The evidence documents and subsequently the Chorley Action Plan 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.
15. It is important to note that the OSSR strategy evidence includes all provision across all sectors, public, private and charitable/voluntary.

Action Plan Delivery

16. The Chorley Action Plan 2020-2036 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 2. 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.

17. It must be noted that the Action Plan review and refresh is critical to the success of improving the open spaces and recreation assets in Chorley. Sites which are heavily used and popular can quickly deteriorate and forward planning the enhancements and need for investment is essential.
18. Chorley Council are working with everyone with sites or projects identified in the action plan to co-ordinate delivery through the plan period.
19. 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.

Funding Sources

20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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, sites who's quality score has fallen, 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

23. 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

24. 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.
25. 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.

Implications of report

Risk

26. 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
27. 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

28. Schemes within the plan will be monitored within the Revenue and Budget monitoring process. Where applicable external funding will be applied.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

Use of section 106 monies must be in accordance with the purposes set out in the relevant section 106 agreement.

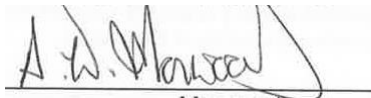
Jonathan Noad
Director of Planning and Development

Background Papers		
Document	Date	File
Summary of the Consultation. Appendix 1	2019	Central Lancashire Open Space Assessment. This can be found here
Chorley OSSR Action Plan 2020-2036. Appendix 2		
Central Lancashire Open Space Assessment.		

<p>Chorley Council Open Space Study Standards Paper.</p> <p>Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report.</p> <p>Central Lancashire Strategy and Action Plan.</p>		<p>Chorley Council Open Space Study Standards Paper. This be found here</p> <p>Central Lancashire Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report. This can be found here</p> <p>Central Lancashire Strategy and Action Plan. This can be found here</p>
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Report Author	Ext	Date
Lindsey Blackstock	5218	21/06/21

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Dated 24/08/2021

Councillor Alistair Morwood
Executive Member (Planning and Development)