



Report of	Meeting	Date
Joint LDF Officer Team	Central Lancashire LDF Joint Advisory Committee	23 June 2010

## **OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION REVIEW**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To advise members of the Joint Advisory Committee on work undertaken to provide consistent standards across Central Lancashire relating to open space and related provision.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. Members are recommended to note the report

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT**

3. As the Central Lancashire authorities move forward in preparing Local Development Framework documents, there is a need to ensure a strategic and consistent assessment of Open Space, Sport and Recreation provision. Previous studies that have already been undertaken follow slightly different approaches, delivering different outcomes and recommendations. Consultants PMPgenesis, who have expertise in this area of activity, have, therefore, been commissioned to carry out a review of existing provision and make recommendations on how standards can be applied consistently across the authorities.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**(If the recommendations are accepted)**

4. To ensure members are aware of these matters

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

5. None

## BACKGROUND

6. Local Planning Authorities are required under Planning Policy Guidance Note 17, Sport and Recreation, published in 2002 to undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreation facilities. Such assessments should include qualitative, quantitative and accessibility elements. Authorities are also required to set appropriate standards for each type of recognised open space within identified travel distance of residential areas in particular.
7. Broadly, the Central Lancashire authorities have complied with the requirement of PPG17. Assessments have been carried out on all three district councils over the last four years. The assessments have, however, been carried out by different consultants using slightly different methodologies. The result is that standards do vary slightly within Central Lancashire between the three local authority areas. Whilst this is not a strategic issue, variations in standards do have the potential to cause confusion as the three authorities move towards collaborative working on more specific site allocations planning documents, which will have to be in conformity with the joint Core Strategy. In practice it is also apparent that the methodologies used in these studies are very complex and applying them has been difficult for developers, and in some instances planning inspectors, to understand. This is a particularly important issue at a local level as provision of adequate open space and other recreation facilities, and this maintenance is frequently an issue considered as part of any planning obligations (S106 developer contributions) negotiated in connection with development, particularly of new housing.
8. Consultants PMPgenesis have therefore been commissioned to carry out a review of the standards as they exist at present and to recommend consistent standards that can be applied across the three authorities.
9. The review uses the existing studies complemented by any more up date audits of provision and assessments of needs. It has four main aims;
  - Carry out a comprehensive review of the current and future needs and opportunities for different types of open space, recreational and sporting facilities;
  - Protect existing facilities from the loss to other forms of development unless it can be shown that they are genuinely surplus to requirements;
  - Produce pro-active strategies for the development and enhancement of new facilities.
  - Establish appropriate local standards and develop appropriate joint strategy and policies for inclusion in the LDF. This will include establishing an effective strategy for the delivery of accessible, high quality green spaces, civic spaces and sport and recreation facilities to meet the needs of local residents, workers and visitors to Central Lancashire area.
10. The main objectives of the review are to:
  - Identify Central Lancashire's local needs
  - Summarise Central Lancashire's existing local provision
  - Set provision standards
  - Apply the provision standards

- Identify strategic options and policies

11. The review covers all forms of open space, recreational and sporting facilities that are referred to in PPG17 including the following forms of open space;

- Parks and gardens;
- Natural and semi natural greenspaces;
- Green Corridors;
- Outdoor sporting facilities – including pitch sports, tennis, bowls and countryside sports;
- Amenity Greenspace;
- Provision for children and young people, such as equipped play areas and skateboard areas;
- Allotments, and community gardens;
- Cemeteries;
- Civic areas which are designed specifically for pedestrians.

It also covers all forms of formal sporting and recreational facility (both indoor and outdoor) and all types of provision, whether or not it is available for use by the general public, or by private clubs/organisations.

12. The required outcomes of the Study are to:

- Carry out a comprehensive review of the existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Studies for the provision of different types of greenspace, sporting and recreational facilities in terms of quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community;
- Identify local needs and recommend standards of provision for all types of green space, sporting and recreational facilities (including indoor and outdoor facilities - both public and private) in accordance with PPG17;
- Assess the effectiveness of existing policies on open space and recreation contained in the adopted Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance within each district.
- Identify shortfalls of either open space or specific facilities within the Central Lancashire area and suggest where and how these may be delivered to address the deficit, with costings.
- Identify redundant areas of open space and utilisation of the disposal proceeds to invest in other areas in need of improvement.
- Develop a strategic approach to the delivery of new open spaces and protection of existing, including suggested policies, for inclusion in the emerging Local

Development Framework, including identification of key sites and facilities for protection.

- Develop new local standards based on the provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities within the Central Lancashire Region in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility of facilities for inclusion in the LDF as required by PPG17.
- Identify external sources of funding, the Councils could realistically utilise in conjunction with developer contributions to maximise any identified works.

13. The consultants have to date reviewed the existing studies and local needs assessments and have produced standards for each of the kinds of provision identified above. The standards set out the quantity of each kind of provision, taking into account the quantity and quality of existing provision that will be required within specified distances of any potential development in accordance with national guidance. The consultants are now mapping that provision to identify gaps and where further provision will be required in connection with new development. This will in due course advise site allocations as these documents are brought forward.

There are no background papers to this report.

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