

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of People and Places (Introduced by the Executive Member for People)	Executive Cabinet	24 October 2013

CONSULTATION – DRAFT PLAY, OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide an update on the draft Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy and to seek approval for the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the draft Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy is noted and approval is given for consultation as detailed in the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The report provides an update on the emerging Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy that will provide a 5 year action plan to protect, manage, enhance and secure sites and identifies deficiencies and future priorities.
- An outline of the proposed consultation process is also provided to be undertaken over a ten week period from 11th November until 17th January 2014.
- Consultation drop-in sessions will be undertaken for each of the eight neighbourhood areas with the relevant elected Members and Parish / Town Councils. Other key stakeholders and groups will also be consulted as detailed in the report.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason 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	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

6. To seek approval for consultation on the draft Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

7. Not to seek approval for consultation on the draft Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8. 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 communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	✓

BACKGROUND

9. The draft Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy builds upon the Opens Spaces Study undertaken in 2011-12. The Executive Summary provides an overview of the strategy together with a 5 year action plan (see Appendix 1). Three further background documents providing detailed supporting evidence have been produced and can be accessed via the following links:
- [Open Spaces Strategy:
http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s39697/Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%20Background%20Information.pdf](http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s39697/Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%20Background%20Information.pdf)
 - [Play Area Improvement Strategy:
http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s39698/Play%20Area%20Improvement%20Strategy%20Background%20Information.pdf](http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s39698/Play%20Area%20Improvement%20Strategy%20Background%20Information.pdf)
 - [Playing Pitch Strategy:
http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s39699/Playing%20Pitch%20Strategy%20Background%20Information.pdf](http://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s39699/Playing%20Pitch%20Strategy%20Background%20Information.pdf)
10. The vision for the draft strategy is *'to secure the future provision, improvement and maintenance of play areas, open space and playing pitches in Chorley, supporting safe, healthy and sustainable communities and serving the needs and aspirations of the residents of Chorley. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to access good sport, physical activity and recreation facilities promoting their usage and improving the health and wellbeing of all'*.
11. The draft strategy covers three key areas:
1. **Open spaces** – amenity / natural and semi-natural greenspace, provision for children and young people, parks & gardens, allotment, green corridors, cemeteries, churchyards & civic spaces.
 2. **Playing pitches** - football, cricket, rugby, hockey & bowling greens.
 3. **Play areas** – 81 sites (40 Council owned).
12. An integrated impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached in Appendix 2.

13. The draft strategy is also currently being examined by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task Group to ensure that the health and well-being benefits are being maximised. This work includes checking the list of sites which have been sent out to all Councillors and Parish Councils for comment and feedback.
14. The Task Group is also assessing the effectiveness of the integrated impact assessment by looking at four cases studies.
15. The recommendations made by the Task Group will be considered during the consultation period and incorporated into the final document.

CONSULTATION

16. To ensure that the draft strategy is available for comment and input from a wide range stakeholders it is proposed that consultation is undertaken over a 10 week period from 11th November 2013 until 17th January 2014.
17. For elected Members and Parish / Town Councils, drop in sessions will be arranged in the eight neighbourhood areas to clarify information and capture feedback relevant to these specific areas.
18. The following groups and organisations will also be consulted:
 - Local sports clubs.
 - Local community organisations
 - Friends groups
 - Schools
 - Chorley Natural History Society
 - Chorley Allotments Society
 - RSL's (Registered social landlords)
 - Natural England
 - Environment Agency
 - Lancashire County Council
19. Following consultation the draft strategy report will be revised and brought back to Executive Cabinet for final approval.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

20. 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?	Y
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	✓

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

21. Some of the proposals set out in the strategy will be subject to further funding and will require appropriate elected Member approval.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

22. No further comments to add.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

23. The strategy should not pose any issues for the Council in meeting the objectives of its equality scheme and statutory responsibilities.

JAMIE CARSON
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE & PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Dixon	5250	07-10-2014	EC 24-10-2013 Consultation Draft Play, Open Space & Playing Pitch Strategy