

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Public Protection, Streetscene and Community (Introduced by the Member for Community Services)	Executive Cabinet	28 August 2014

PLAY, OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek approval for the Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy following consultation.
- To incorporate the list of actions, detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, in response to the consultation received.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy is approved.
- That the list of actions in response to the consultation are approved and incorporated into the final Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy will provide a 5 year action plan to protect, manage, enhance and secure sites and identifies deficiencies and future priorities.
- Consultation took place with a wide range of stakeholders from from 11th November 2013 until 14th February 2014. A total of 45 responses were received from a range of stakeholders including the Football Association, Chorley Allotments Society, Sports Clubs, schools as well as local ward and parish Councillors and residents.
- Appendix 2 details all of the responses together with proposed actions, that following approval will be incorporated into the final the Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy.

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
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	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
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

8. To seek approval of the Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy following consultation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. 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

11. The Play, Open Space and Playing Pitch Strategy builds upon the Open 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:](https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s46228/OpenSpacesStrategyFINAL.pdf)
<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s46228/OpenSpacesStrategyFINAL.pdf>
- [Play Area Improvement Strategy:](https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s46227/PlayAreaImprovementStrategyFINAL.pdf)
<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s46227/PlayAreaImprovementStrategyFINAL.pdf>
- [Playing Pitch Strategy:](https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s46231/PlayingPitchStrategyFINAL.pdf)
<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s46231/PlayingPitchStrategyFINAL.pdf>

12. 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.'*

13. 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).

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK GROUP

14. The draft strategy was the subject of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task Group that examined the effectiveness of the Councils Integrated Impact Assessment in relation to maximising the health and well-being benefits. This work included checking the list of sites which have been sent out to all Councillors and Parish Councils for comment and feedback. The Task Group assessed the effectiveness of the integrated impact assessment by looking at four case studies in detail. These included:
 - Southland High School: Playing Pitches – Chorley Town West
 - Canal Walk: Play Area – Chorley Town East
 - Greenside: Playing Pitches – Euxton, Astley and Buckshaw
 - Coronation Recreational Ground: Multi-use facility – Chorley Town West
15. A number of recommendations were made regarding the IAA and some specific recommendations regarding the strategy itself as follows:
 - That partnership working be fully explored at every stage to ensure greater collaboration and engagement and build on existing experience.
 - Following the end of the consultation the Health Impact Section of the Councils Integrated Impact Assessment be applied to the draft Play, Open Spaces and Playing Pitch Strategy 2013 – 2018 and that potential impacts are clearly identified within the final report to Executive Cabinet.
16. An even greater focus on partnership working will now be added to the action plan so that opportunities for partnership working are maximised through the implementation of the action plan.
17. An updated IIA has now been produced and this is attached in Appendix 3. As well as applying the IAA to the overall strategy it also needs to be applied at a more detailed level e.g. individual play and open space schemes. Therefore, individual IIA's will be applied to each of the actions within the strategy (where relevant) prior to implementation. This will ensure that all of the actions have a clear focus on maximising health and well-being outcomes.

CONSULTATION

18. To ensure that the draft strategy was available for comment and input from a wide range of stakeholders, the consultation was undertaken 11th November 2013 until 14th February 2014.
19. For elected Members and Parish / Town Councils, drop in sessions were arranged for the eight neighbourhood areas to clarify information and capture feedback relevant to these specific areas.
20. The following groups and organisations were also consulted:
 - Local sports clubs.
 - Local community organisations
 - Friends groups
 - Schools
 - Chorley Natural History Society

- Chorley Allotments Society
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Lancashire County Council

21. A total of 45 responses were received from the a range of stakeholders including the Football Association, Chorley Allotments Society, Sports Clubs, schools as well as local ward and parish Councillors and residents. Appendix 2 details all of the consultation feedback together with proposed actions to be incorporated into the final document.

NEXT STEPS

22. Following approval of the proposed actions in response to the consultation the strategy will be revised and formally adopted. The strategy will be implemented from 2014-19 and therefore the year 1 – 5 actions will be re-phased so that year 1 will commence starting 2014-15. The action plan is subject to funding being available and further consultation / planning permission (as required) and this will influence timescales and delivery of the action plan. Therefore, some actions may need to be revised and reprogrammed accordingly.
23. A budget of £50K has been included in the capital programme to fund year one actions within the strategy. This will be allocated to the play area schemes listed within the action plan. Developer contributions and Council funding for year 2-5 actions need to be considered further. Council funding required in future years will be put forward as budget growth items in the Council's capital programme.
24. The strategy provides a framework to inform future investment and development of open space across Chorley. However, should there be a separate business case for an individual scheme not currently identified within the strategy; the council will retain the flexibility to consider such schemes on a case by case basis.

UPDATE ON CURRENT SCHEMES

25. Running parallel to the emerging strategy, a number of play and open space schemes are currently being delivered and a summary of these schemes is provided below:

- **Astley Park Play Area**

A new destination play area, themed as an old castle ruin, is proposed adjacent to the existing play area and subject to planning permission is due to open April 2015.

- **Rangletts Recreation Ground**

Planning permission for new allotments / footpaths / lighting has been approved and this work is currently being tendered and is scheduled for completion for April 2015.

A new Muga and play area is currently being procured and subject to planning permission is scheduled for completion for June 2015.

Consultation for a new skate park on the site is currently being undertaken and subject to planning permission is scheduled for completion for July 2015.

- **Jubilee Recreation Ground**

Construction of a new freeform concrete skate park is underway and is scheduled to be open in October 2014.

- **Coronation Recreation Ground**

Footpaths have been upgraded to remove trip hazards, replacing edging, repairing the drains then slurry sealing the whole area to provide a uniform surface. New litter bins have been installed. Some trees have been replaced and a 60m x 3m herbaceous border has been planted. Chorley Council is working with the local community to re-establish a Friends Group and write a management plan for the site.

There is £50K to improve the double tennis court with a view to installing new fencing resurfacing the tarmac and new white lining to create a multi-use games area. Recent public consultation supported this proposal.

- **Eaves Green**

Planning permission has been approved to extend the community centre together with landscaping work, improvements to the football pitch and this work is scheduled for completion in early 2015. Subject to planning permission a new toddler play area is scheduled for completion for summer 2015.

- **The Willows**

A new gateway into Yarrow Valley Country Park is to be created together with an informal football space and improved footpaths and this is scheduled for completion for spring 2015

- **Allotments**

Approximately 15K has been spent on Crosse Hall Lane, Windsor Road, Bay Horse, Worthy Street, Moor Road and Manor Road. Access tracks have been resurfaced, notice boards installed, paths resurfaced, new fencing and gates installed, trees shading allotment plots removed, new bark and manure bay installed at Crosse Hall, skip days to tidy up the sites and general maintenance carried out to raise the standard.

A further 30 plots are planned as part of the Rangletts development.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

26. 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?	N
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	✓

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

27. 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

28. The Council has a discretionary power under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to provide recreational facilities.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

29. 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 PUBLIC PROTECTION, STREETSCENE AND COMMUNITY

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jamie Dixon	5250	06-07-2014	ECPOP&PPS 28-08-2014