

## **15 April 2024 - Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy**

### **Overview**

In September 2023 Sports, Leisure & Culture, working with Planning colleagues in devising the consultants brief used Sport England's Framework Contract, appointed Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) specialist leisure planning consultants to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy across the authority.

The Strategies which included a Needs Assessments were finished in March 2024.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities meet the local needs of existing and future residents within West Northamptonshire; in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and national guidance issued by Sport England.

### **Objectives**

The Assessment and Strategies were required to achieve the following:

- Develop realistic action plans for indoor and outdoor sports provision.
- Provision of a toolkit to assist with developer contributions off site-on-site provision with clear user guide
- Provide Planning with s106 developer contribution examples

### **Process**

The Playing Pitch Strategy followed Sport England Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach

A wide range of Planning Strategies were reviewed including Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2014), Settlements and Countryside Local Plan for Daventry District (Part 2) (Daventry District Council, 2020) and Northampton Local Plan Part 2 Submission Version (Northampton Borough Council, 2021).

**Playing Pitch Strategy** - A Playing Pitch quality assessment was undertaken reviewing Winter / Summer use for Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. An assessment of All weather pitches (including education sites) and Multi Use Game Areas was also included.

**Sports Facilities Strategy** – included a review of Swimming Pools, Sports halls, Gym / Health and Fitness Squash, Tennis clubs, Premier Tennis, Bowls (Indoor and Outdoor), athletics, Combat sports (Boxing, martial arts), Netball, Gymnastics, Cycling (including BMX, Road, link with Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, Rowing, Kayaking / Canoeing, Sailing, Horse riding / horse activity. There was also a review of pitch lighting, club houses / pavilions condition, any associated facilities, changing rooms and parking.

Consultation included Parish / Town Councils, Schools, Sports Clubs, Northampton University, Moulton College, Leisure Centre operators, operators of Benham Sports Centre / Kings Park Tennis Centre.

### **Outcomes**

Two Strategies / Needs Assessment and Action Plans have been written. Planning Map layers supplied.