

SUBJECT:	FACILITIES STRATEGY
DIRECTORATE:	COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT AUTHOR:	SIMON COLBURN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present to members the final draft of the City Councils Built Facilities Strategy (Appendix A) and to seek feedback on its contents.

2. Executive

- 2.1 In light of recent changes to the future growth plans of the City of Lincoln, and in particular, planned urban extensions such as the Western Growth Corridor, a comprehensive Facilities strategy is required to better understand the need for sporting facilities.
- 2.2 Sport England as a mandatory consultee on any planning application required for the proposed Western Growth Corridor development, will require this strategy before any consent is considered.
- 2.3 The attached Facilities Strategy offers a template to better inform future sports facility decisions. The tiered approach will ensure that sports facilities are provided equitably throughout the City.

3. Background

- 3.1 This attached Facilities strategy provides the City Council (CoLC) with a holistic review of the existing provision of grass pitches, artificial pitches (AGP) and ancillary facilities across the City. This review has been conducted by LK2 Associates on behalf of the City Council in order to assist us to make more informed decisions about the future needs and requirements. It also provides us with a detailed, evidence-based document for pitch provision across the City of Lincoln and its boundaries
- 3.2 The facilities assessment has reviewed the existing provision, current usage from sports clubs, predicted population growth, implications of the western growth corridor and the demographics of the catchment areas that surround the facilities.
- 3.3 The western growth corridor (WGC), which is Lincoln's Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE), will see the Lincoln population rise significantly. This will lead to increased pressure on the existing sporting infrastructure, with the population expected to rise by over 7000 new residents
- 3.4 Through evaluating the quantity, community accessibility and availability of the existing playing pitches within Lincoln, we have been able to identify current and

future need. Alongside this, we have also provided advice and insight into the existing local and national policies that influence future provision and which policies need to be adhered to within any future rationalisation. This is especially important when considering the impact of the WGC and future infrastructure changes

- 3.5 It is important to note, that Sport England's role in considering rationalisation of sport venues and in particular playing pitches, is to primarily assess applications against its planning policy objectives to Protect, Enhance and Provide. Therefore, any projects that are developed as a consequence of this review, need to take into account the role which Sport England would play and what we would need to do to prepare for this engagement.
- 3.6 We have summarised the associated local and national sport strategies, which will influence key decisions for the sports being assessed in this review and in particular we have aligned this to the FA national pitch improvement plan (PIP).
- 3.7 The conclusions reached within this study are that a tiered system should be developed for the provision of pitch-based sports in the City.
 - Tier 1- Large multi-sport venues with indoor and outdoor sports
 - Tier 2- Single site and single sport venues with multiple pitches and or facilities.
 - Tier 3- Small sites with two separate sport/activity offerings, e.g. cricket pitch with football pitch alongside
 - Tier 4- small single sites with only one sport/activity offering
- 3.8 Within the report we have proposed that each tier will have a discreet strategy to either invest, maintain or dispose in these assets, which will be reviewed on a periodic basis.
- 3.9 It is further believed that the tier one facilities should be strategically located across the City to provide a 'geographical split' based on demand, population density and available associated facilities. The remaining tiered facilities (2,3,4) are then chosen to support the principal site in that sub-region
- 3.10 This approach will enable the City Council to retain control of the budget for sports and leisure facilities and strategically provide venues for sports teams and clubs based on a prescribed priority list. Over the long term, this will bring about cost efficiency (savings) for City Council and a more organised approach to the provision of playing pitches in the City.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Let's drive economic growth

There are no specific implications for economic growth within this report.

4.2 Let's reduce inequality

The tiered approach to sports provision will enable the City Council to provide facilities in areas of greatest strategic need based on population density, need and demand.

4.3 Let's deliver quality housing

There are no specific implications for quality housing in this report

4.4 Let's enhance our remarkable place

The implementation of the tiered system will offer an improved and more robust decision making template in regards to the provision of sports facilities today and in the future.

5. **Organisational Impacts**

5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

At this stage there are no specific implications arising from the attached strategy.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no specific implications arising from this report

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

There is no direct E&D implications arising from this report, however E&D will be considered during the implementation of this Strategy

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

5.4 Human Resources

There are no specific human resource implications arising from this report

5.5 Land, Property and Accommodation

There are no specific land, property and accommodation implications arising from this report

5.6 Significant Community Impact

There are no specific community impact implications arising from this report

6. **Recommendation**

6.1 Policy Scrutiny Committee note the attached Facilities Strategy found in appendix A.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? One

List of Background Papers: Appendix 1

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