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## CABINET AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday 17th January 2024

**Time:** 7.pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber

**This meeting will be webcast live on the internet.**

### **Membership:**

<b>Councillor Blackwell</b>	<b>Chairman - Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Councillor W. Gibson</b>	<b>Strategic Planning (Deputy Leader of the Council)</b>
<b>Councillor Fuller</b>	<b>Environment</b>
<b>Councillor T . Gibson</b>	<b>Special Projects &amp; Assets</b>
<b>Councillor Mountford</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<b>Councillor Palmer</b>	<b>Economic Growth &amp; Climate Action</b>
<b>Councillor Mrs Sach</b>	<b>Health Wellbeing &amp; Housing</b>
<b>Councillor Savage</b>	<b>People &amp; Community</b>

**Cabinet Enquiries:**

**Ann Horgan ext. 2413**

**ahorgan@castlepoint.gov.uk**

**Reference:**

**6/2023/2024**

**Publication Date:**

**Tuesday 9th January 2024**

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**AGENDA**  
**PART I**  
**(Business to be taken in public)**

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- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Members' Interests**
- 3. Minutes**  
To approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20th December 2023.
- 4. Corporate Health check – Outcome**  
*(Report of the Leader of the Council)*
- 5. Castle Point Plan - Response to Secretary of State**  
*(Report of the Cabinet Member Strategic Planning)*  
The response is required by 12.1.2024 – a report on the response will be circulated on submission of the response.
- 6. Planning Policy Update – Sports Facility Evidence Playing Pitch and Indoor Built Facilities and Action Plans**  
*(Report of the Cabinet Member Strategic Planning)*
- 7. Notice of Motion – Parking Standards**  
*(Report of the Cabinet Member )*
- 8. Matters to be referred from /to the Standing Committees**  
There are none.
- 9. Matters to be referred from /to Policy & Scrutiny Committees**

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**PART 2**  
**(Business to be taken in private)**  
**(Item to be considered with the press and public excluded from the meeting)**

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There was none known at the time of publication of the agenda.

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**INFORMATION**  
**(which does not form part of the agenda but is published with the agenda)**

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January Forward Plan - Is attached, it does not form part of the again. The Forward Plan contains details of key decisions likely to be required in the next three months.



## CABINET



**20th DECEMBER 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Blackwell	Chairman – Leader of the Council
Councillor W. Gibson	Strategic Planning
Councillor Mountford	Resources
Councillor Palmer	Economic Growth & Climate Action
Councillor Sach	Health Wellbeing & Housing
Councillor Savage	People & Community

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Fuller & T. Gibson

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Councillors Acott, Ainsley, Benson, Bowker, Campagna, Edwards, Howlett, Isaacs, Jones, Lillis, McCarthy – Calvert and Thomas.

### **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

No notice had been given.

### **58. MEMBERS' INTERESTS:**

There were none.

### **59. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th November 2023, were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **60. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – CONSULTATION**

Cabinet considered a report seeking Cabinet approval to undertake consultation on the draft Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012.

The Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee had undertaken a comprehensive review of the document and changes had been incorporated into the document before the meeting.

The report also provided a context for how the Council could potentially deliver and monitor BNG when it reached the delivery phase. Further reports and decisions were likely to be required on this matter.

A revised report and recommendation had been published and circulated to take account of the change to the date of the Ordinary Council meeting in March.

### **Resolved:**

1. To note the outcome of the Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

2. The Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document is published for public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the consultation plan .
3. In consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and Director of Place and Communities are authorised to make any final amendments to the Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document and the consultation materials prior to consultation.
4. The outcomes of the consultation and any resultant updates to the Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document are reported for approval and adoption by Council in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012.

## **61. ESSEX PARKING GUIDANCE CONSULTATION 2023**

Cabinet considered the report setting out the response issued on behalf of the Council to the consultation undertaken on the Essex Parking Guidance.

Currently, the 2009 Essex Parking Standards were adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Council. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act removed Supplementary Planning Documents from the system. To this end, policies related to parking would need to be incorporated into the Castle Point Plan as it was prepared and considered by the Castle Point Plan Board in due course.

Council would also need to consider whether to adopt the Essex Parking Guidance in due course.

**Resolved:**

To note and endorse the response issued on behalf of the Council to the consultation undertaken on the draft Essex Parking Guidance.

## **62. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE SCORECARD QUARTER 2 2023/24**

Cabinet considered the performance figures for the Corporate Performance Score card Quarter 2.

Appendix 1 set out the performance achieved by the Council against the measures in the scorecard, together with trend data and commentary on performance.

Of the 28 indicators reported, 22 were at or above target, a further 3 were near target and 2 indicators were below target. The finance indicator had a target of no variance but included multiple components. Trend in performance showed that there was improving performance in 12 indicators, declining performance for 4 indicators and performance levels maintained for 6 indicators. There was no trend for 6 indicators because either they were new indicators or had a changed methodology which did not allow for comparison with historical data.

Performance was set out against the four priorities in the Corporate Plan – Economy & Growth, People, Place, Environment and Enablers.

**Resolved:**

To note the performance and continue to monitor performance.

**63. THE PADDOCKS -UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF REFURBISHMENT WORKS**

Cabinet considered the report providing an update on the Paddocks refurbishment project and seeking approval to draw down from reserves the funding required to proceed with all works in the initial works package.

The increase in the cost of the works was as result the impact of the economy on the construction industry and increasing costs of inflation and materials.

**Resolved:**

1. To note the contents of this report.
2. To approve a withdrawal from the Priority Initiatives reserve up to a maximum value of £625,000 so that the works at the Paddocks can be fully progressed.

**64. BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE**

Cabinet received a report on the work being undertaken to provide better support for businesses and to stimulate economic growth in Castle Point.

**Resolved:**

To note the work being undertaken to improve support for businesses and business engagement in Castle Point.

**65. TRANSFORMING TOGETHER – THE COUNCIL’S MODERNISATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Cabinet considered a report providing an update on the Council's transformation programme which would implement change and enable its modernisation. Cabinet acknowledged that good progress was being made.

**Resolved:**

To note the update and progress of the Transforming Together(TT) Programme.

**66. REVIEW OF THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION – REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The item was brought forward and deal with at the beginning of the meeting.

Cabinet considered a report on the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations following scrutiny of the draft Constitution.

**Resolved:**

1. That the composition of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee should be 15 members instead of the suggested 11 members; politically balanced.
2. That any time limit for public meetings should be 2 hours rather than the 3 hours proposed, provided that the drafting makes clear that this rule could be suspended by a majority vote of members present if the meeting needed to continue.
3. That there should be no change to the total number of public questions to be taken at a meeting of full council.
4. That the drafting for the number of public questions to be asked by a member of the public at full council makes clear that a question may be reasonably multi-faceted but must be directly related in subject matter to qualify as a single question. It is also proposed that the decision of the Chief Executive as to whether a question or part of a question is admissible be final.
5. That the drafting for Motions on Notice makes clear that:
  - a. Motions on Notice be admitted to the agenda on a first come first served basis as determined by the Chief Executive;
  - b. Where there are more than 5 valid Motions on Notice submitted, then if in the discretion of the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Mayor) there is sufficient agenda time to take more than 5 Motions on Notice, then additional Motions on Notice should be added to the agenda;
  - c. Where there are more than 5 valid Motions on Notice submitted, and there is not sufficient agenda time, then those additional Motions on Notice will be deferred to the next meeting of Council if they are not withdrawn; and
  - d. That the operation of these provisions should be kept under review and come back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal consideration no later than the end of January 2025.
6. That there should be no change to the number of members required to support a Motion on Notice.
7. That, outside of the Constitution, to consider implementation of a service standard to enable circulation of minutes of decision-making public meetings to members within a timely period following that meeting.
8. That the Cabinet commissions a review of the constitutional arrangements for the operation of Development Management Committee.

**67. UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT CONFERENCE UPDATE**

The Cabinet Member for People and Community presented a report on the conference he had attended on 28th November 2023.

The conference was presided over by Roger Hurst the Police Fire & Crime Commissioner along with representatives from Essex Police and Council representatives on the Essex County Traveller Unit.

The combination of the Essex Police Protocol on unauthorised encampments and the work of the Essex County Traveller Unit had proved to be very successful. Presentations were received from both organisations.

There had been a significant reduction in unauthorised encampments since 2015. In October 2015 there were 226 unauthorised encampments by October 2023 there were 69 in Essex and only one in this Borough.

Other counties have also seen a reduction. However Essex was now known among the traveller community as not tolerating illegal behaviour. The multi-agency approach was proving very successful demonstrating that Essex was good at tolerating lawful behaviour and enforcing the law in dealing with unlawful behaviour.

Essex County Traveller Unit advised there had been a 75% reduction in unauthorised encampment over the past 5 years. This was attributed to an increase in evictions for unauthorised encampments. Currently the number of unauthorised encampment was stable at low levels in the areas represented by the Essex County Traveller Unit. (Epping Forest, Harlow and Southend were not members.)

This was a positive meeting demonstrating the benefit of partnership working and it was agreed to meet again in a years' time.

**Resolved:**  
To note the report.

**68. MATTERS TO BE REFERRED FROM/TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES**

There were no matters.

**69. MATTERS TO BE REFERRED FROM/TO POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES -**

Agenda Item 4 (Minute No. 60) – Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation contained a report back from the Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

Agenda Item 10 (Minute No. 66) – Review of the New Draft Constitution – Report and Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee.

Under this item Cabinet agreed to request the Place and Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's approach to promoting tourism opportunities in Castle Point and make recommendations back to Cabinet on what the Council should do as a Council and in partnership with others to improve the promotion of the local tourism offer and support local businesses in the tourism and leisure sectors.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.4**

**CABINET**

**17th January 2024**

**Subject:** **Corporate Health Check – Report by the Local Government Association**

**Cabinet Member:** **Councillor Blackwell – Leader of the Council**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

**To present to Cabinet the report of the Local Government Association following a Corporate Health Check undertaken on 12th December 2023.**

**2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives**

**This report links to all of the Council's Priorities**

**3. Recommendations**

**(1) That the Cabinet notes the report of the Local Government Association, as set out in the Appendix to this report.**

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**4. Background**

4.1 As part of the administration's commitment to transparency, the Leader of the Council, together with the Chief Executive, commissioned the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Corporate Health Check.

4.2 The purpose of the LGA's Corporate Health Check was to obtain a "critical friend" viewpoint as to progress made in the Council's transformation journey and the readiness of the Council to move forward on its ambitions to modernise the council and focus our services on the needs and experiences of residents and customers.

4.3 The Corporate Health Check paves the way for a full LGA Corporate Peer Challenge to be organised in 2024.

**5. Proposals**

5.1 The report of the LGA following the Corporate Health Check on 12 December 2023 is attached as an Appendix to this report.

5.2 The report by the LGA makes 5 key recommendations set out in the table below:

1.	To create internal reporting/meeting arrangements to give effect to a strong Executive Team of political leadership and senior officer leadership.
2.	To consider, as part of those internal reporting/meeting arrangements, how best to engage Assistant Directors and leading politicians in constructive dialogue and debate.
3.	To develop a new vision for the Borough with a clear delivery plan behind it – not to spend too much time developing documents but rather put energy in the codesign of a compelling and longer-term place-based narrative and a clear and concise “community plan” that brings together these strategies into a single document that can be owned by councillors and staff and communicated to residents.
4.	To ensure that interims undertake an effective transition out of the organisation and provide the information and tools to enable the council to be self-sustaining.
5.	To hold an “awayday” with new officer leadership and Cabinet in early 2024.

## 6. Corporate Implications

### (a) Financial Implications

None.

### (b) Legal Implications

None.

### (c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

#### Human Resources

The recommendations of the report regarding handover between interim and permanent resource will be acted upon.

#### Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken because no decision has been made by this report.

### (d) IT and Asset Management Implications

None.

## 7. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

The recommendations of the LGA report will be taken forward by the Chief Executive during 2024.

## 8. Background Papers

None.

**Report Author:** Angela Hutchings, Chief Executive.

# Corporate Health Check

## Castle Point Borough Council

12 December 2023



## Background and Context

This Corporate Health Check was the next stage in an ongoing, open, and transparent relationship that Castle Point Borough Council (CPBC) has with the LGA. The Council has clearly demonstrated it is open to peer feedback, support, and challenge in aiding the councils ongoing improvement and this has been delivered through a range of measures including political mentoring support and development for the Cabinet and senior officer leadership.

This next phase saw CPBC welcome a small team consisting of:

- Cllr Jo Beavis – LGA Regional Independent Peer and Braintree District councillor
- Gary Hughes – LGA Programme Manager

To undertake a one-day Corporate Health Check (CHC), in advance of the planned full Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) in 2024.

The CHC assessed the progress being made by CPBC in addressing its priorities in enabling the council to get to a stable situation following a period of significant challenge including the death in service of its previous Chief Executive of 17 years, the appointment of two interim chief executives and a change in political administration. In July 2022 a new Chief Executive was appointed, who identified the following issues:

1. Adverse internal audit report which has impacted the ability of the external auditor to sign off accounts and complete audit. Due to the sensitivity and complexity of the issues raised, it has taken more than a year to bring this to a point where resolution can be achieved. The issue is still outstanding but is nearing completion.
2. Lack of single status job evaluation (CPBC are the only council in England without it) which has created job imbalance and a lack of transparency in how roles are created, appointed to and remunerated.
3. Paper-based and inefficient systems and processes which have not kept up with digital advancements and are not customer orientated.
4. A top-heavy management structure which slowed down decision making, created inefficiency and eroded autonomy from staff; and
5. A culture of siloed working with an “us and them” approach to member involvement with a lack of transparency and inadequate levels of member scrutiny.

The Council is also facing some significant challenges with its planning function having been identified as at threat of designation due to the speed of decision making on major applications.

## Findings

The peer team completed a desk top review of information provided by the council and performance information from [LG Inform](#) the local area benchmarking tool from the LGA, which was then considered when the team met over the course of a day on the 12 December 2023 with the leadership team, councillors and staff from the council.

Prior to the health check, the peer team received:

- a position statement.
- information related to the council's programme of transformation and
- other supporting documents.

A coalition administration took office in May 2022, unseating a Conservative administration which had been in power for over 20 years. This was a significant change which was driven by public's rejection of the then Local Plan but also because of the emergence of the People's Independent Party (PIPs) as serious challengers to the Conservative domination on the mainland of Castle Point with the Canvey Island Independent Party (CIIPs) having been a long-established opposition group but was insufficient on its own to form a majority administration.

The coalition was further cemented in May 2023 when the PIPs increased their representation, taking 7 out of the 8 Conservative seats which were in contention. The current political make-up of the Council (41 seats) is as follows:

- CIIPs – 15 seats
- PIPs – 16 seats
- Conservatives – 8 seats
- Non-aligned independent – 1 seat
- Vacant – 1 seat (following the recent passing of a CIIP councillor)

And as mentioned in July 2022, a new permanent Chief Executive was appointed following a period of uncertainty where two interim chief executives were in post.

The new Chief Executive, therefore inherited an organisation that was struggling with organisational grief and recovery, instability and, latterly, the demands of a new administration which had a lot of ambition and drive but had never been in power before, with some of whom had never been councillors before.

## Transforming Together.

Members agreed with the Chief Executive that whole organisation re-design was needed to address the various issues identified and that the implementation of single status should be deployed at the same time. This programme is named Transforming Together and has been delivered across four workstreams:

1. Organisation Re-design
2. New Ways of Working
3. Workforce Development
4. Communications & Engagement

It was clear from the documentation and the feedback received that CPBC has made significant progress, against its transformation plans and is a completely different organisation. The Chief Executive has a new senior officer leadership team soon to be in place with 12 assistant directors appointed to support the strategic and operational delivery. Staff have been engaged in the transformation programme through the Key Change Champions network and this approach has made for positive outcomes with staff really up for the change ahead, with a strong culture of support and collaboration.

It was also clear that the role played by the Chief Executive has been instrumental to the positive changes. We heard throughout the day that she is a strong and effective Chief Executive, who is visible to staff, a positive driving force for change and someone who is resilient, bold, and hard working.

There has also been positive changes to the councils approach to communications and engagement, with a new and highly positive [Castle Point Together Magazine](#) being launched that clearly explains CPBC's desire to change and improve. This magazine has been distributed to all Castle Point residents and encourages them to get involved in the future development of the borough and in particular the development of the new [Castle Point Plan](#).

There is however an understanding that a lot of energy and activity has been focussed fixing the 'hidden wiring' of the council. Despite a focus on internal activity, the council has been delivering on customer-facing projects and improvements which demonstrate how the administration is changing the way in which the Council works. Many examples were provided in the CPBC position statement but a few of note are:

- The Castle Point Plan (CPP) – the development of a new local plan has adopted a fresh approach, working closely with government and undertaking early engagement with stakeholders. The council articulates its vision for "place" as part of the work of the CPP Board which meets regularly and issues public communications after every meeting.
- The new approach to the CPP aligns with the community engagement work which is also being delivered – with new branding which will apply to all our future engagement/consultation work. It presents a new image for the council which we will be looking to use and develop more and more in the future.
- An improved approach to press/media and public communications – with press releases regularly made following good news stories in agendas and building capability within the organisation to lead this going forward.

- Refurbishment proposals for a shopping centre on Canvey Island – reinvesting c£1m of earned income back into an internal refresh.

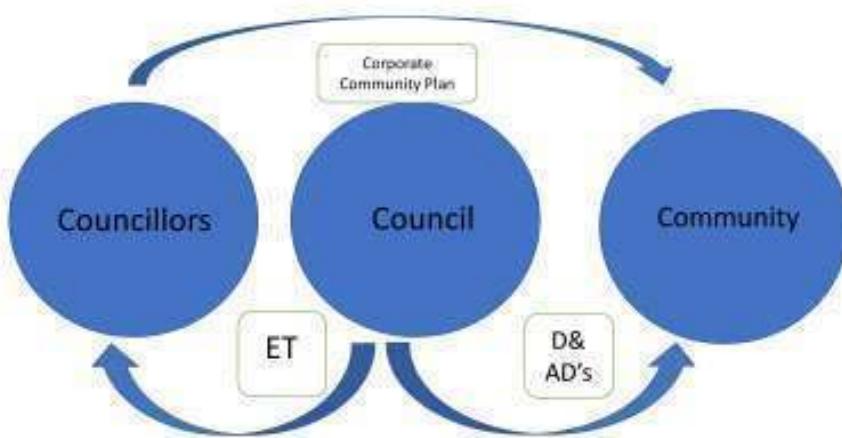
In addition, the council is also getting the basics right and has set a balanced budget for 23/24 and is working on the 24/25 budget. They have also commissioned a review of their assets and are reviewing the council's constitution, the operation of scrutiny and standards and audit committees. There is now a clear understanding that the council needs to continue its focus on residents.

### **Focus on residents.**

With the strong and effective political drive to focus on customer-facing projects and improvements and to ensure residents are fully engaged throughout this journey CPBC could benefit from looking at how the political leadership works more effectively with the senior officer leadership to create a strong Executive Team (ET).

The introduction of good governance and an effective structure to enable the ET to drive improvement and deliver the councils vision and priorities is crucial. The engagement of Assistant Directors (ADs) in this structure is also encouraged and CPBC should consider how best to engage ADs and leading politicians in constructive dialogue and debate.

This will also be important with CPBC considering the adoption of a strong leader model of governance and the move to four-yearly elections, which provides a fantastic opportunity to grasp these challenges and make changes that will empower staff and provide the assurance required for members. The peer team discussed the following model:



To drive this agenda CPBC requires a clear vision and corporate/community plan.

The current vision of being a Great Place, with Great People and One Community with a focus on the Economy and Growth, People, Place and Environment is unclear and needs revisiting. The councils current [Corporate Plan](#) finishes in 2024 and this provides CPBC with an excellent opportunity to develop a new vision for the borough with a clear delivery plan behind it.



The Chief Executive is clear that the council lacks several key strategic documents. The peer team would, however, encourage the council to keep up the pace and drive it currently has and not to spend too much time developing documents but rather to put its energies into the co-design of a compelling and longer-term place-based narrative and a clear and concise 'community plan' that brings together these strategies into a single document that can be owned by councillors and staff and communicated to residents.

## **Maximising the workforce to deliver this plan.**

As referenced previously CPBC has been through a challenging period, however, it was clear from the staff that we met that they are up for the challenges ahead and are keen to be part of CPBC's improvement.

The council has needed to bolster its staff by engaging external interim support across several areas and there is slight concern of a lack of capacity when they go. It is therefore important that the interims undertake an effective transition out of the organisation and provide the information and tools to enable the council to be self-sustaining. This was already happening with the communications function with the interim manager developing a future communications plan including workforce requirements for the council. We suggest all interims undertake a similar task.

In addition, CPBC needs to consider how best to harness the enthusiasm and motivation of the new Assistant Director cohort and ensure they are properly engaged and developed. We welcome the focus on modernising the council and investing in the development of CPBC staff and suggest that considering an 'awayday' with the Cabinet early in 2024, would be a positive way forward.

## **Summary and next steps**

It is clear to the peer team that significant progress has been made and that plans are in place to address future challenges. There are some risks ahead with the report into Senior Manager Pay and Conditions and planning performance, that could derail this positive progress and the LGA will continue to support and work alongside Castle Point Borough Council to support its improvement through the LGA's Principal Adviser [Rachel.litherland@local.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.litherland@local.gov.uk), via the LGAs Programme Manager, [Gary.hughes@local.gov.uk](mailto:Gary.hughes@local.gov.uk) or via the LGA Regional Member Peer, Cllr Joanne Beavis [cllr.jbeavis@brentree.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jbeavis@brentree.gov.uk).

For any questions about the LGA's Health Check please contact

Gary Hughes  
LGA National Programme Manager  
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**AGENDA ITEM NO.6**

**CABINET**

**17th January 2024**

**Subject:** **Sport Facility Evidence - Playing Pitch and Indoor Built Facility Strategies and Action Plans**  
**Cabinet Members:** **Councillor Warren Gibson – Strategic Planning**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

**For the Cabinet to endorse the 2023 update to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action plan.**

**For the Cabinet to endorse the 2023 update to Indoor Built Facility Strategy and Action plan.**

**2. Links to Council's priorities and objectives**

**People – the matters raised in this report have implications for the health and wellbeing of residents.**

**Place – the matters raised in this report have implications for the quality of the local sporting infrastructure.**

**3. Recommendations**

- 1. The Cabinet endorse the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2023 update (Appendix 1).**
- 2. The Cabinet endorse the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2023 update (Appendix 2).**

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**4.1 Background**

4.1.1 In 2018, the Council alongside other South Essex authorities prepared a Playing Pitch Strategy and a Built Indoor Facilities Strategy for indoor sports provision. These strategies were prepared in conjunction with Sports England and set out how playing pitches and sports facilities will be planned for, improved and enhanced to meet the needs of local people. These strategies are a consideration in planning, and also help to direct the Council's investments in sporting related assets.

4.1.2 Sports England encourage local authorities to keep these strategies under review through the preparation of annual updates. Where such strategies are reviewed regularly Sports England is able to support funding bids based upon them and can support planning decisions (applications and plan making) based on the

strategies. To this end, updates to both strategies were considered and endorsed by the Council's Cabinet in November 2022.

- 4.1.3 The Cabinet is now asked to endorse updates to both strategies again, reflecting data collected in November and December 2023.

## **4.2 Summary of Documents**

### **Summary of The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)**

- 4.2.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy focuses on outdoor areas within the borough that are designated areas for physical activity through sport or recreation. The PPS focuses on a range of sports. These include Football (Including Third Generation Turf), Cricket, Rugby Union, Tennis, Athletics, Bowls, Netball, Golf and Parkour.
- 4.2.2 The updates to the PPS and its Action Plan have been gathered from engagement with key stakeholders. These include members of the Playing Pitch Implementation Group (Leads of sporting organisations within the borough) and national sporting bodies. These were approached and asked to provide updates for their respective facilities and a report on the demand for those facilities. This then enabled the creation of a demand table, allowing the tracking of active players across multiple years.

### **Summary of The Indoor Built Facilities Strategy (IBFS)**

- 4.2.3 The Indoor Built Facilities Strategy focuses on indoor areas utilised for physical activity through sports and recreation. The IBFS and its accompanying Action Plan included several sport specific recommendations for Badminton, Gymnastics, Netball, Swimming and Aquatic Sports, Sailing, Squash and Tennis.
- 4.2.4 These sports typically require dedicated facilities to be able to participate. Therefore, the IBFS identified specific locations that provide these facilities such as local schools (Castle View, The Deanes School and others) and two leisure centres (Waterside Farm and Runnymede).
- 4.2.5 The update to the IBFS was developed after engagement with the Council's own Leisure Centres and Leisure Services.

## **4.3 Impact on Infrastructure Planning**

- 4.3.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was adopted by the Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023. The strategies and their updates provide direct evidence to support funding decisions made in relation to CIL. The Action Plans provide a robust and transparent basis for collecting developer contributions for relevant sporting projects within the borough. Endorsing the document ensures that stakeholders are aware of how the developer contributions from related development could be spent.
- 4.3.2 Therefore, it is crucial that the documents the Council uses to inform on these decisions remain as up to date as possible.

## **5. Corporate Implications**

### **a. Financial implications**

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

However, the Council operates some of the facilities identified through the action plans. Improvements or new provision for sporting facilities at those sites have both financial capital and revenue implications for the Council. These will need to be considered if the actions on those sites are taken forward.

The endorsement of the Action Plans does however enable the Council to collect Section 106 and CIL contributions from relevant sites towards these projects and will aid in grant funding applications where local authority contributions or endorsements are required.

### **b. Legal implications**

There are no legal implications directly associated with this report. However, these documents provide a robust basis for collecting developer contributions in accordance with the legal tests set out in the CIL Regulations. Details of these legal implications have been set out in cabinet reports on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the Developers Contributions Guidance.

### **c. Human resources and equality implications**

#### **Human resources**

There are no human resource implications associated with this report. However, the Council operates some of the playing pitches and built indoor facilities referred to in the action plans. Improvements or new provision for sporting facilities at those sites have human resource implications for the Council. These will need to be considered if the actions on those sites are taken forward.

#### **Equality implications**

There are no negative equality implications arising from this report. Improvement in quality, quantity, and accessibility to sporting facilities will have a positive impact to equality in the borough by providing more opportunities for participation.

### **d. IT and Asset Management Implications**

There are no IT implications associated with this report.

The Council operates some of the playing pitches and built indoor facilities referred to in the action plans. The implementation of these documents could therefore have future implications on the Council's assets.

**6. Background Papers:**

[Playing Pitch Strategy 2018](#)

[Sport and Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment 2018](#)

[PPS and IBFS Cabinet Report October 2022 Final](#)

**7. Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2023 Update**

**Appendix 2: Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2023 Update**

**Report Authors:**

Matthew Amner – Planning Policy Officer

Maria Hennessy – Senior Planning Policy Officer



Castle Point Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy Update  
2023

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides updates to the Council's existing evidence base in regard to playing pitches. These are sport specific updates with an update to the sports own individual action plan. This report has several background documents which are listed below:
  - [Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report 2018](#)
  - [Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2018](#)
  - [Playing Pitch Strategy Update 2022](#)
- 1.2. Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy also sets out the purpose of undertaking a review.
- 1.3. Sport England identify that an annual review should highlight:
  - How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
  - How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
  - Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
  - Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
  - Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.
- 1.4. This update aims to follow this approach. For completeness of understanding, it should be read alongside the documents outlined in paragraph 1.1.
- 1.5. Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations, education establishments, community sports networks and other stakeholders. In many instances, the Council will not be a key partner in delivering these actions or recommendations, meaning the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon, but for all the stakeholders and partners involved within the project.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. The 2018 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) focused on the following types of sports facilities:

- Football
- Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS)
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Hockey
- Golf
- Bowls
- Tennis
- Netball
- Athletics
- Cycling
- Multi-use Games Areas
- Parkour

2.2. As the previous assessment looked at the South Essex area some sports are provided for outside the Castle Point borough boundary. Therefore, this update will only assess facilities that lie within the Castle Point borough boundary, where the sport is active in the area and where changes to demand and supply have been identified.

2.3. In order to identify any changes implemented since the 2018 PPS and the 2022 update, national governing bodies (NGBs) and other key stakeholders were asked to complete a survey explaining any changes to demand and supply. The following sports/organisations were contacted:

Table 2.1 Stakeholder engagement per sport

<b>Sport/Sports Provision</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
Football	Essex FA, CPBC	Governing body of football in Essex and local authority
Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS)	Essex FA, CPBC	Governing body of football in Essex and local authority
Cricket	Essex Cricket	Governing body of cricket in Essex
Rugby Union	Rugby Football Union	National governing body of rugby union
Tennis	Lawn Tennis Association, CPBC	National governing body and local authority
Athletics	England Athletics	National governing body of athletics
Bowls	South Benfleet & Canvey Bowls Club, Hadleigh Bowls Club, Castle Point Bowls Club	Local bowls clubs
Netball	England Netball	National governing body of netball
Golf	England Golf	National governing body of golf
Parkour	Parkour UK	National governing body of parkour

2.4. Rugby Union, the Lawn Tennis Association as well as England Athletics were contacted for input into latest supply and demand data but were not able to provide the information within the required timescales. Consequently, there has been no update for rugby, tennis and athletics within this report and their original responses to the 2022 update can be found in [Appendix 3](#).

2.5. For each sport the following approach was taken:

- Supply Update – this captures the changes in supply identified by the sports organisations with each activity linked back to the three aims set out by Sport England to protect, enhance and provide.
- Demand Update – this compares participation data from 2018, 2022 and 2023. Where a direct comparison is not possible, this report will present the data that is available.
- Significant Issues by Sport – each sport was asked to identify any significant issues from their perspective and also is there had been any further changes to the information presented in the 2018 documents.
- Summary and Conclusions by Sport – The information collated above was then used to determine if any changes were needed to the recommendations for each sport in the respective action plans.

2.6. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix 1.

2.7. Updates have been made to the action plan in red underline for additions to the 2022 update and in blue underline for the 2023 update. Deletions for the 2022 updates are shown as a ~~red strikethrough~~ and 2023 updates in ~~blue strikethrough~~. These amendments can be found in the updated action plan in Appendix 2.

### 3. FOOTBALL

#### 3.1. Supply Update

- The local authority has been approved a resurface for its existing pitch well as a few ancillary facilities including floodlights and perimeter fencing. Additionally, the Deanes School has received funding to construct a full-size 3G pitch. In the future, the FA Grass Pitch Improvement Strategy will focus on utilising PitchPower assessments to measure pitch quality. The Essex FA encourages the council to utilise PitchPower assessments for its multi-pitch sites. Currently, the Football Foundation is working on a Local Authority Pilot that could provide funding support for local authorities in the future.

#### 3.2. Demand Update

Table 3.2 Comparison of number of competitive football teams

Football teams (2018)	Number of teams per age group* (2018)	Football teams (2022 and 2023)	Number of teams per age group (2022**)	Number of teams per age group (2023)
Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	28	Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	22	18
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	2	Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	2	1
Youth 11v11 (12-15yrs)	31	Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	37	44
		Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	4	4
Youth 9v9 (10-11yrs)	19	Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	35	27
		Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	5	7
Mini 7v7 (8-9yrs)	27	Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	41	34
Mini 5v5 (6-7yrs)	30	Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	32	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>163</b>

\*a male/female breakdown is not available for all levels from 2018 to allow for direct comparison

\*\*The data for 2022 represents the end of the year and has therefore been updated

#### 3.3. Significant Issues for Football

- Several clubs are growing within the local area and some are reaching capacity due to limitations on space and pitches, as highlighted in table 3.2 as the total number of teams has increased from 137 to 163.

#### 3.4. Football Summary and Conclusions

- A closer examination of the Home Advantage Program is necessary to fully comprehend its impact and significance on the borough's pitches. A downward trend is emerging after the post-COVID-19 surge. From 140 teams in 2020/21 to 192 in 21/22, and now 163 teams in 23/24, there is a slight decrease. Female 5v5 and 9v9, as well as disability youth, have gained ground. However, the biggest increase is in youth 11v11, which can explain the significant decline in youth 9v9. 11v11 teams are currently at their highest level in the past six years. However, there is a slight drop in the number of teams in the area.

## 4. THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

### 4.1. Supply Updates

- A brand-new full size 3G Pitch funded by the Football Foundation to be built at the Deane's School Sport Centre site. Castle Point Borough Council have had an approved planning application to resurface the 3G Pitch at Waterside Leisure Centre as well as providing the pitch with ancillary facilities such as perimeter fencing and floodlights.

### 4.2. Demand Update

- As highlighted in section 3, demand for adult's football pitches has remained roughly like previous years, as supply for grass pitches has not increased there remains a demand for 3G pitches in the borough.

### 4.3. Significant Issues for Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS)

- The FA published the [Castle Point Local Football Facility Plan](#) in late 2018, highlighting that nationally funding partners have significantly increased investment to accelerate efforts to deliver more and better football facilities, which includes 3G pitches. Possible increased Section 106 contributions through development may provide additional funding for increased 3G provision.
- The FA will shortly be updating the Local Football Facility Plan for Castle Point and will consider a refresh of the potential sites for 3G AGP's.

### 4.4. Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS) Summary and Conclusions:

- The recommendations from 2018 and 2022 remain valid and should be retained, along with noting the sport specific issues set out above.

## 5. CRICKET

### 5.1. Supply Update

Table 5.1 Changes to cricket pitch supply and quality

Site ID	Site	Settlement	Update	Aim
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club)	Canvey Island	Canvey Cricket Club is no longer operating. Benfleet Cricket Club to make some use of the ground where possible.	Enhance
10	John H Burrows Ground (Hadleigh and Thundersley CC)	The Mainland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instalment of a net training facility.</li> <li>Three out of four outdoor net facilities have deteriorated to unusable standards.</li> <li>Quality of pitches has deteriorated.</li> </ul>	Enhance
37	Woodside Park (Benfleet CC)	The Mainland	Further demand has led to increasing supply issues. Demand for a girls and women's team has increased.	Provide

### 5.2. Demand Update

Table 5.2 Comparison of number of competitive cricket teams

Demand Data 2022		Demand Data 2023	
Cricket Teams	Number of Teams per age group	Cricket Teams	Number of Teams per age group
Men (18-55yrs)	13	Men (18-55yrs)	13
Women (18-55yrs)	0	Women (18-55yrs)	2
Boys (7-18yrs)	5	Boys (7-18yrs)	4
Girls (7-18yrs)	0	Girls (7-18yrs)	12
Mixed (7-18yrs)	4	Mixed (7-18yrs)	8
Total	22	Total	39

### 5.3 Significant issues for cricket:

- The lack of separate changing, showering and WC facilities for ladies, along with the deterioration in the maintenance and cleaning of facilities, has caused a decline in the quality of cricket pitches and outfields, especially at John Burrows Park. Further damage has incurred due to an increase in vandalism and the riding of motorcycles & quad bikes at Woodside Park. The closure of Canvey Cricket Club due to a lack of volunteers and players has further hindered the availability of Cricket pitches. The shortage of indoor sports halls with good quality cricket nets has made it difficult for players to practice, while the rising cost of hiring local sports halls is putting a further strain on finances.

#### 5.4 Cricket Summary and Conclusions

- Despite the closure of Canvey Cricket Club, there are encouraging signs of growth in the sport within the area. Further investments in new changing facilities, particularly for women and girls, would significantly contribute to the sport's expansion. Additionally, the installation of green energy infrastructure at the John H Burrows Ground is commendable. However, the pitch quality at John Burrows Ground has been rated as poor again, demanding a renewed focus on enhancing the playing surface at that venue. While the former Canvey Cricket Club site at Smallgains Recreation Ground should continue to be improved, the fact that the site is currently being used by Benfleet Cricket Club and that they plan to offer a more extensive playing schedule next year suggests that further enhancements would only serve to draw more attention to the ground, potentially leading to the attraction of a new team to play there.

## 6. BOWLS

### 6.1 Supply Update:

Table 6.1 Changes to bowls supply and quality

Site ID	Site	Settlement	Update	Aim
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	The rinks used by Hadleigh Bowls Club (BC) are below the expected standard. There is also a growing interest for new members at this club.	Enhance
37	Woodside Park	The Mainland	This site homes Castle Point BC. The Club House has been completely renewed. Issues with parking and access due to nearby facilities as well as issues with the quality of the green.	Protect
39	South Benfleet & Canvey BC	The Mainland	No changes reported	Protect

## 6.2 Demand Update

Table 6.2 Comparison of number of bowls club members

Club name	Demand data 2018				Demand data 2022				Demand data 2023			
	Senior male	Senior female	Junior	Total	Senior male	Senior female	Junior	Total	Senior male	Senior female	Junior	Total
Castle Point BC	65	36	-	101	62	36	-	98	67	52	-	119
Hadleigh BC	82	91	-	173	77	69	1	147	80	64	-	144
South Benfleet & Canvey BC*	99	45	1	145	91	47	-	138	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>116</b>		<b>263</b>

\* No response was provided by South Benfleet & Canvey BC for this update.

### 6.3 Significant Issues for Bowls

- It has been reported that parking and traffic congestion have become a significant concern at Woodside Park and surrounding roadways, particularly during the summer months when the park is concurrently used by the Bowls Club, Benfleet Football Club, and Benfleet Cricket Club. Additionally, concerns regarding the quality of the green's playing surface, despite the efforts of the groundskeeper, are causing disruptions at Castle Point BC.

### 6.4 Bowls Summary and Conclusions

- There has been a slight but steady growth after a large drop off in numbers between 2018 and 2022 for the Castle Point BC and Hadleigh BC clubs for this reporting year. The current recommendations put in place from 2018 remain valid and should be retained, along with noting the sport specific issues such as access due to parking and quality of the green at Woodside Park.

## 7. NETBALL

### 7.1 Demand Update

Table 7.1 Comparison of numbers of Netball players

<b>Team categories</b>	<b>Number of teams/players</b>
Eastwood NC	120 players
Manor Essex	106 players
Walking Netball Waterside	20 players
<b>Total</b>	<b>246 Players</b>

### 7.2 Significant issues for Netball:

- No significant issues for Netball reported, despite an increase in demand, venues are still currently meeting the required demand.

### 7.3 Netball Summary and Conclusions:

- Currently Netball in the borough is experiencing a trend of growth, which typically results in the sport becoming too over subscribed for the supply of sites available. However fortunately Netball's supply is capable of meeting the demand required despite increasing participation. Therefore, the focus for Netball sites should be to protect existing facilities.

## 8. GOLF

### 8.1 Supply Update

#### 8.1 Changes to golf supply and quality

Site ID	Site	Settlement	Update	Aim
-	Boyce Hill	The Mainland	Continue the protection of the site and sustain quality maintenance	Protect
-	Castle Point Golf Club	Canvey Island	Continue the protection of the site and sustain quality maintenance	Protect

### 8.2 Demand Update

Table 8.2 Comparison of number of Golf club members

Course name	Membership number*
Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club	410
Castle Point Golf Club	410

\* England Golf doesn't provide specific membership numbers for each club, and instead give an average of the clubs in an area. The number provided by England Golf is only reflective of season ticket holders who choose to pay an additional fee to join the club and access a handicap. It is likely that the number of active users of Castle Point is therefore much higher.

### 8.3 Significant issues for Golf.

- Boyce Hill's application process involves requiring a proposer and seconder which limits accessibility. There is a significant lack of alternate golfing experiences within the borough, this in turn limits the ability for golf to attract beginners to the sport.

### 8.4 Golf Summary and Conclusions:

- In conclusion, while the existing golf facilities are meeting the current demand (as England Golf have stated no knowledge of the existence of any waiting lists within the borough) the limited range and variety of options may hinder accessibility for potential beginner golfers. In accordance with the 2018 report, England Golf recommends preserving all existing facilities to prevent any gaps in golf provision. Additionally, opportunities should be explored to diversify the borough's golf facilities and introduce more beginner-friendly options for those new to the sport.

**9. PARKOUR**

Parkour failed to provide much in the way of a response due to a lack in national as well as local data.

## APPENDIX 1: Playing Pitch Strategy Surveys

The following surveys were sent to the relevant stakeholders set out in table 2.1.

### FOOTBALL

#### Demand

1a. How many teams/members currently play football in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	
Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	
Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	
Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	
Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

#### Changes Since 2018 Report / Update in 2022

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch strategy Update in 2022](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#) - Part 2 pages 14-37 (plus Part 3 3G & AGPS pages 38-44)

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2022, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?
3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.
4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
5. Have any of the issues raised in the 2022 update (Page 6 of the 2022 Update as well as page 7 for Third Gen Turf) to the report been resolved?
6. Have there been any new issues arising since 2022?

## CRICKET

### **Demand**

1a. How many teams/members currently play cricket in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Men (18-55yrs)	
Women (18-55yrs)	
Boys (7-18yrs)	
Girls (7-18yrs)	

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2018 Report / Update in 2022**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch strategy Update in 2022](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#) - Pages 46-58

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2022, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?
3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.
4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
5. Have any of the issues raised in the 2022 update (Pages 8 and 9) been resolved?
6. Have there been any new issues arising since 2022?

## RUGBY UNION

### **Demand**

1a. How many teams/members currently play rugby union in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Men (19-45yrs)	
Women (19-45yrs)	
Boys (13-18yrs)	
Girls (13-18yrs)	
Mixed (7-12yrs)	

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2018 Report / Update in 2022**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch strategy Update in 2022](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#) - Pages 59-71 (pages 38-45 for 3G and AGPS)

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2022, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?
3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.
4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
5. Have any of the issues raised in the 2022 update (Pages 8 and 9) been resolved?
6. Have there been any new issues arising since 2022?

## TENNIS

### **Demand**

1a. How many members currently play tennis in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Seniors	
Juniors	

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2018 Report / Update in 2022**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch strategy Update in 2022](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#) - Pages 89-95

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2022, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?
3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.
4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
5. Have any of the issues raised in the 2022 update (Page 11) been resolved?
6. Have there been any new issues arising since 2022?

## NETBALL

### **Demand**

1a. How many members/teams currently play netball in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Team categories	Number of teams/players

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2018**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2018](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#). Please could I refer you specifically to the sections in the following table:

	Relevant pages in PPS and Action Plan document - Sport specific issues, scenarios, and recommendations	Relevant pages in PPS and Action Plan document – strategic recommendations	Relevant parts of the Action Plan	Playing Pitch Assessment Report
Netball	Pages 22-23	Pages 26-44	Pages 48-56	Pages 96-99

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2018, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?

3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.

4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?

## ATHLETICS

### **Demand**

1a. How many athletic members/groups are currently within Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Clubs/Members categories	Number of members/clubs

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2022 Update**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2022 Update](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#).

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2022, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?
3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.
4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
5. Have any of the issues raised in the 2022 update (Page 11) been resolved?
6. Have there been any new issues arising since 2022?

## BOWLS

### Demand

1a. How many members currently play bowls in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Club name	Number of members			
	Senior male	Senior female	Junior	Total
Castle Point BC				
Hadleigh BC				
South Benfleet & Canvey BC				

1b. As far as you are aware, do you have any waiting lists and if so for what sections of the clubs?

### Changes Since 2018 Report / Update in 2022

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch strategy Update in 2022](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#) - Part 9 pages 84-88

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2022, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?
3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.
4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
5. Have any of the issues raised in the 2022 update (Pages 8 and 9) been resolved?
6. Have there been any new issues arising since 2022?

## GOLF

### **Demand**

1a. How many members are currently registered in a golf club in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

Course name	Membership number
Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club	
Castle Point Golf Club	

1b. As far as you are aware, do any of the clubs have waiting lists and if so which clubs and for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2018**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan 2018](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#). Please could I refer you specifically to the sections in the following table:

	Relevant pages in PPS and Action Plan document - Sport specific issues, scenarios, and recommendations	Relevant pages in PPS and Action Plan document – strategic recommendations	Relevant parts of the Action Plan	Playing Pitch Assessment Report
Golf	Page 20	Pages 26-44	pages 48-56	Part 8 page 77-83

2. Please advise of any key changes that you are aware of in relation to the supply of facilities since 2018, in relation to new/enhanced facilities, facilities that have closed or changes to the quality or access to facilities?

3. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.

4. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?

## PARKOUR

### **Demand**

1a. How many members currently practice Parkour in Castle Point? Please list out as below:

<b>Number of members</b>			
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Total</b>

1b. As far as you are aware, do you have any waiting lists and if so for what sections of the clubs?

### **Changes Since 2018 Report / Update in 2022**

This section refers specifically to the [Playing Pitch strategy Update in 2022](#) and [Playing Pitch Assessment Report 2018](#) – Page 58

2. Since the original report in 2018, have there been any significant changes for your sport within the area? -
3. Will any of the changes detailed above need to be reflected in amendments to the recommendations set out in part 3 of the PPS Strategy and Action Plan for your sport?
4. Have there been any changes in membership levels since 2018? If so what are those changes?
5. Have there been any changes in demand for facilities since 2018? If so what are those changes?
6. Have there been any other significant changes for your sport not listed above? Please give details.

## APPENDIX 2: 2023 Action Plan



# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

**NOVEMBER 2018  
2022 UPDATES  
2023 UPDATES**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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<b>BC Bowls Club .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CC Cricket Club.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EG                   England Golf.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FC Football Club.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FIFA      Fédération Internationale de Football Association .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>HC Hockey Club .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>IOG      Institute of Groundsmanship .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>JFC Junior Football Club .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LMS      Last Man Stands .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ONS      Office for National Statistics .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PGA      Professional Golfers Association .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PQS      Performance Quality Standard.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RUFC     Rugby Union Football Club .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TC Tennis Club .....</b>	<b>1</b>
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# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third generation turf
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
EG	England Golf
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch
OAN	Objectively Assessed Need
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PGA	Professional Golfers Association
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been commissioned by the South Essex authorities of Basildon, Castle Point, Rochford and Southend-on-Sea, together with Essex County Council and Sport England, to assess outdoor sport facility needs across the individual local authority areas.

The output is provision of four separate playing pitch needs assessments and strategies (including action plans) across the aforementioned authorities as well as one additional overarching strategy for South Essex, which will also encompass Thurrock. The intention for the overarching strategy document is to bring the individual strategies together, setting out key recommendations that relate to and impact on the wider South Essex region and encouraging the local authorities to work together in a partnership approach. It should be considered together with the individual strategies.

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Castle Point. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England guidance and under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It builds upon the preceding Assessment Report and is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Informing the protection and provision of playing pitches.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing pitch areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches).
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches.
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for playing pitches.
- ◀ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

The PPS has been developed alongside an Indoor Sports and Leisure Strategy as part of a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation within the Borough. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training.

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off, Sport England and NGBs will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended.

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that was built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation (see Part 5 for further details).

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### Scope

The PPS covers the following outdoor sports facilities:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Outdoor netball courts
- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Outdoor athletics tracks
- ◀ Golf courses
- ◀ Outdoor cycling tracks
- ◀ Parkour
- ◀ Multi-use games areas (MUGAs)

Playing pitch sports (i.e. football, cricket, rugby union and hockey) were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS.

For the remaining sports/facilities, the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) were followed to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF.

### Study area

The study area for the PPS will be the whole of the Castle Point Borough Council boundary area. Further to this, analysis areas have been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. These areas are based upon ward boundaries within Castle Point and have been agreed upon by the Steering Group to further reflect how people play sport.

A map of the analysis areas can be seen overleaf in Figure 1.1.

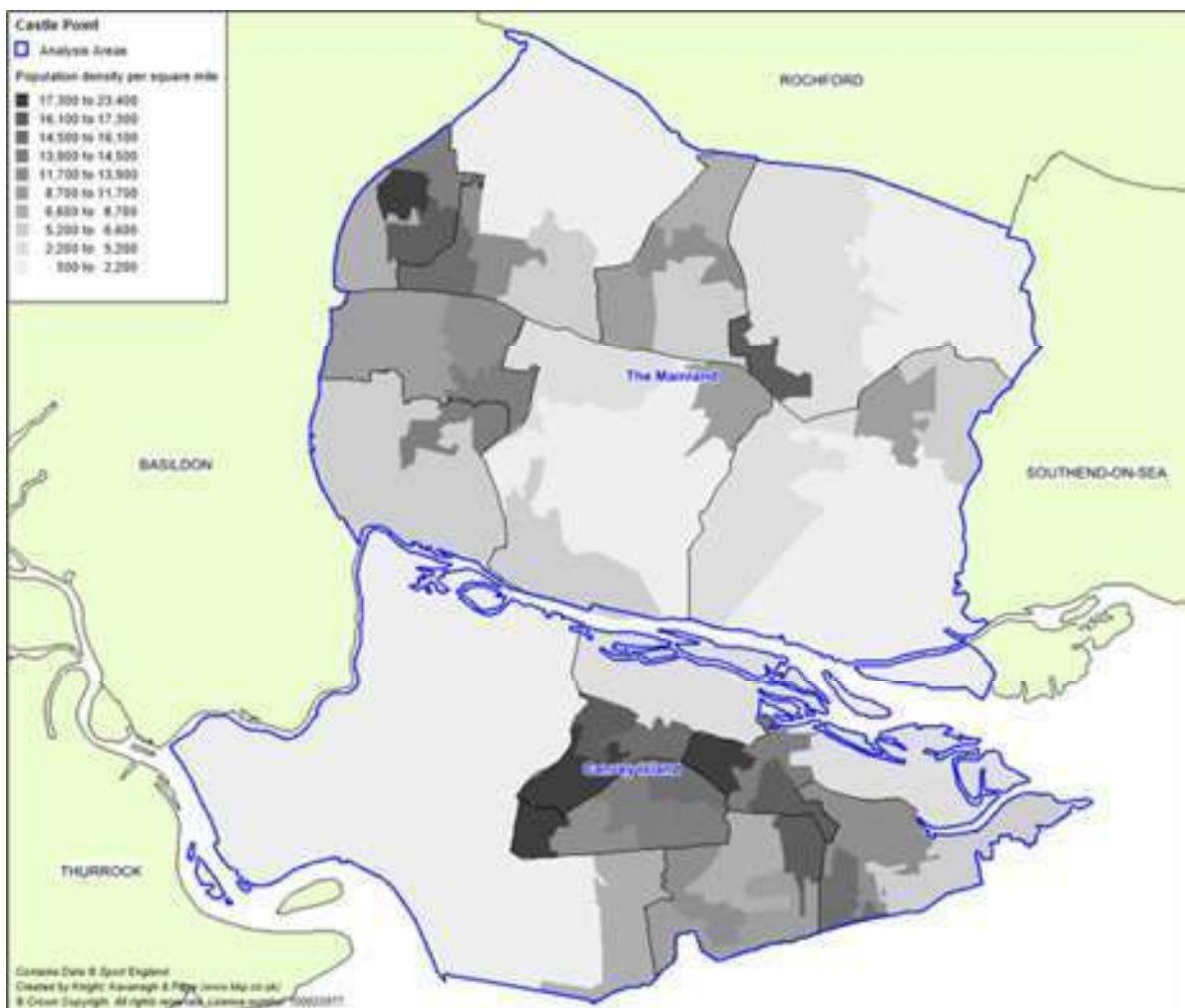
*Table 1.1: Agreed analysis areas*

Analysis area	Wards included
Canvey Island	Canvey Island West, Canvey Island Winter Gardens, Canvey Island Central, Canvey Island North, Canvey Island South, Canvey Island East
The Mainland	St George's, St Peter's, Cedar Hall, Victoria, Appleton, St Mary's, Boyce, St James

A map of the analysis areas can be seen overleaf in Figure 1.1.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



## 1.1: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within Castle Point across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of outdoor sports facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

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This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2018).

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

### 1.2: Structure

As this strategy is specific to Castle Point, it focuses on findings, recommendations and scenarios for outdoor sports facilities within the District; however, considerations that relate to the whole South Essex area are also included where appropriate. Such considerations are then expanded upon in the overarching strategy document.

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sport facilities.
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance outdoor sport provision.

This strategy has been developed from research and analysis of outdoor sports provision and usage to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of outdoor sport facilities.
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance outdoor sport provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Castle Point that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The recommendations made in this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, Essex County Council, Active Essex, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve outdoor sport provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

### 1.3: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 3: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 4: Action Plan.

*Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings*

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand shortfall	Future demand shortfall (2037)
Football (grass pitches)	Canvey Island	2 adult match sessions 2.5 youth 11v11 match sessions 5 youth 9v9 match sessions 1 mini 5v5 match session	4 adult match sessions 5.5 youth 11v11 match sessions 6.5 youth 9v9 match sessions 1.5 mini 7v7 match sessions 2 mini 5v5 match sessions
	The Mainland	1 youth 9v9 match session	2.5 youth 9v9 match sessions 0.5 mini 7v7 match sessions
	Overall	<b>1 adult match session 6 youth 9v9 match sessions 1 mini 5v5 match session</b>	<b>5.5 youth 11v11 match sessions 9 youth 9v9 match sessions 2 mini 7v7 match sessions 2 mini 5v5 match sessions</b>
Football (3G AGPs) <sup>1</sup>	Canvey Island	1 full size 3G pitch	1 full size 3G pitch
	The Mainland	2 full size 3G pitches	2 full size 3G pitches
	Overall	<b>3 full size 3G pitches</b>	<b>3 full size 3G pitches</b>
Cricket	Canvey Island	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	The Mainland	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls
	Overall	<b>No current shortfalls</b>	<b>No future shortfalls</b>
Rugby union	Canvey Island	3.5 match sessions	6.25 match sessions
	The Mainland	No current shortfalls	1.25 match sessions
	Overall	<b>3.5 match sessions</b>	<b>6.25 match sessions</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on accommodating 42 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand shortfall	Future demand shortfall (2037)
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Overall	No current shortfalls	No future shortfalls

### ***Conclusions***

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some facilities and for some areas where demand is currently being met. There are current and future shortfalls of grass football pitches, 3G pitches and rugby union pitches, whereas demand is being met in regards to cricket squares and hockey suitable AGPs.

For the most part, shortfalls can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. Another example of how to develop existing provision to overcome shortfalls is pitch re-configuration (or re-designation).

Notwithstanding the above, a shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through new provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements. This is the case for both football and rugby.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming current shortfalls and accommodating existing or future demand. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing outdoor sports provision until all demand is met, or these is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### PART 2: VISION

#### 2.1: Vision

Below is Castle Point's vision for its sport and leisure provision. It sets out the vision and objectives for the period 2017-2037, in line with a vision in the Leisure and Recreation Strategy (2015-2020).

*'To make Castle Point a Borough with a diverse leisure and recreation provision which is accessible to all, encourages and promotes participation and healthy lifestyle choices, making a major contribution to a safe and healthy community.'*

#### 2.2: Aims

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

##### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

##### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

##### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source Sport England (2015)

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### PART 3: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations.

#### Football – grass pitches

##### **Summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies 93 grass football pitches within Castle Point across 32 sites. Of the pitches, 93 are available, at some level, for community use across 21 sites.
- ◀ There are just 11 available youth 11v11 pitches in Castle Point, which is low in relation to the proportion of teams requiring such provision.
- ◀ In total, one community available pitch is assessed as good quality, 61 as standard quality and 17 as poor quality.
- ◀ Changing provision is considered poor quality at Canvey Island Youth Football Club and John H Burrows Ground.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 155 teams from within 40 clubs are identified as playing within Castle Point. This consists of 38 adult men's, two adult women's, 65 youth boys', three youth girls' teams and 47 mini teams.
- ◀ Across Castle Point, 42% of responsive clubs report that they have no security of tenure, predominately due to some or all of their teams playing at school sites without community use agreements in place.
- ◀ There is one team from C & K Basildon Ladies FC based outside Castle Point that plays matches within the borough.
- ◀ There are currently four adult male teams from within two Castel Point based clubs accessing pitches outside of the study area; South Benfleet United FC and Estuary United FC.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of five youth 11v11, one 9v9, three mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 team (2037).
- ◀ A number of clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide, with five clubs predicting combined growth of 19 teams.
- ◀ A total of 12 pitches across four sites are considered to contain some level of actual spare capacity, equating to 8.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are 13 pitches overplayed by 15.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Based on current demand, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches have minimal spare capacity, whilst adult, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches have identified shortfalls.
- ◀ All pitch types in Castle Point have a potential future shortfall based on predicted future demand.
- ◀ Should unsecure sites fall out of permanent use, existing spare capacity would be eliminated and existing shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated.

##### **Scenarios**

###### *Alleviating overplay*

There are 13 pitches in Castle Point overplayed by a total of 15.5 match equivalent sessions. Of these, nine are assessed as poor quality, with the remaining four assessed as standard quality (none are assessed as good quality). As such, improving quality (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity and as a consequence reduce current and future shortfalls.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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To illustrate the above, Table 3.1 highlights that the majority of current levels of overplay would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each overplayed site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 3.1: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating <sup>2</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>3</sup>
4	Castle View School	Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	2.5	0.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
21	Prospects College of Advanced Technology	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	3.5	0.5
27	The Appleton School	Youth (11v11)	2	Poor	0.5	5.5
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	Adult	2	Poor	2.5	1.5
		Mini 7v7	1	Standard	1	3
		Mini 5v5	1	Standard	1	3
36	Winter Gardens Academy	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	2
37	Woodside Park	Adult	2	Poor	1	3
40	Kents Hill Junior School	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	2

The only overplay that would not be fully eradicated through quality improvements is identified at Prospects College of Advanced Technology. Demand from this site should therefore be transferred to alternative provision with actual spare capacity.

### Providing security of tenure

Currently 28 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches in Castle Point. If these sites were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated as the demand would have to relocate to other sites, thus increasing overplay or resulting in more exported demand.

Of the 28 match equivalent sessions played on unsecured pitches, 19 match equivalent sessions are played at peak time, suggesting that 19 pitches would be required to accommodate the demand.

<sup>2</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>3</sup> Match equivalent sessions

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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All unsecured use is found at school sites. Whilst not always possible, establishing community use or lease agreements between providers and users would help to ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement.

For such agreements, it is important to ensure that provision is accessible at peak time and affordable.

### *Accommodating youth 11v11 demand*

As it stands, 21 youth 11v11 matches (U13-U16) in Castle Point are played on adult pitches. If this demand was to be transferred to the correct pitch type, actual spare capacity would be created on adult pitches; however, the current stock of youth 11v11 pitches is not sufficient to cater for the demand with shortfalls already in existence.

Given the above, the actual spare capacity fashioned on adult pitches should be used to reconfigure the supply to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand. An example of this is at Smallgains Recreation Ground, which contains an adult pitch used solely by youth 11v11 teams, meaning that converting it to a youth 11v11 pitch will not adversely affect adult demand.

The remaining sites accommodating youth 11v11 demand on adult pitches are:

- ◀ Benfleet Playing Fields
- ◀ Park Lane (Canvey Island Football Club)
- ◀ The Cornelius Vermuyden School
- ◀ Waterside Farm Leisure Centre
- ◀ Deanes School Sports Centre
- ◀ Prospects of Advanced Technology
- ◀ Thames Road

Of these, Waterside Farm Leisure Centre supplies four adult pitches that are used by just one adult team, meaning three of the pitches could be re-configured. Similarly, both Deanes School Sports Centre and the Cornelius Vermuyden School provide one adult pitch suitable for re-configuration, providing the remaining adult pitches on the sites are retained.

The remaining sites provide adult pitches that are not suitable for a re-configuration due to the amount of adult football accommodated. The youth 11v11 teams using these sites should therefore be encouraged to transfer to the other sites or to a suitable 3G pitch (if/when created).

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Where pitches remain overplayed despite quality improvements, pursue transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as expressed, unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to accommodate youth 11v11 teams where possible.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ If required, explore ground sharing possibilities across Castle Point and the wider South Essex region that can provide a more sustainable long-term future for the senior club network.

### 3G pitches

#### ***Summary***

- ◀ There is one full size 3G pitch in Castle Point (Waterside Farm Leisure Centre).
- ◀ The pitch is both available to the community and floodlit.
- ◀ In addition, there are three smaller sized 3G pitches, of which two are available for community use.
- ◀ Northwick Park Primary School has recently been granted planning permission to create a smaller sized 3G pitch; however, it indicates that this will not be available for community use and it will also be without floodlighting.
- ◀ The full size 3G pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is FA approved to host competitive matches, as is the smaller sized pitch at Cedar Hall School.
- ◀ None of the 3G pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is considered good quality having been converted from a sand-based pitch in 2013.
- ◀ Of football clubs responding to consultation, 82% report that they require additional training facilities, and 78% of these specifically mention demand for 3G pitches.
- ◀ With 155 teams currently affiliated to Castle Point there is a need for four full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of three pitches
- ◀ Based on future demand there remains a shortfall of three full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ The shortfall equates to one pitch in the Canvey Island Analysis Area and to two pitches in the Mainland Analysis Area.
- ◀ A total of eight teams currently play matches on the existing 3G pitch stock.
- ◀ Given the limited rugby demand within the Borough, it is not considered to be a target area for future developments in relation to a World Rugby compliant pitch.

#### ***Scenarios***

##### ***Accommodating football training demand***

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 42 teams) there is a current and future need for four 3G pitches, resulting in a shortfall of three.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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*Table 3.2: Demand for full size 3G pitches in Castle Point*

Current number of teams	Current 3G requirement <sup>4</sup>	Future number of teams	Future 3G requirement <sup>5</sup>
155	4	174	4

When studying demand by analysis area, the shortfall equates to one full size 3G pitch in the Canvey Island Analysis Area and to two full size 3G pitches in the Mainland Analysis Area. This provides a good indication as to where new provision should be located to best service demand.

### *Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches*

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA. In Castle Point, the existing full size 3G pitches at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre has undergone appropriate testing and is therefore approved to host competitive matches, with eight teams currently utilising it for this purpose.

To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council facilities in Castle Point for each pitch type at peak time.

*Table 3.3: Number of teams currently using council pitches (peak time)*

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	17
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	16
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	7
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	7
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>52</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size, floodlit 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

*Table 3.4: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand*

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	17	8.5	32	272	4.25
11v11	16	7	32	256	4

<sup>4</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

<sup>5</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
9v9	7	3.5	10	35	0.54
7v7	7	3.5	8	28	0.43
5v5	5	2.5	4	10	0.15

Given that peak time is the same for each pitch type, the number of 3G pitches required needs totalling together. This equates to the demand for nine full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 9.37).

As the number required is substantially more than the number of full size 3G pitches required for training, it could be unfeasible to create the additional provision due to sustainability issues (as mid-week usage could be limited). As such, it may be more beneficial to work on transferring a certain format of play rather than all play, such as youth 11v11 demand given the youth 11v11 grass pitch shortfalls.

An alternative approach is to transfer all mini demand to 3G pitches; the FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday AM.

*Table 3.5: Full size 3G pitches required for transfer of all mini demand*

Time	Pitch markings	Total games/teams
9.00 – 10.00	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.00 – 11.00	4 x 5v5	4/8
11:00 – 12:00	2 x 7v7	2/4
12:00 – 13:00	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for three full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 3.11). This is calculated based on 22 mini 5v5 teams and 26 mini 7v7 teams currently playing within Castle Point.

As the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate all mini demand is less than the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate current and future training needs, it suggests that all mini match play demand could be catered for if training shortfalls were alleviated.

### *Creating additional full size 3G pitches for football*

First and foremost, the creation of additional full size 3G pitches should work towards alleviating the shortfall for training. With no current proposals in place, the FA has identified sites that could be suitable for the creation of provision.

The Canvey Island Analysis Area has a shortfall of one full size 3G pitch, with the creation of a second one at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre seen as the ideal solution to correcting this. The existing pitch is operating close to capacity and the management structure is already in place for operation purposes.

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In the Mainland Analysis Area, sites deemed suitable to alleviate the shortfall of two 3G pitches are Deanes School Sports Centre and the Appleton School.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. This contains the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems appropriate for rugby union. The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments.

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Castle Point and due to limited rugby demand in the Borough it is not seen as a target area for the creation of one. However, there is a need for at least one within the wider South Essex region, so such provision could be accessed by Castle Point based clubs (Canvey Island RFC and Benfleet Vikings RFC) if required.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Explore options of providing new 3G pitches as a priority to meet football training demand shortfalls.
- ◀ Carry out a feasibility study across the wider South Essex sub-region to ensure that 3G deficiencies across all local authorities are relieved via a partnership approach.
- ◀ Consider the need for further 3G pitch provision above and beyond football training shortfalls if certain scenarios become reality e.g. the loss of unsecured sites.
- ◀ Carry out consultation with England Hockey when deciding upon the location of new 3G pitches to ensure the sustainability of existing sand-based AGPs.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Encourage all current and future providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, and ensure that pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when it is required.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider the potential for 3G provision on multi-pitch sites, and as a minimum requirement, design new sites so that they could accommodate 3G provision at a later date, if required.

### **Cricket pitches**

#### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are five grass cricket squares in Castle Point located across three sites, with Woodside Park and Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club) each providing two squares.
- ◀ In addition to the grass cricket squares, there are five NTPs in Castle Point, all located at school sites.
- ◀ Security of tenure is considered unsecure for Canvey Island CC, which annually leases its square at Smallgains Recreation Ground from Island Boys and Girls Ltd.
- ◀ All squares are assessed as standard quality.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

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- ◀ John H Burrows Ground is serviced by good quality changing facilities; Woodside Park and Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club) are serviced by poor quality changing facilities.
- ◀ Both Woodside Park and John H Burrows Ground are serviced by outdoor practice nets; Smallgains Recreation Ground is not.
- ◀ There are three clubs competing in Castle Point generating 20 teams, which as a breakdown, equates to 11 senior men's and nine junior boys' teams.
- ◀ None of the three clubs within Castle Point currently have any women's or girl's teams.
- ◀ All three clubs express a desire to increase their team numbers; however, only Benfleet CC quantifies by how many (one senior men's and one senior women's team).
- ◀ No additional teams at any age group are expected to be generated through population increases.
- ◀ All five squares show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Castle Point totalling 106 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ Only Woodside Park shows actual spare capacity for further use at peak time for senior cricket, equating to 0.5 squares and 32 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For junior cricket, all squares are also considered to be able to accommodate an increase in junior demand.
- ◀ No squares in Castle Point are considered to be overplayed.
- ◀ Current and future demand is able to be accommodated in Castle Point; however, an increase in provision may be required to accommodate any future senior demand derived from either Canvey Island CC and Hadleigh & Thundersley CC.
- ◀ Both analysis areas and all clubs have capacity to accommodate both current and future demand for junior cricket.
- ◀ The Indoor Sports and Leisure Strategy finds that there is increasing demand for high quality cricket provision for both practice and match play across South Essex; Essex Cricket and the ECB's main objective is to increase access to indoor cricket facilities across the region, however, local clubs are increasingly finding access to indoor facilities a significant challenge, particularly at school sites.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating future demand*

All three clubs in Castle Point express future demand albeit growth is only quantified by Benfleet CC and equates to one senior men's and one senior women's team. This increase could be accommodated at the Club's current home venue (Woodside Park) as capacity exists at peak time for both forms of play (Saturday for senior men's teams and Sunday for senior women's teams).

For the other two clubs, no capacity is considered to exist if they wanted to field more Saturday teams; however, additional senior teams could play outside of the peak period in leagues taking place on a Sunday. Furthermore, both clubs have significant capacity for a growth in junior demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares, including protection from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues).
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be accommodated and that it does not result in exported demand or overplay.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining, primarily in regards to Canvey Island CC.
- ◀ Improve changing facilities servicing Woodside Park and Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club).
- ◀ Consider installation of practice facilities at Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club) and ensure such provision remains sufficient at Woodside Park and John H Burrows Ground.
- ◀ Consider the need for one additional square within the Mainland Analysis Area should Hadleigh & Thundersley CC realise its future senior demand and in the Canvey Island Analysis Area should Canvey Island CC realise its future senior demand.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ In line with the Indoor Sports and Leisure Strategy, support investment at sites where sports halls are being refurbished or new sports halls are being developed to ensure cricket is catered for, regularly evaluate programming at sports halls to ensure there is capacity to support cricket, and develop relationships between schools and clubs to ensure good access to indoor provision.

### Rugby union - grass pitches

#### *Summary*

- ◀ Within Castle Point, there are eight senior pitches provided across seven sites, with six pitches are available for community use across five sites.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches, one is assessed as good quality and five as poor quality.
- ◀ Canvey Island RFC leases its ground from the Council on a 99-year lease with 52 years remaining, whilst Benfleet Vikings RFC rents Benfleet Playing Fields on an annual basis from the Council.
- ◀ Benfleet Vikings RFC currently rents the changing facilities on an annual basis from the Council; however, it expresses aspirations to have a long-term lease on the changing facilities.
- ◀ The Club currently fields all of its mini and junior home fixtures away due to changing facilities and car parking not being able to accommodate demand.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities at Canvey Island Rugby Club are adequate and functional but in need of modernisation.
- ◀ Canvey Island RFC and Benfleet Vikings RFC are of a similar size with ten and nine teams respectively.
- ◀ Anticipated population growth equates to the creation of one mini team.
- ◀ Canvey Island RFC has aspirations to increase in size by one women's senior team, two junior teams and four mini teams.
- ◀ Only one pitch, located at Benfleet Playing Fields, currently has actual spare capacity equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ One pitch at Canvey Island Rugby Club is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Having considered supply and demand, there is a current shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent session in the Canvey Island Analysis Area, which could increase to 6.25 match equivalent sessions if future growth aspirations are realised.

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Despite current spare capacity, a shortfall of 1.25 match equivalent sessions will be created in the Mainland Analysis Area if all junior and mini demand is transferred to Benfleet Playing Fields as is desired by Benfleet Vikings RFC.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Improving pitch quality*

Canvey Island Rugby Club provides two senior pitches, one with spare capacity of one match equivalent session and one that is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions due to training demand. Maximising the quality would increase carrying capacity by four match equivalent sessions; however, some overplay would remain on the training pitch totalling 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Play could not be transferred due to the lack of floodlighting on the other pitch.

Benfleet Playing Fields contains one senior pitch that has current spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session; however, if junior demand was fielded at the site this would result in overplay of 1.25 match equivalent sessions. Maximising quality would increase carrying capacity by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, meaning the shortfall would reduce to 0.75 match equivalent sessions.

#### *Increasing access to floodlit training provision*

There are currently no fully permanent floodlit pitches within Castle Point, with Canvey Island RFC having access to a partially floodlit pitch and Benfleet Vikings RFC utilising portable floodlighting.

In order for overplay to be alleviated at Canvey Island Rugby Club, in addition to pitch quality improvements, consideration should be given to fully floodlighting both pitches. This will allow demand to be better spread across the site rather than one pitch containing spare capacity and one pitch being overplayed.

Permanently floodlighting the pitch at Benfleet Playing Fields will not necessarily provide more capacity; however, it should still be considered. The use of portable floodlighting often results in localised wear and tear in excess of that caused from a permanent solution and also does not meet RFU performance standard regarding lux and uniformity levels.

#### *Accommodating future demand*

The growth aspirations expressed by both Canvey Island RFC and Benfleet Vikings RFC cannot be accommodated on the current supply of pitches, regardless of pitch quality and floodlight improvements. As such, additional provision may be required, or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch may be necessary within the wider South Essex region.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Explore funding opportunities to improve pitch quality in order to reduce shortfalls.
- ◀ Consider permanent floodlit solutions in order to fully alleviate shortfalls and to better cater for training demand.

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- ◀ Consider a long-term lease of the changing facilities at Benfleet Playing Fields to Benfleet Vikings RFC and explore whether the pitches could be leased in order to provide the Club with long term security of tenure.
- ◀ Identify funding to improve changing facilities at Canvey Island Rugby Club and Benfleet Playing Fields.
- ◀ Explore solutions to enabling Canvey Island RFC and Benfleet Vikings RFC to fulfil growth plans without shortfalls being created and/or exacerbated.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and encourage secure community availability should demand exist in the future.

### Rugby league

#### *Summary*

- ◀ There are currently no dedicated rugby league pitches within Castle Point and no rugby league teams.
- ◀ Previously, clubs existed in both Basildon and Southend-on-Sea, however, these recently folded.
- ◀ The RFL suggests that it would be keen to support the re-establishment of demand within South Essex, although it is considered likely that this would be away from Castle Point.
- ◀ Given that no perceived rugby league demand exists currently or in the future, no action is required in relation to the sport.

#### *Scenarios*

N/A

#### *Recommendations*

- ◀ Ensure rugby league demand can be accommodated should it exist in the future.

### Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

#### *Summary*

- ◀ There are no hockey suitable AGPs in Castle Point.
- ◀ There are no hockey clubs based in Castle Point, with any demand likely to be exported to neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ Consultation with EH suggests that it is unlikely for a dedicated club to be created in Castle Point in the near future, meaning immediate priority should be given to clubs and facilities in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ Notwithstanding the above, the lack of provision is considered detrimental to school-based hockey.
- ◀ In neighbouring local authorities, there is a need for an additional sand-based AGP in Southend-on-Sea to satisfy club demand, whilst current provision is sufficient in Basildon and will be sufficient in Rochford if supply increases in Southend-on-Sea.

#### *Scenarios*

N/A

#### *Recommendations*

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Ensure hockey demand can be accommodated should it exist in the future.

## Golf

### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are two golf courses within Castle Point (Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club and Castle Point Golf Club).
- ◀ Both golf clubs provide a standard 18-hole course each.
- ◀ Both clubs provide clubhouses that feature changing rooms as well as bars, kitchens and function rooms that are available to external hirers.
- ◀ Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club is primarily a membership club; Castle Point Golf Club is primarily a pay and play facility.
- ◀ Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club has a substantial membership base when compared to the national average, whilst Castle Point Golf Club has significantly less.
- ◀ Both have seen a year on year reduction in membership since 2014.
- ◀ In total, an average of 73,555 people are identified as current or potential users of golf facilities within Castle Point.
- ◀ Given that it is difficult for one facility to cater for the needs of all potential members, there is clear scope for some clubs to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways.
- ◀ It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Castle Point can meet current and future demand, although it is imperative that both courses are protected for long-term golfing activity.
- ◀ Facilities should be supported to ensure that sites are able to retain current members and users as well as, whereas appropriate, assisting them in capitalising on any untapped demand plus future demand generated from housing growth and population increases.

### ***Scenarios***

N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Retain all current golf courses and facilities.
- ◀ Sustain course quality and seek improvements where necessary through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for existing and new players.

## Bowls

### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are three flat greens located across three sites in Castle Point.
- ◀ All three greens are situated in the Mainland Analysis Area.
- ◀ South Benfleet & Canvey BC leases its green of the same name from the Council, whereas Hadleigh BC leases the green at John H Burrows Ground, also from the Council.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Castle Point BC rents the green at Woodside Park from the Council.
- ◀ Two greens are assessed as good quality (South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club and Woodside Park) and one as standard quality (John H Burrows Ground).
- ◀ All three greens are accompanied by good quality clubhouse facilities, although South Benfleet & Canvey Island BC has acquired funding to provide additional changing provision.
- ◀ There are three bowls clubs in Castle Point catering for a combined total of 419 members.
- ◀ In contrast to a national decline in membership, all three clubs report growth over the previous three years.
- ◀ Hadleigh BC reports plans to increase its number of members by 25.
- ◀ All three clubs are operating above recommended membership, suggesting a requirement for additional green space.
- ◀ As providing additional outdoor greens is considered unrealistic, consideration should be given to the creation of an indoor bowls facility as this would reduce the pressures on the outdoor greens.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Consolidation of greens*

Bowls England indicates that one green can accommodate approximately 60 members before capacity becomes an issue, whereas at least 20 members are reportedly required for a green to be sustainable. In Castle Point, all three greens are operating significantly above the 60-member threshold, meaning no two clubs could merge onto one green without capacity issues. As such, it is considered that all existing greens are required.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of greens.
- ◀ Sustain quality of greens at South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club and Woodside Park and seek improvements where possible in regards to green at John H Burrows Ground.
- ◀ Support Benfleet & Canvey Island BC with its changing provision aspirations.
- ◀ Support Hadleigh BC with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Given high membership levels, support clubs to ensure the number of greens remains sufficient to accommodate demand.

### **Tennis**

#### *Summary*

- ◀ There are 18 tennis court identified in Castle Point across four sites, with 13 of the courts being available for community use.
- ◀ All community available courts are located in the Mainland Analysis Area.
- ◀ Three tennis courts at King George V Playing Fields and two tennis courts at Woodside Park are now considered to be disused.
- ◀ No clubs' express concerns with regards to security of tenure.
- ◀ Hadleigh Park TC is currently without access to floodlit courts.
- ◀ All courts have a macadam surface.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment, nine community available courts are assessed as good quality (at Hadleigh Park Tennis Club and Deanes School Sports Centre), with the remaining four assessed as poor quality (John H Burrows Ground).
- ◀ Ancillary provision is adequate.

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- ◀ There are two clubs in Castle Point which have a combined membership of 310 members, which as a breakdown consists of 152 seniors and 158 juniors.
- ◀ Hadleigh Park TC reports future demand for an increase of ten senior and ten junior members.
- ◀ Informal tennis is reported at Deanes School Sports Centre; however, plenty of spare capacity remains for an increase in demand.
- ◀ There is a sufficient supply of courts to meet demand from Deanes TC at Deanes School Sports Centre.
- ◀ The supply of courts servicing Hadleigh Park TC is also considered to be sufficient; however, a shortfall will be evident if the Club realises its future demand aspirations, suggesting that floodlight installation is required.
- ◀ For non-club courts, the supply is considered to be insufficient as only four are provided.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Informal tennis*

The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts known as ClubSpark. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.

The LTA advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable, with the provision of accompanying changing facilities and floodlighting preferred. It is considered that John H Burrows Ground could conform to these requirements, whilst the courts at King George V Playing Field and Woodside Park could be considered if they were brought back into use (and added to).

All remaining courts in Castle Point are managed by sports clubs or via schools.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts.
- ◀ Sustain quality of club courts for competitive play through implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Consider installation of floodlights to better accommodate Hadleigh Park TC.
- ◀ Improve courts at the Cornelius Vermuyden School to meet curricular and extra-curricular needs.
- ◀ Improve court at John H Burrows Ground and explore implementation of ClubSpark scheme.
- ◀ Consider bringing courts at King George V Playing Field and Woodside Park back into use for recreational activity, potentially as part of the ClubSpark scheme.

### **Netball**

#### *Summary*

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- ◀ There are ten outdoor netball courts in Castle Point across three sites, all of which are located at school sites, with four, located at Deanes School Sports Centre, available for community use.
- ◀ Planning permission has been granted for two floodlit, dedicated outdoor netball courts to be provided at King John School. These will be available for community use when provided.
- ◀ All outdoor netball courts in Castle Point have a macadam surface.
- ◀ Seven courts, located across Deanes School Sports Centre and the Cornelius Vermuyden School, are floodlit.
- ◀ Following site assessments, four netball courts are assessed as good quality, three as standard quality and three as poor quality.
- ◀ The four good quality courts are located at Deanes School Sports Centre and were refurbished in 2017 as part of a joint project between England Netball and the School.
- ◀ The Southend & District netball league generates the majority of netball demand for Castle Point; the League is situated at Deanes School Sports Centre.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on ensuring courts at Deanes School Sports Centre remain of a good standard.

### *The Southend & District Netball League*

Westcliff High School for Girls in Southend-on-Sea previously hosted the Southend & District Netball League before quality issues resulted in demand importing to Castle Point. The School has now refurbished the courts in order to encourage the League to return; however, it is unknown if the League intends on doing so. If it does transfer its demand, usage at Deanes School Sports Centre could significantly decrease, thus impacting on income, although it may enable more activity from Deanes TC.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect courts, first and foremost for curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- ◀ Improve quality at Castle View School.
- ◀ Ensure courts at Deanes School Sports Centre remain sustainable should league demand transfer off-site.

### **Athletics**

#### ***Summary***

- ◀ There is one athletics track in Castle Point located at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre; however, this is currently disused due to substantial quality issues.
- ◀ England Athletics reports that numerous community groups and running groups as well as other sports clubs have expressed aspirations for the track to be reinstated in the near future.
- ◀ There are no athletics clubs within Castle Point, with any demand exporting to neighbouring Basildon and Southend-on-Sea.
- ◀ Two running clubs are in existence; Castle Point Joggers caters for 170 runners, whereas Benfleet Running Club caters for 320 runners.
- ◀ Benfleet Running Club hosts an annual 15-mile run over a multi-terrain course in Castle Point, utilising the Canvey Island sea wall and the undulating Hadleigh Downs.
- ◀ A Parkrun event is held every Saturday at Hadleigh Park.
- ◀ Evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre to be re-instated.

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- ◀ It is worth exploring whether a dedicated athletics club could be created via help from England Athletics.
- ◀ Priority should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the running events currently taking place.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Re-instating the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre*

Evidence suggests that sufficient demand exists for the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre to be re-instated to satisfy the needs of community groups, clubs and casual runners in Castle Point, as well as schools in the area that could occasionally utilise the facility. As such, substantial quality improvements are required, whilst floodlighting the provision should also be explored to enable more usage.

England Athletics suggests that for a track to be sustainable, membership of 200 or more people is required. Given the large number of members serviced by Castle Point Joggers and Benfleet Running Club it is considered that this threshold would be met, although the majority of activity would still take place away from the track. It is therefore worth exploring whether a dedicated athletics club could be created via help from England Athletics.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Consider re-instating the track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and, in the meantime, ensure any activity that requires access to a track can be accommodated via provision in neighbouring local authorities.
- ◀ Support the running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.

### **Cycling**

#### *Summary*

- ◀ Hadleigh Park, a purpose-built Mountain Bike facility, is located in Castle Point has an Olympic mountain bike course consisting of 5km of sandstone track.
- ◀ Sport England Market Segmentation identifies that there are currently 6,947 people in Castle Point which are participating in regular cycling activity. The majority of this is likely to be for recreational, health and fitness purposes, although formal demand is accounted for by one club; Hadleigh Mountain Bike Club.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 3,945 people who would like to participate in the sport within Castle Point that do not currently do so.
- ◀ It is considered that demand for cycling within Castle Point is accommodated for due to Hadleigh Park being situated in the Borough.
- ◀ The priority should be sustaining the quality of this site so that it continues to meet demand.

### **Scenarios**

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N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Sustain quality at Hadleigh Park and continue to maximise usage.

## **MUGAs**

### ***Summary***

- ◀ There are five sites identified as providing six MUGAs in Castle Point.
- ◀ All MUGAs are identified as being type one/two.
- ◀ All identified MUGAs are owned by the Council, meaning all provision is open access.
- ◀ Following non-technical assessments, all six MUGAs are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ None of the MUGAs are accompanied by floodlighting.
- ◀ Given the open access nature of the MUGAs, no usage is recorded.
- ◀ It is considered that given the breakdown across the two analysis areas, Castle Point is relatively well provided for albeit quality needs to improve.
- ◀ Furthermore, provision is likely to be limited given that none are floodlit.

### ***Scenarios***

N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Improve quality to encourage usage.
- ◀ Explore whether any existing MUGAs can be accompanied by floodlighting to increase availability.

# CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### PART 4: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

#### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

##### **Recommendations:**

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.

**Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor-quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 97 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

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Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to be addressed through quality improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

### Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

### Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Any disused/lapsed sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified within the Assessment.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger, better quality sites (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed upon, lost for development. However, no suitable sites for this have been identified as part of the PPS, meaning the situation should be re-visited as part of the ongoing monitoring and reviewing of the project.

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

A number of school sites are being used in Castle Point for competitive play, predominately for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

Sites which are currently classified as being unsecure in Castle Point include:

- ◀ Canvey Island Junior School
- ◀ Castle View School
- ◀ Deane School Sports Centre
- ◀ Prospects College of Advanced Technology
- ◀ The Cornelius Vermuyden School

In the case of Castle View School and the Cornelius Vermuyden School, existing community use agreements are in place albeit they are not being adhered to.

For the remaining providers, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Active Essex and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should also further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>6</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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Each club interested in leasing a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

The Council could establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example, outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

### **Community asset transfer**

The Council should continue to work towards adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: [http://archive.sportengland.org/support\\_advice/asset\\_transfer.aspx](http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx)

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### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.**

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Castle Point pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

The following is a list of schools that have outdoor sports facilities in Castle Point but do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches:

- ◀ Castle View School
- ◀ Leigh Beck Junior School
- ◀ Northwick Park Primary Academy
- ◀ South Benfleet Primary School
- ◀ The King John School
- ◀ Westwood Academy
- ◀ Winter Gardens Academy
- ◀ Jotmans Hall Primary School
- ◀ Lubbins Park Primary Academy
- ◀ Seevic College
- ◀ St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- ◀ Thundersley Primary School
- ◀ William Read Primary School

In many instances, grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works and improved maintenance will be required before community use can be established. The low carrying capacity of these pitches sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large schools offering numerous pitches such as Seevic College. Securing access to these sites will significantly reduce grass pitch shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within. This also ties in with recommendations made in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy, which makes a recommendation to work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use, particularly relating to sports hall.

It is recommended that the schools that are considered priorities for securing access to in both the PPS and the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy are identified to identify overlap and to provide focus. Where possible, a strategic approach to working with schools should be taken across the local authority and the wider South Essex region, with support from the education authorities provided. For schools that form part of multi-academy trusts, these should be addressed on a collective basis, with securing community access a co-ordinated approach with other engagement that takes place between the schools and relevant stakeholders e.g. sports development initiatives.

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Another recommendation made in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy is to work with colleagues in Education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement. This should also apply to outdoor sports facilities in order to provide greater security of tenure to club users.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of a 3G pitch, given current shortfalls, or youth 11v11 grass football pitches.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Active Essex and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence i.e. at academies. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

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### OBJECTIVE 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

#### **Recommendations:**

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions.

#### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest).

The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed which should be prioritised for improvement. Such sites include:

- ◀ Canvey Island Rugby Club
- ◀ Castle View School
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields
- ◀ King John School
- ◀ The Cornelius Vermuyden School
- ◀ The Appleton School
- ◀ Winter Gardens Academy
- ◀ Woodside Park

In addition, focus should not just be on improving pitch quality but also on improving ancillary facility quality, where there is a need to do so. The priority for this should on well used, multi-pitch sites that are currently serviced by poor quality changing facilities, or have no provision. Such sites include:

- ◀ Benfleet Playing Field
- ◀ Canvey Island Youth Football Club
- ◀ Waterside Farm Leisure Centre
- ◀ Woodside Park

With such pressures on budgets any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

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### ***Addressing quality issues***

Quality in Castle Point is variable but generally pitches are assessed as standard quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good quality pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the Borough and the wider South Essex region, to provide a steer on future investment.

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For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: [www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/)

### ***Addressing overplay***

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

*Table 4.2: Capacity of pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls and tennis) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

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For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

### ***Increasing maintenance***

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring there is an appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

The FA has the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.

In addition, PIP also aims to focus on developing an improved maintenance programmes with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the IOG. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the IoG.

All local authority sites in Castle Point receive a relatively basic maintenance regime that, for playing pitch sites, consists of regular grass cutting and seeding as well as occasional aeration and sand-dressing. If budgets allowed, this could be improved by carrying out yearly weed-killing and fertilisation, at least at a selected number of well used multi-pitch sites.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 5: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in outdoor sports facilities.

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In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Council seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing, for example. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

Please refer to Appendix One for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

### **Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch New Development Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle).

The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.

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The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

### ***Developer contributions - step by step guide***

For any application warranting a developer contribution the following processes should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of no more than 1,000 square metres (gross internal area).

Any obligations sought should be based on a tailored approach to each development, considering the population derived from the development, determining if the demand can be met by existing facilities and identifying the project/s that any required contribution will be used towards. All of this should be carried out using the robust evidence base provided as part of the PPS to help with clearly justifying the needs arising and how they are to be met.

<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from the development</b>
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The main tool for determining this is Sport England's Playing Pitch New Development Calculator which is a Sport England tool provided on completion of the Strategy. The calculator will be pre-populated with the current population of the local authority and the current demand data from the PPS. Until this requires updating, to determine the playing pitch requirement resulting from a development, all that is required is the input of the new population that will derive from a development in Part 1 of the calculator tab.

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Part 4 provides an estimation of the number of new pitches that would be required to meet the match equivalent sessions presented in Part 2. Part 4 also presents an estimate of the associated costs for providing these new pitches. Please note that these are indicative costs only and appropriate local work should be undertaken to determine the true costs involved.

<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Determine whether new provision is required and whether this should be on or off site</b>
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Consideration should be given to whether the nearest site/s to the development containing that type of provision could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need generated from the development. If there are no potential options to improve or extend existing provision to create additional capacity, or if capacity cannot be increased to a sufficient level, then new provision will likely be required.

Where the calculator does not create demand for a whole pitch, which is often the case for smaller sized developments, it is recommended to make a contribution to increasing the capacity of an existing site to meet demand generated from the development.

When identifying a site for off-site contributions, consider the proximity and location of existing playing pitch sites and whether it could help serve the new development. Identify the analysis area in which the development sits and identify if there are any hub sites or key centres within the locality. Initially, a one-mile radius could be drawn around the site in order to help identify the nearest priority sites, which may require consultation with neighbouring authorities when the development sites to close to the boundary.

This decision should be based on the potential to improve existing facilities within an appropriate catchment of a development to create additional capacity, and how realistic it is given the nature of the local area to provide new provision. For example, there may be some poor quality playing fields that could potentially be improved with additional drainage and long-term maintenance works, along with enhanced changing provision, to enable use to be increased, thereby creating additional capacity to meet the increased demand generated from the development.

Discussions should be held with relevant parties (e.g. NGBs, landowners, facility operators and user groups), and any further necessary evidence gathered (e.g. a feasibility study), to help identify the specific works that are required, and to ensure they will provide the necessary additional capacity to meet the needs. It will also be important to demonstrate that the specific works can be delivered within an appropriate timescale in relation to the occupation of the development site.

When on site provision is required, priority should be placed on the creation of multi-pitch and multi-sport sites with appropriate ancillary facilities such as a clubhouse and adequate car parking, as well as ensuring the provision contributes towards reducing current shortfalls. This will ensure that the provision is sustainable and attractive to potential users. Emphasis should also be on ensuring the site can accommodate an AGP given current sporting trends.

Other useful questions when deciding on new provision include:

- ◀ Are there any teams/clubs playing outside of the local area (displaced demand) which could utilise provision at the site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify existing plans/demand for access to new provision?

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- ◀ Are there any overplayed sites in the local area where existing demand could be transferred to a new site?
- ◀ Do any local clubs identify any latent demand (i.e. if they had access to more pitches they could they field more teams?)

To further help determine the sustainability of establishing new provision, consideration should be given to the potential management opportunities which may be available onsite:

- ◀ Is the local authority (or town/parish council) in a position to take on further outdoor sports facilities from a financial point of view?
- ◀ Is an education establishment to be provided as part of the development which offers a potential management option of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there a leisure trust in place which has the capacity to take on the management of outdoor sports facilities?
- ◀ Is there an opportunity for a trust based model of management, for example, by formation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?
- ◀ Is there an existing sports club that has the capacity to take on the management of another site?

At this point, further dialogue with the relevant NGB may be required to help determine options available.

<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Determine the other pitch and non-pitch requirements resulting from the development</b>
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The calculator does not calculate demand for other types of pitches (outside of football, rugby, cricket and hockey) or non-pitch provision which may be played in the area. However, the PPS identifies (where relevant) current and future demand for the additional types of outdoor sporting provision. As such, this should be used to determine if contributions are required towards these sports or if new provision is required.

Where there is no identified shortfall in provision or future demand for new provision within an area relevant to the development (e.g. an analysis area or settlement), consideration should be given to the nearest site to the development containing that type of provision. If this could accommodate the increased demand from the development, no action is required; if it could not accommodate the demand, consider if the site could benefit from a contribution towards increasing capacity to meet likely need. For example, this could include increasing quality and/or addition of ancillary facilities such as floodlighting, changing rooms or car parking. The PPS action plan should be used as a starting point to identify site by site recommendations.

Where there is an identified shortfall that could not be overcome through contributions, new provision may be required within or nearby to the development as part a multi-sport development.

<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Consider design principles for new provision</b>
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The exact nature and location of provision associated with onsite developments should be fully determined in partnership with each relevant NGB. Further to this, each pitch sport NGB provides national guidance in relation to provision of new pitches.

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There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Calculate the financial contribution required</b>
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After using the PPS New Development Calculator as a starting point for cost, the local cost of provision should be fully determined in order to calculate the financial contributions required.

A clear and transparent methodology for calculating up to date costs for the specific works, including appropriate ancillary provision, should be presented. Where appropriate, depending on how the needs are to be met, the cost of any required land purchase should be included in the financial contribution. If an obligation will be directed to an off-site project it should be ensured the costs are limited to meet the needs of the individual development.

Along with any capital costs for the works, an obligation should ensure an appropriate level of lifecycle costs towards the new or enhanced provision. This is required to cover the day to day maintenance for an agreed long-term period and to help ensure a sinking fund exists for any major replacement work, e.g. the future resurfacing of an artificial grass pitch.

Wherever possible, specific local costs should be used, especially if the works are to improve the existing quality of a site to increase capacity as there may be a number of site specifics to consider. Sport England does provide indicative costs for new provision:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

For all developments community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term.

### ***Developer contributions – worked example***

The table below shows the additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated overall from a housing development in Castle Point. This is based on a recently permitted housing development of 46 dwellings and an expected occupancy rate of 2.5 people per dwelling, resulting in a population growth of 115 people.

*Table 4.3: Housing growth scenario*

<b>Pitch Sport</b>	<b>Estimated demand by sport</b>
Adult football	0.07 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	0.09 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	0.08 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	0.02 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	0.00 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	0.00 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	0.50 match equivalent sessions per season

The estimated capital cost of providing for this demand equates to £90,125 with a total estimated life cycle cost per annum amounting to £17,377.

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As there is not enough demand to create an entire pitch for any of the sports, it would be advisable that off-site contributions were sought from such a development rather than creating new provision within the development.

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### OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

#### Recommendations:

- h. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- i. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

#### **Recommendation (h) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own outdoor sports facilities whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches and NTPs where there is a discrete need, where there is significant housing growth, or where sites fall out of use and require mitigation.

For 3G pitches, it is considered that all existing shortfalls can be alleviated if full size provision is provided at the following sites:

- ◀ Deanes School Sports Centre
- ◀ The Appleton School
- ◀ Waterside Farm Leisure Centre

Notwithstanding the above, there may be a requirement for additional 3G pitches to be provided to satisfy demand from neighbouring local authorities, or if key grass pitch sites fall out of use. Demand arising from new housing developments may also result in the need for additional 3G pitch provision over and above what has already been identified.

Emphasis should be placed when selecting sites for 3G provision on those that have the potential to become football hubs with multiple 3G pitches. All of the aforementioned sites are considered able to accommodate more than one full size 3G pitch if enough demand warranted such development, especially Waterside Farm Leisure Centre given that it already provides one 3G pitch.

A feasibility study should be carried out across the South Essex region to look at opportunities for such football hub sites as well as conventional sites with single AGPs. It is important that there is a joined-up approach between the relevant authorities to ensure that 3G pitches are developed at the most appropriate sites, such as by selecting sites that can contribute towards accommodating demand from neighbouring authorities. This approach will also ensure there is no duplication of provision that will compete against each other to attract demand.

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Recommendations in regards to 3G provision should be checked, and if required updated, with the emerging Local Football Facility Plan for Castle Point to enable the recommendations to be consistent.

In addition, there remains an isolated need to reconfigure pitches at certain sites, in particular in relation to the lack of dedicated youth 11v11 football pitches.

### **Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 5).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified in Castle Point can be overcome through maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of playing pitches.

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### PART 5: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan is separated by analysis area.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor facility sites and associated provision.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

*Table 5.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
<b>Site location</b>	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Services the local community.
<b>Site layout</b>	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
<b>Type of sport</b>	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
<b>Management</b>	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
<b>Maintenance regime</b>	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

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**Hub sites** are of strategic Borough-wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

For local authority sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

### Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private hub sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitch development with the FA and Football Foundation

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### **Partners**

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

The Council is considered to a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced.

**An important point to note, the Action Plan is not solely for delivery by Castle Point Borough Council but is designed to be pursued and adhered to by all relevant stakeholders and partners.**

### **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres are a **medium** priority, have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The **low** priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users.

### **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k;
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k;
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur.

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years);
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years);
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years).

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### *Aim*

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**CANVEY ISLAND ANALYSIS AREA**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	Rugby union	Club	Two senior pitches, both of poor quality. One is partially floodlit and overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the other has spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. <a href="#">Planning permission was granted for new floodlights on the site.</a>	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay via enhance maintenance and drainage installation.	RFU Club	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance	
					<a href="#">Provide new floodlighting in accordance with the planning permission granted. Consider providing floodlighting on the pitch not currently serviced by such provision and explore additional floodlighting to fully service the pitch that is.</a>			M	S	M		
					Pursue use of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch when one is created within the wider South Essex region.			M	S	L		
3	Canvey Island Youth Football Club	Football	Club	Two mini 5v5 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality and all played to capacity at peak time. Changing facilities on site are considered to be poor quality.	Identify funding opportunities to improve the quality of the changing facilities.	FA Club	Local site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance	
4	Castle View School	Football	School	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality and two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 and one match equivalent sessions, respectively, whilst spare capacity on the remaining pitches is discounted due to unsecure tenure and due to pitch over markings.	Improve quality of poor pitches to alleviate overplay.	FA School	Local site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance	
					Provide security of tenure for club users via ensuring existing community use agreement is delivered.			M	S	L		
					Ensure maintenance is appropriate to retain pitch over markings.			L	L	L		
		Rugby union		One poor quality senior pitch that not available for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	RFU School		L	S	L		
				A standalone NTP rated as poor quality that is unavailable for community use.	Replace NTP to better provide for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	ECB School		L	S	L		
12	King George V Playing Fields	Football	Council	Three adult pitches and one youth 11v11 pitch all rated as poor quality. The adult pitches are played to capacity; the youth 11v11 pitch has spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance	
				Three tennis courts that are now considered to be disused.	Consider re-instating the courts, potentially as part of the ClubSpark scheme.			M	S	M		
				A poor quality MUGA without floodlighting.	Improve MUGA to encourage recreational use and explore floodlighting possibilities.			L	S	M		

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
15	Leigh Beck Junior School	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
16	Leigh Beck Recreation Ground	MUGA	Council	Two poor quality MUGAs without floodlighting.	Improve MUGAs to encourage recreational use and explore floodlighting possibilities.	-	Local site	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
17	Lubbins Park Primary Academy	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
19	Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy	Football	School	A youth 9v9 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use. The School has received planning permission to replace this with a smaller sized 3G pitch.	Support development of a 3G pitch and ensure it is available to the community in the long-term.	FA School	Local site	L	L	M	Protect Provide
20	Park Lane (Canvey Island Football Club)	Football	Club	A good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. Used for Step 4 football. Also used by C & K Basildon Ladies FC; however, this is via a short-term agreement that offers no security of tenure.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid. Explore options to improve tenure for C & K Basildon Ladies FC.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
21	Prospects College of Advanced Technology	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst remaining spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams.	Improve youth 9v9 pitch quality to reduce overplay and transfer remaining excessive demand to a site with actual spare capacity. Provide club users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.	FA School	Local site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
23	Smallgains Recreation Ground (Canvey Island Cricket Club)	Football	Council	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all of standard quality and all with actual spare capacity. The adult pitch is used solely by youth 11v11 teams. Island Boys and Girls football clubs report that plans are being drawn up to improve the clubhouse facilities.	Reconfigure adult pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand. Utilise actual spare capacity via transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand. Support the Club in its clubhouse development aspirations.	FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
		Cricket		A <u>standard poor</u> quality square with 18 grass wickets. <u>Used by Canvey Island CC via a rolling lease arrangement. Has 36 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity but is used to capacity at peak time for senior cricket. The Club reports that plans are being drawn up to improve the clubhouse facilities. Not serviced by practice facilities. Canvey Cricket Club is no longer operational and therefore the pitch is no longer used, except on the rare occasion by Benfleet Cricket Club</u>	Seek quality improvements to bring the square up to good quality. <u>Pursue long term lease arrangement to provide greater security of tenure.</u> <u>Support the Club in its clubhouse development aspirations.</u> <u>Provide more and enhance facilities on site in order to make the site more desirable to a new team to either be formed on Canvey or a team to move in.</u>			M	L	L	Provide Enhance
25	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Canvey Island)	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
26	Thames Road	Football	Club	One adult and one mini 7v7 pitch, both rated as standard quality. The adult pitch is played to capacity at peak time; the mini 7v7 pitch has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. The adult pitch is used by youth 11v11 teams and is used for Step 2 football.	Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid.  Explore opportunities to transfer youth 11v11 demand to dedicated youth 11v11 provision.	FA Club	Local site	M  L	L  L	L  L	Protect
28	The Cornelius Vermuyden School	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches and one adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch of standard quality. The poor quality adult pitches are overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches are both overplayed by one match equivalent session. The remaining adult pitch has actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues and unsecure tenure. All adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Mornington Boys FC reports that it is looking to convert additional land into creating more mini pitches; however, Essex FA reports that this is likely to be unviable.  A poor quality senior rugby pitch that is available for community use but is currently unused.  A standalone NTP that is rated as poor quality and is unavailable for community use.  Five macadam courts rated as standard quality. Neither floodlit nor available for community use.  Three courts rated as standard quality. Available for community use but without any current demand. Also, without floodlighting.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.  Reconfigure one of the adult pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.  Provide security of tenure for club users via ensuring existing community use agreement is delivered.  Support Mornington Boys FC in its ambition to have additional mini pitches.  Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand and retain community availability should demand exist in the future.  Replace NTP to better provide for curricular and extra-curricular demand.  Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.  Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School  RFU School  ECB School  LTA School  England Netball School	Key centre	M  M  M  L	S  S  S  M	L  L  L  L	Protect  Provide  Enhance
33	Waterside Farm Leisure Centre	Football	Council	Eight adult, three youth 9v9 and three mini 5v5 pitches all of standard quality. No spare capacity exists in the peak period. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams. Canvey Island Youth FC has taken on a lease of the area inside the athletics track and plans to create additional provision in the near future. Changing facilities servicing the Club are considered basic.	Support Canvey Island Youth FC in its aspirations for the grass area inside the athletics track providing that it does not negatively impact athletics participation should the track be re-instated.  Improve changing facilities servicing the Club.	FA	Hub site	M  M	S  S	M  M	Protect  Provide  Enhance

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
		3G		<p>A good quality 3G pitch, converted from a sand-based AGP in 2013. It is FA approved for competitive matches and currently has eight teams using it for this purpose. <a href="#">The 3G pitch is currently in a poor condition. The Local Authority have been granted planning approval for a full refurbishment of the Artificial Grass Pitch, as well as ancillary features such as fencing and floodlights.</a></p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance and seek to maximise usage, particularly for matches.</p> <p>Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch remains suitable for match play.</p> <p>Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Consider creation of a second 3G pitch in order to provide a multi-pitch hub site.</p>	FA		M	L	L	
		Athletics		Six lane synthetic track which is rated as poor quality and due to significant quality issues is no longer in use. Significant demand exists for it to be brought back up to standard.	Consider re-instating the track given the demand expressed.	England Athletics		H	M	L	
		MUGA		A poor quality MUGA without floodlighting.	Improve MUGA to encourage recreational use and explore floodlighting possibilities.	-		H	S	H	
								H	S	M	
35	William Read Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
36	Winter Gardens Academy	Football	School	One youth 9v9 pitch of poor quality that is overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
42	Canvey Island Junior School	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available to the community and used; however, spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide club users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L	Protect
-	Castle Point Golf Club	Golf	Private	An 18-hole golf course servicing 47 members; however, it is primarily a pay and play facility.	<p>Retain course and sustain quality through appropriate maintenance</p> <p>Explore opportunities to increase usage.</p>	England Golf	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect
								L	L	L	

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### THE MAINLAND ANALYSIS AREA

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with two match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Used by youth 11v11 teams. Users CT66 FC reports that it has aspirations to progress to Step 7 of the football pyramid; however, the site does not conform to ground grading requirements.	Utilise actual spare capacity via transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Key centre	L	M	L	Protect Provide Enhance	
					Ensure CT66 can progress onto the football pyramid either on site or via alternative provision.			M	S	L		
		Rugby union		A good quality senior pitch used by Benfleet Vikings RFC. Pitch surface has deteriorated which has led to some rearranged features. Some spare capacity exists; however, the site is not used by the Club's mini and youth teams due to ancillary facility issues. Rent the changing facilities on an annual basis from the Council; however, it expresses aspirations to have a long-term lease on the changing facilities.	Improve changing facilities to allow access by youth and mini teams.	RFU Club	M	S	M	M		
					Consider a long-term lease of the changing facilities and explore whether the pitches could also be leased in order to provide the Club with long term security of tenure.			S	L	M		
					<a href="#">Improve pitch surface quality</a>			<a href="#">M</a>	<a href="#">S</a>	<a href="#">M</a>		
					Explore permanent floodlighting solution.			M	S	M		
					Ensure access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			M	M	L		
		MUGA		A poor quality MUGA without floodlighting.	Improve MUGA to encourage recreational use and explore floodlighting possibilities.	-		L	S	L		
	Deanes School Sports Centre	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of standard quality. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams.	Provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance	
					Reconfigure one of the adult pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			M	S	L		
					Consider installation of a full size 3G pitch provided that is fully available to the community and has a robust business plan in place.			H	S	H		
		Cricket		A poor quality standalone NTP that is available to the community but is currently unused.	Consider replacing NTP for curricular and extra-curricular needs and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	ECB School	M	S	L	M		
		Tennis		Six floodlit macadam courts that are assessed as good quality and used by Deanes TC via a community use agreement. Also accompanied by indoor courts.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA School		L	L	M		
		Netball		Four floodlit courts that are assessed as good quality and in use by the Southend & District Netball League.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	England Netball School		L	L	M		

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
				The League previously used Westcliff High School for Girls in Southend-on-Sea and may return now that quality has improved.	Ensure courts remain sustainable if league demand transfers off site.							
		3G		<a href="#">A new full size 3G pitch has received funding from the Football Foundation.</a>	<a href="#">Construct new 3G pitch.</a>	FA School		M	L	L		
9	Hadleigh Junior School Playing Fields	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 and a standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	S	L	Protect	
10	John H Burrows Ground	Football	Council	Four youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on the youth 11v11 pitches amounting to 3.5 match equivalent sessions, whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time. Users Inter Island FC reports that it does not have access to changing facilities at the site.	Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches.	FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance	
		Cricket		Two squares both assessed as <b>standard poor</b> quality; one with 14 grass wickets and one with 12 grass wickets. Spare capacity amounts to 38 match equivalent sessions; however, both squares are played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket. Leased on a long-term basis by Hadleigh & Thundersley CC. Serviced by four practice nets in need of some improvement. <a href="#">Three out of the four outdoor nets have deteriorated to an unusable standard.</a>	Explore resolution to changing facilities issues expressed by Inter Island FC.			M	S	M		
		Bowls		<a href="#">The rinks used by Hadleigh BC via a lease arrangement that expires in 2034 are below the expected standard. Rinks are still being reported as below standard A good quality green used by Hadleigh BC via a lease arrangement that expires in 2034.</a> The Club is operating above the 60-member threshold.	Seek quality improvements to bring the square up to good quality.	ECB		M	S	L		
		Tennis		Four floodlit macadam courts that are assessed as poor quality.	Improve practice nets <a href="#">to bring them back to a usable standard</a>			M	S	L		
					Ensure the Club can fulfil its growth plans.			M	L	L		
					<a href="#">Sustain Improve quality through appropriate maintenance.</a>	England Bowls		L	L	L		
					Ensure the Club's demand can continue to be met in light of its significant membership base.			M	S	L		
					Extend lease arrangement to provide long-term security of tenure.			M	S	L		
11	Jotmans Hall Primary School	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Improve courts and general tennis offer on the site, potentially as part of the ClubSpark scheme.	LTA		M	S	M	Protect	
					Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L		

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
14	Kingston Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
18	Montgomerie Primary School	Football	School	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality, with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure. Supreme Youth FC reports that it cannot gain access to the changing facilities on match days.	Provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
					Explore resolution to the changing room accessibility issues.			L	L	L	

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
-	Glenwood School	Football	School	One youth 11v11 pitch was lost recently, along with a youth 9v9 pitch due to the development of the new Glenwood School. The development is now complete, with a youth pitch and two over marked mini pitches as well as a separate mini pitch provided. These will be made available for community use.	Ensure pitches are provided to a good quality. Ensure security of tenure for community users and seek to maximise usage.	FA School	Local site	S	L	L	Protect Provide
22	Seevic College Sports Ground	Football	School	Two good quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	RFU School		M	S	L	
24	South Benfleet Primary School	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
27	The Appleton School	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches assessed as poor quality. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions; the youth 9v9 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay. Provide club users with security of tenure via a community use agreement. Consider installation of a full size 3G pitch provided that is fully available to the community and has a robust business plan in place.	FA School	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Provide Enhance
		Cricket		A poor quality standalone NTP that is available to the community but is currently unused.	Consider replacing NTP for curricular and extra-curricular needs and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	ECB School		M	S	L	
		Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand and retain community availability should demand exist in the future.	RFU School		M	S	L	
29	The King John School	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to the quality issues and because of unsecure tenure.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity. Provide club users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.	FA School	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance
		Cricket		A standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	ECB School		M	S	L	
		Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand and retain community availability should demand exist in the future.	RFU School		L	L	L	
		Sand AGP		A smaller sized (83 x 48 metres) sand-based AGP that is not suitable for hockey match play or club training but is suitable for lower level hockey.	Retain for limited hockey demand given the absence of a full size sand-based AGP.	EH School		L	S	L	
		Netball		Planning permission has been granted for two floodlit netball courts.	Provide courts to a good quality and explore community use options.	England Netball School		S	L	L	

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim	
31	Thundersley Primary School	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and two mini 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand and explore community use options, especially in relation to the youth 11v11 pitch, given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect	
32	Thundersley Recreation Ground	Football	Council	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality and all played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, ensure quality does not deteriorate in order to avoid overplay.	FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect	
34	Westwood Academy	Football	School	A mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect	
37	Woodside Park	Football	Council	Two adult pitches assessed as poor and two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard. The adult pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session, whilst the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Benfleet United FC reports an aspiration to refurbish its clubhouse on site.	Improve adult pitch quality to alleviate overplay.	FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Provide Enhance	
					Support Benfleet United FC in its clubhouse improvement aspirations.			M	S	M		
				Two squares both assessed as standard quality; one with 16 grass wickets and one with ten grass wickets. Spare capacity amounts to 32 match equivalent sessions, with capacity also existing for one additional senior team at peak time. Leased on a long-term basis by Benfleet CC. Serviced by standard quality changing facilities in need of some improvement. <a href="#">Maintenance and cleaning of facilitates on site has deteriorated and left them in a poor condition.</a>	Seek quality improvements to bring the squares up to good quality.	ECB		M	S	L		
					Improve changing facilities via modernisation.			M	S	M		
					Consider installation of an NTP on one of the squares to provide additional capacity and to support the recreational game.			L	S	L		
		Bowls		<a href="#">A good-quality green-The green is degrading in quality to an almost poor standard</a> used by Castle Point BC via a rental agreement, although it leases the accompanying ancillary facilities. The Club is operating above the 60-member threshold. <a href="#">The Club House on the site has been completely renewed. Currently issues with parking due to the high demand of Woodside Park are causing issues of access to the green.</a>	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	England Bowls		M	L	L		
					Ensure the Club's demand can continue to be met in light of its significant membership base.			M	L	L		
					Consider asset transfer of green on a long-term basis to provide improved security of tenure.			M	S	L		
		Tennis		Two courts that are now considered to be disused.	Consider bringing the courts back into use to improve the recreational tennis offer, potentially as part of the ClubSpark scheme.	LTA		M	S	M		
					Improve MUGA to encourage recreational use and explore floodlighting possibilities.			M	S	M		
38	Hadleigh Park Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Three macadam courts that are assessed as good quality. Not serviced	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA	Local site	M	L	L	Protect	

**CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
				by floodlighting albeit the Club wants provision installed.	Explore floodlight installation on at least one of the courts to ensure capacity does not become an issue.	Club		M	S	M	
39	South Benfleet and Canvey Bowls Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green used by the Club via a lease agreement which expires in 2036. It operates above the 60-member threshold and also has applied for grant funding so that it can extend its changing facilities.	Seek quality improvements to bring the green up to good quality.	England Bowls Club	Local site	L	S	L	Protect
					Ensure the Club's demand can continue to be met in light of its significant membership base.			L	S	L	
					Extend lease arrangement to provide long-term security of tenure.			M	S	L	
40	Kents Hill Junior School	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide club users with a community use agreement to improve security of tenure and to provide actual spare capacity.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
-	Boyce Hill Golf and Country Club	Golf	Private	An 18-hole course that caters for 650 members.	Retain course and sustain quality through appropriate maintenance	England Golf	Local Site	M	L	L	Protect
					Explore opportunities to increase membership.			L	L	L	
-	Hadleigh Park	Cycling	Council	An Olympic mountain bike course consisting of 5km of sandstone track. Used by Hadleigh MTB Club as well as recreational users.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and continue to maximise usage.	British Cycling Active Essex	Hub site	H	L	L	Protect
		Parkour		A Parkour facility that caters for a broad spectrum of individuals and is a popular destination for Parkour groups across South Essex and beyond.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and continue to maximise usage.			H	L	L	

## **PART 6: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

### ***Delivery***

The PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Castle Point. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Rochford can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful Strategy implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into, strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

Each member of the Steering Group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the Steering Group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure that the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of PPS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which its influence should be applied and strategy delivered enhanced.

Following sign off of the PPS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

### ***Monitoring and updating***

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the Steering Group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the steering group.

The Steering Group that takes the PPS forward should be a sub-regional group made up of the four local authorities included within the study (potentially as well as Thurrock and Brentwood) as well as other partners such as the NGBs, Active Essex and Essex County Council. This offers benefits in terms of joint working on strategic and cross-boundary issues and will also be more efficient in terms of administration when compared to each authority having its own individual Steering Group.

KKP will provide the tools used to produce the PPS to the Council as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the PPS database used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase or reduce following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPS is complete the role of the Steering Group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and outdoor sports provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures that the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
- ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;

- ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
- ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside regular Steering Group meetings a good way to keep the PPS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.

Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites should also feed into these meetings.

NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

### ***Checklist***

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

		Tick 	
Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date		Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>			
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?			
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?			

3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

## APPENDIX ONE: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities<sup>7</sup>

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a>	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2018/19 so refer to the website for the latest information: <a href="http://www.sportengland.org/funding/">http://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a>	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a>	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation <a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a>	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust <a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a>	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

<sup>7</sup> Up to date as of April 2017.

## Community Asset Fund

Whether it's the park you run through, the hall you do classes in or the pitch you play on, welcoming and accessible spaces have a big impact on a person's experience – and likelihood of coming back. Traditional sports facilities where people spend time getting active are an important part of this, but it can be much wider too. It doesn't have to be a traditional space – or a traditional sport.

Sport England's Community Asset Fund is a programme dedicated to enhancing the spaces in the local community that give people the opportunity to be active. There are a number of things it wants to achieve with this investment, but most importantly it wants to help local organisations to create good customer experiences and financially sustainable facilities that benefit their community for years to come – which may mean providing help to get things up and running too.

While it continues to invest in projects that help people get into sport and increase the number who are regularly taking part, it is also looking to invest in projects that look beyond this to how sport and physical activity can – and does – change lives and becomes a force for social good.

This change in approach is in response to Sport England's Towards and Active Nation Strategy and its contribution towards delivering the five key outcomes:

- ◀ Physical wellbeing
- ◀ Mental wellbeing
- ◀ Individual development
- ◀ Social and community development
- ◀ Economic development

How much can you apply for:

- ◀ **Small-scale** investments typically ranging from £1,000 to £15,000. These will address emergency works due to something like storm or flood damage, or something unexpected that is stopping people from being able to stay active.
- ◀ **Medium-scale** investments typically ranging from £15,000 to £50,000. These will address more substantial charges, such as an upgrade to an existing facility or developing a new space in the community.

By exception, Sport England will also consider larger investments up to £150,000 when organisations can demonstrate a considerable impact or are targeting under-represented groups. They are also unlikely to have received Sport England funding previously.

If you think the Community Asset Fund might be for you, have a look at the Guide and Developing your Project documents at <http://sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund/>

## Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term.

Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular and sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

## **Funder's requirements**

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

## **Indicative costs**

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility based on the last quarter. The Facilities Costs are updated on the Sport England website every quarter. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

## APPENDIX 3 – 2022 Sport Specific Updates

The following sports did not respond to the survey and therefore this appendix provides the 2022 update the sports responded with.

### RUGBY UNION

#### Supply Update

Table 6.1 Changes to rugby union supply and quality

Site ID	Site	Settlement	Update	Aim
1	Benfleet Playing Fields	The Mainland	Pitch surface has been reported to have deteriorated which has led to some rearranged features.	Enhance
2	Canvey Island Rugby Football Club	Canvey Island	Planning permission was granted for new floodlights on the site in early 2022.	Enhance

#### Demand Update

Table 6.2 Comparison of number of rugby union club teams

Demand data 2018		Demand data 2022	
Group	Number of teams	Group	Number of teams
Men's	3	Men's	4
Women's	-	Women's	-
Boys'	2	Boys'	3*
Girls'	2	Girls'	*
Mini	6	Mini	5*
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12*</b>

*\*Accurate affiliation data for these teams is yet to be confirmed by the Game Management System.*

#### Significant Issues for Rugby Union

- Covid-19 restrictions impacted rugby greatly due to the high contact nature of the sport, with some restrictions still operating in the 2021/22 season. This may have skewed the overall demand data.
- The RFU underwent an organisational restructure in 2020 which has resulted in a number of different support mechanisms for clubs.
- The RFU also began a 3-year partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) in 2021 which gives clubs access to additional pitch quality assessments and maintenance recommendations.
- The RFU noted that a GMA assessment/report should be undertaken at Benfleet Playing Fields to fully understand the current pitch quality/capacity and whether the position has changed since 2018.
- The RFU also highlighted that it may be advantageous to have a GMA assessment/report at Canvey Island RFC to support pitch capacity improvements on

the site, building on a previous assessment from the Twickenham Head Groundsperson.

#### Rugby Union Summary and Conclusions

- The full impact of covid-19 has not been fully realised for rugby union.
- Planning permission for floodlighting on the Canvey Island Rugby Football Club has been secured, this is a step to meeting the improvements set out in the PPS action plan, this needs to be monitored to ensure that the floodlights are implemented.
- Accurate data for the number of teams is yet to be confirmed by the Game Management System, which is currently under review.
- As the situation regarding demand and supply has not significantly changed since 2018 the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy remain valid.

## TENNIS

### Supply Update

Table 7.1 Changes to tennis court supply and quality

Site ID	Site	Settlement	Update	Aim
10	John H Burrows Ground	The Mainland	Improvement works needs to make courts more accessible and welcoming for community users.	Enhance

### Demand Update

Table 7.2 Comparison of number of tennis club members

Demand data 2018		Demand data 2022	
Age group	Number of members	Age group	Number of members
Seniors	152	Seniors	219
Juniors	158	Juniors	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>

### Significant Issues for Tennis

- Currently there is no way to track non-membership use of tennis courts on council owned tennis courts.
- The LTA are not aware of any waiting lists for the two registered LTA venues (Hadleigh Park LTC and Deanes LTC).
- Tennis courts at King George V Playing Field and John H Burrows Ground are unplayable or need major improvements to make them accessible for community users.
- The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access, these can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of a pin code entry system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts. The LTA can support local authorities to explore the feasibility of how park tennis courts can be managed and operated which can support their sustainability of use as well as ensuring they remain an asset for the community for a longer period. The LTA is also able to explore the potential access of grant funding to renovate park tennis courts.
- The LTA note that ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access could be considered for both King George V Playing Field and John H Burrows Ground for improvement works to make courts more accessible.
- Courts at Woodside Park are now disused and have been converted to other uses.

### Tennis Summary and Conclusions

- There is opportunity for the Council to work with the LTA to improve the provision and sustainability of the Council park tennis court stock.

- The LTA have highlighted funding streams that can be used to make improvements to existing tennis courts.
- Overall the number of tennis members has reduced since 2018, although data cannot be collected for non-members. The use of ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access could therefore improve reliability of demand data in the future.
- The recommendations set out above should be incorporated into the PPS.

## ATHLETICS

Supply Update: Changes to athletic supply and quality:

- There remains no publicly available 400m synthetic outdoor athletics facilities in Castle Point. The existing 400m synthetic track at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre on Canvey Island closed in 2011 due to substantial quality issues.
- There is one Compact Athletics Facility in Castle Point at Castle View School.

Demand Update

Table 8.1 Comparison of number of running club members

<b>Club</b>	<b>Demand data 2018</b>		<b>Demand data 2022</b>	
	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Number of members</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Number of members</b>
Castle Point Joggers	Seniors	170	Seniors	98
Benfleet Running Club	Seniors	200	Seniors	193
	Juniors	120		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>237</b>

Significant Issues for Athletics:

- England Athletics supply and demand analysis supports the development of an entry level synthetic oval facility within the borough. Potential opportunities for such a development exist at Canvey Island (a revitalisation of the now closed synthetic track) or the development of a MiniTrack facility at Castle View School.
- England Athletics noted that improvements to field facilities (throws and jumps) could be made in the borough.
- England Athletics highlight that given the date of closure; it is likely that the synthetic track at Canvey Island would require investment (circa £250k) to bring it back into operation.

Athletics Summary and Conclusions:

- The number of members for the running clubs within the borough has reduced significantly since 2018.
- There remains an opportunity to improve the provision of athletics facilities as set out in the 2018 PPS in the borough, although specific funding streams have not been identified.



Castle Point Borough Council  
Indoor Built Facilities Strategy Update  
2023

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report updates the Council's evidence base for indoor built facilities. This report is the first update of the following documents:
  - [Sport and Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment 2018](#)
  - [Indoor Built Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2018](#)
- 1.2. It is important to ensure that the Action Plan for the strategy is kept up to date, highlighting any specific changes to demand at facilities and/or clubs in the area, any specific changes within key sites within the Borough or any new or emerging issues and opportunities.
- 1.3. This update is a partial review of the action plan with an aim to keep the recommendations accurate and up to date. A full review of the entire strategy and action plan will review the full contents of the documents and will be completed at a later date.
- 1.4. For completeness of understanding this update should be read alongside the documents outlined in paragraph 1.1.
- 1.5. Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing indoor built facilities can be protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations, education establishments, community sports networks and other stakeholders. In many instances, the Council will not be a key partner in delivering these actions or recommendations, meaning the strategy and action plan is not just for the Council to act upon, but for all the stakeholders and partners involved within the project.

## 2. KEY OUTCOMES

- 2.1. As part of the work on the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan update several national governing bodies were consulted on for significant changes within the sport and demand and supply update data such as football, tennis and netball. These sports are also identified within the indoor built facilities assessment and no updates were provided in terms of indoor facilities.
- 2.2. The Council's leisure team were consulted as a supplier of key leisure facilities within the Borough as identified in the strategy, the following changes to the supply of indoor built facilities were identified:
  - Health and fitness suites
    - Extension of fitness suite at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre by 201 sqm
    - New gym and two new exercise studios at Runnymede Leisure Centre
  - Sports halls
    - New short bowls offering at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre
  - Squash
    - Three squash courts removed from Waterside Leisure Centre
- 2.3. These updates have been made to the action plan in red underline for an addition and in blue underline for the 2023 update. Deletions for the 2022 updates are shown as a ~~red strikethrough~~ and 2023 updates in ~~blue strikethrough~~. These amendments can be found in the updated action plan in Appendix 1 below.

## APPENDIX 1



# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES STRATEGY

## CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

NOVEMBER 2018

**2022 UPDATES**

**2023 UPDATES**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT DRAFT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This is the Draft Castle Point Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2037. It sits within the wider South Essex Framework which includes Basildon, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Councils for the same period of time. The strategy recommendations are Castle Point specific and are based on the Council's Needs Assessment report, researched and prepared between August 2017 – March 2018 by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP). It has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) guidance and in consultation with the Council, Essex County Council, Active Essex, Sport England, national governing bodies of sport, local sports clubs and key stakeholders.

Castle Point has an aspiration, and need, to consider its facilities planning particularly in the context of local government reorganisation, an ageing stock of leisure facilities; different management arrangements, future growth needs; changing economic and demographic profile of the area.

### ***Purpose***

The purpose of this Strategy and action plan is to:

- ◀ Provide clear direction and strategic vision to all partners so that together they can plan and develop a more modern, efficient and sustainable range of community based sport and leisure facilities that Castle Point requires.
- ◀ Present the objectives, priorities and recommendations for Castle Point which will inform policy, planning and investment.
- ◀ Provide a deliverable action plan based on the vision, objectives and priorities.

This will ensure residents have the opportunity to be physically active and healthier and where appropriate develop their sporting ambitions within their local community.

The consultant team is grateful to Castle Point officers and all other stakeholders for their contribution, experience and knowledge in the development of this Strategy.

### ***Partners***

This is a plan for Castle Point. It does, however, sit within a strategic framework for the wider South Essex sub region. This report is predicated upon wider partners such as local authorities, Active Essex, Essex County Council, national governing bodies and local clubs accepting and taking responsibility for different aspects of its implementation. The partnership approach to Strategy delivery is necessary to make best use of the assets and resources available to drive the development of sport and physical activity across Castle Point in particular, and the wider South Essex sub-region.

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## ***Local context***

Castle Point is a borough within the County of Essex. It is bordered by Thurrock, Basildon, Rochford and Southend-on-Sea. The Authority comprises four main towns; Hadleigh, South Benfleet, Thundersley and Canvey Island, with the latter a popular seaside resort. Castle Point forms part of the Thames Gateway, making it a focus for regeneration. The Council has been working with other key local agencies through the Castle Point Regeneration Partnership to look at long-term improvements to the Borough.

Strategic highways within the Authority include the A13 east-west road linking Southend-on-Sea to the east and the M25 motorway to the west. The A130 is the main route connecting Canvey Island to the Chelmsford. The railway station located in Benfleet, provides regular services to London, Tilbury and Southend. Southend Airport is located a few miles from the border of Castle Point and currently provides regional and international flights.

Castle Point experiences significantly lower levels of deprivation than other parts of England; 11.6% of its population resides in areas which are in the country's three most deprived cohorts (national average; 30%). Conversely, 39.1% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country (above the national average of 30%). Areas of higher deprivation are located in the south of the Authority, around Canvey Island. The least deprived areas are located in the north of the Borough.

Health indicators offer a similar but more pronounced picture. Only 6.9% of Castle Point's population lives in areas within the three most deprived cohorts (national average; 30%). Conversely, 45.0% live in the three least deprived groupings ('norm'; 30%). Key areas of health deprivation are to be found in the south of the Borough, around Canvey Island.

Castle Point's ethnic composition is different from that of England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census, the largest proportion (96.9%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is significantly higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 1.1% which is markedly lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

The Castle Point housing projections will be released as part of the New Local Plan, as the current projections are out of date. An indication, however, of housing growth in the Authority is illustrated in the South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA).

The SHMA was produced for South Essex (2008) which assesses in detail; demographic and economic trends and affordable housing needs for the Borough and the wider South Essex area. The latest addendum (2017) calculates that Castle Point requires 311 dwellings per year over the period from 2014-2037. No specific sites have been identified for development.

The total population of the Borough is 89,731 (mid-year estimate 2016). The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 10.9% in Castle Point's population (9,723) over the 25 years from 2014 to 2037. The most significant predicted changes are; the decrease in the number of persons aged 45-54 (-14.2%) and the increase in the number of persons aged 65+ (44.8% increase) resulting in this cohort accounting for just over 31.6% of the total population by 2037.

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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The importance of ensuring that the 65+age cohort becomes more active (with a view to general health of the local population) will become increasingly relevant.

The projected increase in the general age and the size of the population in the Borough is likely to lead to an increase in the numbers of people wishing to take part in sport and physical activity (potential customers of leisure facilities), thereby leading to increased demand for sport and physical activity related services. The importance of ensuring that the population, which is currently active remains so and that the inactive become active (sustaining and improving the general health of the local population) will become increasingly relevant.

Active Lives incorporates a broader definition of sport and physical activity including walking, cycling for travel and dance. Its 2015-16 survey identifies that 27.2% of adults aged 16+ in Castle Point are completing less than 30 minutes moderate intensity activity per week. This is above both the regional (25.3%) and national average (25.6%). Further, 63.5% of adults were recorded as being 'active' or undertaking more than 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity per week. This suggests that Castle Point is performing above the regional (59.9%) and national (60.7%) figures.

This Strategy needs to be considered within the wider South Essex sub-region. It is noted that a partnership approach is needed to produce the best quality facilities which are efficient to manage and to ensure that facilities are protected and/or enhanced via new development (in line with national planning policy). It thus looks to address a range of fundamental challenges; and assesses how sports facilities can be used to meet the needs of, or associated with:

- ◀ A changing population, which is economically stable but one which has an age profile increasingly dominated by older age groups.
- ◀ The limited accessibility of facilities, especially during the day time, because the majority of sports halls, in particular, are located on school sites.
- ◀ Health partners' ambitions to address physical inactivity and obesity levels.
- ◀ A growing and active 'grey market' which is time rich, especially during the day.

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

The following is an overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified for Castle Point within the Needs Assessment 2018.

### **Strengths**

- ◀ Waterside Farm Leisure Centre is the key facility within the Borough; it is well used and had c. £6 million investment in 2013. It offers a wide range of activities, including GP referral programmes, walking netball and walking football.
- ◀ Runnymede Leisure Centre has also received significant investment (£1million) within the last two years.
- ◀ The majority of community available swimming pools, fitness facilities and sports halls are either rated good or above average.
- ◀ There are 12 dance studios in the Authority, seven are rated good or above average.
- ◀ Over 80% of the population lives within a mile of a community available sports hall and health and fitness provision.
- ◀ All schools allow for community use within their sports halls.
- ◀ There is a modelled positive supply demand balance of sports halls and fitness provision in the Authority.
- ◀ The Authority has an indoor tennis facility, which provides a range of activities aimed at increasing participation in the sport. A successful tennis club is located at the facility.
- ◀ Active Castle Point has established a number of activities to support Active Essex's strategic objectives.
- ◀ Two swimming clubs provide opportunities in junior, masters and disability swimming.
- ◀ Village halls offer opportunities in a variety of activities, including short mat bowls and dance.

### **Weaknesses**

- ◀ Two thirds of the population has a reliance on cars or public transport to access swimming pools as only one third of the population (35.1%) lives within a mile of a community accessible swimming pool.
- ◀ Compared to neighbouring local authorities, Castle Point has relatively few village halls.
- ◀ Due to a reported lack of demand for squash, current facilities at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre are regularly used for fitness classes.
- ◀ Sport England's Active People Survey (APS), however, reports high demand for squash in the Authority relative to the number of courts suggesting that residents travel to neighbouring authorities to play squash.
- ◀ There are a variety of sports hall management operators across the Local Authority, which results in limited coordination to address local needs.
- ◀ Workforce development is a challenge for both Cartwheels Gymnastics Club and Canvey Island Swimming Club which is, reportedly, restricting the expansion of the respective clubs.
- ◀ The sports club network is limited in certain sports, for example; badminton and squash. Pay and play opportunities within the respective sports are restricted and they do not necessarily support the development of individual athletes to compete at a higher level.

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## **Opportunities**

- ◀ As the owner and operator of Runnymede and Waterside Farm leisure centres, CPBC has the opportunity to facilitate programmes which link to the strategic objectives of the Council more easily than if they were subject to an external contract.
- ◀ The potential exists to develop programmes aimed at increasing participation and supporting healthy and active communities across Castle Point, as does the opportunity for organising complementary activities at the two Local Authority sites.
- ◀ Due to the import and export of people using swimming facilities in neighbouring authorities and private operators, the opportunity exists to work with partners to develop swimming programmes that can cope with increased future demand.
- ◀ With a number of strong sailing clubs operating within the Borough, consideration needs to be given as to how to support the RYA to create more opportunities for young people to participate in the sport.
- ◀ Workforce development is key to ensuring that local sports clubs continue to grow. In particular, Cartwheels Gymnastics Club needs support in identifying and supporting a structure which will allow the Club to expand whilst supporting athlete development.
- ◀ Complementary programming at sports halls across Castle Point is necessary to help alleviate the capacity issues at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre (which is reportedly full). All other sports halls report having spare capacity, although some of this will not be available during the day as they are on education sites.
- ◀ Work with England Squash and local enthusiasts to drive up participation in squash in the Borough, given the quality of the squash courts available.

## **Threats**

- ◀ It is recognised that all councils, including CPBC, are working with increasing financial constraints.
- ◀ The rising age profile of the population is likely to lead to increased demand for facilities during the day (when education stock is generally inaccessible), thus putting increased pressure on Waterside Farm Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The high demand from neighbouring authorities for swimming in Castle Point and the future population increases will put increasing strain on existing community accessible swimming provision in the Authority.
- ◀ Although there has been recent investment in Local Authority swimming provision, the age of the stock at the two local authority sites is still over 40 years old. Should facilities require major investment and close for a significant time, the supply for swimming would be adversely affected.
- ◀ If investment in sport/physical activity facilities is not coordinated opportunities via CIL or s.106 will be implemented on a piecemeal basis to less than optimum impact.
- ◀ As with most local authorities, CPBC has limited influence on educational facilities, which makes developing complementary programming and sports development difficult to achieve, especially with limited resources.

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## **Summary**

In summary CPBC in partnership with key partners needs to:

- ◀ Improve the basis of strategic work across a range of agencies including Public Health and Active Castle Point to ensure that real progress is made in respect of all aspects of increasing physical activity and sport.
- ◀ Ensure that CPBC owned facilities make a progressively greater (and measured) contribution to the needs of all residents and are fully accessible to all the Borough's communities through targeted initiatives, facilities, programming and training.
- ◀ Work with neighbouring authorities and the other swimming pool operators in Castle Point to ensure future demand for swimming can be accommodated.
- ◀ Improve the breadth, depth and quality of performance management data collected (and shared) and the associated analysis of facility usage to inform future marketing, promotion, programming and pricing etc.
- ◀ Ensure that all school sports facilities continue to accommodate community use.
- ◀ Coordinate community access to, and the programming and pricing of, facilities (including schools) across the Borough within the public estate.
- ◀ Support other developments (via planning, developer contributions and officer expertise) which may assist in increasing sport and physical activity within the wider community.
- ◀ Continue to work with local sports clubs to ensure facilities and workforce development programmes continue to meet the needs of all clubs
- ◀ Identify ongoing investment, maintenance and refurbishment requirements to protect and improve existing sports facilities

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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## VISION AND OBJECTIVES

### Vision

***"To make Castle Point a Borough with a diverse leisure and recreation provision which is accessible to all, encourages and promotes participation and healthy lifestyle choices, making a major contribution to a safe and healthy community."***

This builds upon the conclusions identified in the Assessment Report (April 2018) and Sport England's recently released five-year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation', which aims to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and focuses on the least active groups; typically, women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

This strategy provides a framework within which a clear, coherent way forward for the management and delivery of leisure and sports facilities in Castle Point can be identified. The primary focus is to enable residents to gain access to leisure facilities of which they can be proud of. It is also vital to ensure that facilities support sport and physical activity programmes that lead to increases in regular participation, taking account of the projected changes in age profile of the population in the Borough up until 2037.

### Facility hierarchy and core principles

The site-by-site action plan which follow this section seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make.

In order to complete this, there is a need to clarify the sports facility provision within a hierarchy (identified below). This will enable Castle Point to establish specific venues with distinct roles and functions; the extent to which they carry differing levels of community importance, operational weight and related staffing.

It is important that facilities have a defined function from a user perspective. The hierarchy identified below considers whether facilities are Regional, Borough-wide and/or key community facilities. As such programmes of activity can be orchestrated to deliver physical activity geared to extended participation (hubs and spokes approach) and improving health whilst key neighbourhood facilities offer accredited clubs opportunities to develop their sports.

Broad principles are illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf, whilst key principles are as shown in Table 1.

It is worth noting that facilities identified to service very localised (and in particular rural) areas, are often valuable assets for a specific local area or community offering either a range of recreation/participation opportunities or, in some instances, offering beginner to performance opportunities.

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Figure 1 Facility hierarchy – core principles

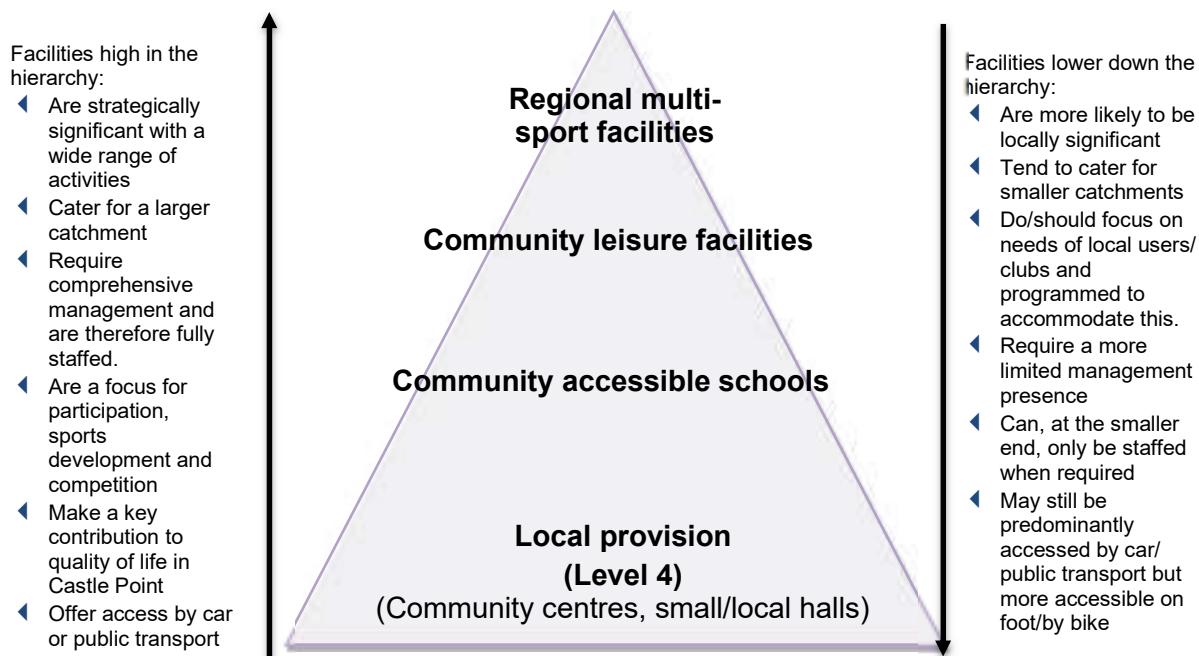


Table 1: Proposed facility hierarchy – site designation and definition

Designation	Role and function
Level 1: Regional or sub-regional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides a regional or sub-regional significant facility which is the primary performance venue for a single or select number of priority sports.</li> <li>A venue with the potential to host sub-regional, county, borough-wide and local events.</li> <li>Provides a wide range of opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in sport and physical activity, contributing significantly to the quality of life of residents across the whole of the Borough.</li> <li>Provides/programmes opportunities for local people to try new activities, develop their skills and progress to a higher performance level.</li> <li>Is a core venue for training and development of teachers, coaches, volunteers, officials and others in key sports.</li> </ul>
Level 2: Community Leisure facilities which service the Borough or local town population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to quality of life of residents in the local community served and/or borough and provide a range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>Generally, a combination of stand-alone community facilities and sports facilities on school sites (where this is the primary facility within the locality).</li> <li>Is a venue with potential to host borough-wide, community/ local events</li> <li>Provides a base for the provision of opportunity (delivered by a range of providers) for local people to develop their skills and try new activities.</li> <li>One of several core venues offering health/fitness provision and activity across the Borough.</li> <li>Core venue accommodating the Borough's Learn to Swim programmes (where a pool is incorporated).</li> </ul>

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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Designation	Role and function
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides options for a range of sports organisations to participate, compete and develop skill within their chosen activity.</li> <li>Supports voluntary sports sector to cater for club activity and raise standards in respect of coaching, coach education, administration and volunteer development in chosen sport.</li> <li>Facility use should reflect the demographic profile of the local community.</li> <li>If applicable, increases/ improves quality of PE and school sport opportunity for young people attending the school at which it is based.</li> </ul>
Level 3: Community accessible schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where within the vicinity of a 'community sports facility' it should complement the programming and opportunities offered to the local community.</li> <li>Contributes to quality of life of the neighbourhood, accommodating a range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>Either stand-alone smaller dry-side community facilities or sports facilities on school sites which operate within a lettings policy.</li> <li>Provides opportunities for range of sports organisations to participate, train and compete in their chosen activity.</li> <li>Facility use to reflect demographic profile of the local community.</li> </ul>
Level 4: Local facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tend to be stand-alone small dry-side community/ sports facilities which operate independently.</li> <li>Contributes to quality of life of residents within the locality providing a limited range of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.</li> <li>Provides opportunities – often for just for one or two dedicated sports organisations to participate, train and compete (e.g. boxing, martial arts).</li> <li>Programming generally appeals to a specific demographic e.g. young people or faith groups.</li> </ul>

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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## Strategic objectives

The above vision is based upon a clear, achievable framework of strategic objectives to **protect, enhance and provide** and are summarised below.

### Strategic Objective 1:

*Protect the current stock of facilities in order to meet the sport and physical activity needs of the local residents, by using the agreed hierarchy of use with defined roles and functions for different facility types which will be supported by appropriate investment.*

CPBC needs to protect the current stock of facilities. This will become increasingly difficult given the current swimming pool stock is over 40 years old. Despite recent investment, more swimming space is likely to be required throughout the Strategy period as the population increases. CPBC and partners will consider how to ensure that the Borough network of leisure and sports facilities works to maximum benefit and that, where possible, each facility performs a specific role and function in the drive to increase participation in sport and physical activity and contribute to wider community health and wellbeing.

### Strategic Objective 2:

*Enhance the borough-wide approach to programming and management at all sites with a view to improving sports development aspirations and increasing physical activity outcomes, based on identified strategic need*

In delivering the above CPBC needs to consider how it will work with partners to:

- ◀ Ensure that the current stock of facilities (which has a proven need), remains open and accessible to the general public.
- ◀ Work through the Council's own management and other partners to develop a process that brings together as many operators of local sports facilities as possible.
- ◀ Develop an agreed approach and a Castle Point definition of community use which all partners sign up to and agree to implement. This will recognise the importance of well programmed community use and attracting people from older age groups into facilities.

In delivering this CPBC and partners will need to consider the following:

- ◀ How partners might engineer a holistic approach to strategic programming across sites, including smaller but strategically placed community/village halls in order to increase and improve provision.
- ◀ How (reflecting the community use standard cited above) relationships are developed and maintained with schools across the Borough.
- ◀ The development of strategic plans that take account of the increasing demand for facilities from the ageing population and how those facilities in the more rural locations can be accessed.

### Strategic Objective 3:

*Provide a coherent range of good quality, accessible facilities reflecting the hierarchy and serving key current and future communities across Castle Point*

The following section identifies major investment requirements over the life of this Strategy. It describes what is needed in order to 'protect', 'enhance' and 'provide' sport and leisure

## **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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facilities for the residents of Castle Point and enable the Council to meet its wider objectives. It considers Waterside Farm and Runnymede leisure centres as key facilities in the Borough. *Waterside Farm Leisure Centre* is the strategic sports facility in the Authority offering a 6-lane 25m swimming pool (plus a 13m learner pool), 6-court sports hall, three squash courts and a 80 station fitness facility. In 2013, the site was subject to a £6m investment which included upgrades to the sports hall, swimming pool and the health and fitness suite.

The indoor facilities are part of a wider sports complex which includes an outdoor full size 3G pitch, skate park and several grass football pitches.

*Runnymede Leisure Centre*: recently re-opened (2018) following a £1m investment. The facility offers a 6-lane swimming pool (plus a 12m learner pool) and a 70 station health and fitness facility. As with Waterside Farm Leisure Centre, the swimming pool is also very busy. It hosts Runnymede Swimming Club (25 hours pool time per week).

There is a high level of imported demand from neighbouring authorities for swimming, which equates to almost 40% of the total use. There is overall spare capacity in sports halls across the Authority; however, Waterside Farm operates at 100% utilisation. This is also the only facility which provides daytime use.

The recent facility investments in both Waterside Farm and Runnymede leisure centres bring the quality of facilities up to date and is likely to lead to additional demand in the near future in both swimming and sports hall activity. Potential population growth (and the increasing number of older people) is also likely to lead to increased demand for facilities during the day, particularly at Waterside Farm.

Consideration needs to be given to how CPBC continues to invest in these facilities, given their age. It is likely that there will be need for additional swimming provision within the lifespan of this strategy, given their age and the population growth in the area. Cross border collaboration is needed given the high level of imported demand for swimming facilities.

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high quality built facilities infrastructure for Castle Point.

It is important that the Strategy is a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component which contribute to the quality of life in Castle Point.

Its production should be regarded as the start of the strategic planning process with a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review in order to ensure that a strategic approach is adopted throughout its life.

It will be important for Castle Point Borough Council and its partners to develop a short (1-3 years), medium (3 – 5 years) and long term (up to 10 years) action plan based around the Strategy and for this to be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. This process should not only be reviewed against a current action plan, it should also identify potential changes to supply and demand for facilities across the authorities. This is predicated upon the assumption that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it relates to ensuring that the physical infrastructure is maintained and is of a good quality.

In particular the annual review process should include:

- ◀ A review of annual progress on the recommendations; taking into account any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◀ Lessons learnt throughout the year.
- ◀ New facilities that may need to be taken into account.
- ◀ Any specific changes of use of key sites in the Borough (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.).
- ◀ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth etc.).
- ◀ New formats of traditional sports that may need to be taken account of.
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities across the Borough and feed into the wider South Essex Strategy.

## **Funding to implement the strategy**

The Strategy has not addressed in detail how proposals and recommendations will be funded. An informed (and committed) combination mix of sources and solutions will be required to deliver the vision and ambitions of the strategy. These are likely to include:

- ◀ Judicious multi-partner revenue contributions at a level that can be justified and that will allow some form of longer term sustainability.
- ◀ Further development and implementation of individual districts' developer contributions process associated with the development of urban extensions.
- ◀ Use of capital receipts from land disposal, where applicable.

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- ◆ Asset rationalisation and use of revenue saving and/or future liabilities to pay back borrowing aligned to capital investment in other sites.
- ◆ Prudential borrowing where an 'invest to save' justification can be made, particularly for longer-term proposals which may be considered in light of any future borrowing strategy.
- ◆ External funding sources aligned to specific facilities and/or sports (e.g. Sport England funding, other charitable grant awards and funding streams).
- ◆ Third party borrowing where a suitable, robust business case exists (although this will be more expensive than prudential borrowing).

## ***Developer contributions***

For any application warranting a developer contribution Appendix 1 sets out a toolkit (process) which should be followed in order to help inform the potential needs a new housing development may require and/or should look to consider, with regard to indoor and built facilities

## **Castle Point Council Corporate Plan: Turning Opportunities in Reality (2016).**

As identified and amplified in detail in the Castle Point's Needs Assessment 2018 Castle Point's Corporate Strategy is committed to reducing social inequality, improving the health of its communities and developing the economy through partnership working with other agencies to enable greater participation in decision making.

To improve the health of its communities, a key strategy objective aims to facilitate the further development of social, recreational and sporting opportunities for local residents. To achieve this, the Local Authority is dedicated to providing good quality health and fitness facilities.

The actions identified below will continue to support these and other key objectives of the Council.

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### ACTION PLAN

#### Management and programming

The following actions are relative to the overall management and programming of key facilities in Castle Point. All actions identified below should take account of accessibility issues (hearing, visual and wheelchair access). Short term- 1-2 years; medium 3-5 years; Long term 5-10 years.

Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Borough wide programming <b>Enhance</b>	Ensure holistic approach to programming across all facilities leading to improved access for all sections of the community.	Consider current programming across the Borough. Define the role of each facility within the wider community use offer across Borough. Develop a site by site action plan for improving programming across the Borough.	Short	Schools, leisure centres & village halls / community centres	High
Community use agreements <b>Enhance</b>	Increasing the availability of the current stock of sports halls to more sections of the community.	Taking account of the requirement for additional sports hall space and the spare capacity currently identified on school sites, consider the issues schools face in trying to accommodate more community use. This may include, for example, key holder access to specific sports groups. Resource needs to be allocated to securing access to school sites.	Short	Schools	High
Sports halls <b>Enhance</b>	Improving access to facilities during the day time given the current reliance on educational facilities for indoor activity.	On a site by site basis consider whether there are appropriate solutions to extending day time access, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Designing in good access to new facilities.</li><li>◆ Working with schools to accommodate community based organisations.</li></ul>	Short	Schools	Medium

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Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Swimming pools <b>Protect and Enhance</b>	Ensuring sufficient water space is available to current and future residents. Strategically programme water time for all residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Consider the longer term investment requirements in swimming pools in line with increases in demand.</li> <li>◆ Strategically programme water time for all residents to ensure the public have sufficient access to the pools at peak times.</li> <li>◆ Work with swimming clubs to maximise pool time in line with the most appropriate times for public swimming.</li> </ul>	Short	CPBC, Public Health, Swim England, Sport England	High
Health and Fitness <b>Enhance</b>	Ensuring health and fitness activities are accessible to people living in the more rural areas of the Borough and that the facilities will meet the needs of the growing and ageing population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ When reviewing Council owned leisure centres to ensure that equipment and activities are age appropriate for an increasingly ageing population.</li> <li>◆ Consider developing a range of outreach fitness programmes and activities within the more rural communities.</li> <li>◆ When refurbishing Council owned/managed stock <i>per se</i>, determine whether it is feasible to support smaller developments in community centres/village halls so that more people have access to such facilities alongside other activities.</li> </ul>	Medium	CPBC, Parish and Town councils	High
Village halls / community centres <b>Enhance</b>	Understanding programming, availability and the quality of community facilities is a further challenge for the authority. These are generally small facilities which are spread throughout the Borough but which enable physical activity to be made accessible to those living in rural and harder to reach areas. If the programming of them is commensurate with the wider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Ensure that there is sufficient outreach provision to target residents in rural areas (to get the inactive active and retain the already involved) with a view to using community and village halls as 'transition' facilities linked to mainstream membership programmes.</li> <li>◆ A commitment to understanding the sporting offer at these sites needs to be agreed. This should link to integrating/supporting community use of these into the wider Castle Point network.</li> </ul>	Medium	CPBC, parish and town councils	Medium

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## CASTLE POINT DRAFT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

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Strategic objective	Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
	principles of this strategy then there can be an increase in physical activity via complementary programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ The potential to start with sites already hosting activity is recommended.</li> </ul>			
Incorporating local facilities into the broader activity portfolio  <b>Enhance</b>	Develop an improved understanding of the importance of Level 4 facilities with regard to the physical activity offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Identify a project coordinator to lead on this element of work.</li> <li>◀ Review Level 4 facilities to see which are realistically able to increase physical activity in the context of current programmes, scale, configuration, management arrangements and existing commitments.</li> <li>◀ Consider how they fit into the wider programming offer.</li> <li>◀ Identify improvements to Level 4 facilities (ensuring that they are fit for purpose).</li> </ul>	Medium	Active Essex, Parish Councils, community groups, private facilities	Medium

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### Facility by facility action plan

Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Castle View School Level 3 <b>(Protect and Enhance)</b>	Education	<p>The site, which has a 4-court sport hall, was not available for assessment. It is understood that it is available for community use.</p> <p>The key challenge is to understand the breadth and amount of community use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Work with the School to understand what activities are currently delivered and provide programming support to complement other sports delivered in the Borough.</li> <li>◀ Maintain the quality of the facility as it ages.</li> </ul>	Castle View School	Medium	Medium
Deanes School Sports Centre Level 2 <b>(Protect, Enhance)</b>	Education (Challenger Multi-Academy Trust)	<p>The site provides a multi sports offer, including a 3 court indoor tennis centre, two sports halls; (one 4-court hall and one 1-court) and a 25 station gym.</p> <p>Lack of investment will lead to deterioration of already below average facilities (sports halls and gym).</p> <p>The indoor tennis facility is rated above average. This is a key community sports venue with key clubs such as Cartwheels Gymnastics and Deanes Tennis Club located at the site.</p> <p>The main challenge is keeping the facility attractive for the wider population, particularly both sports halls.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Continued investment in current facilities to maintain them to the best standard possible, particularly focusing on upgrading the sports hall roof, which was reported to be leaking.</li> <li>◀ Work with the Academy to ensure that its activity programme continues to complement that of other venues and CPBC sports development ambitions.</li> </ul>	Deanes School (Challenger Multi-Academy Trust)	Short	High

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Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Seevic College Level 3 <b>(Protect)</b>	Education Seevic Palmer's Academy Trust	Located next to Runnymede Leisure Centre, this 4 court sports hall offers opportunities in badminton and indoor football.  The key challenges for the site are to ensure that the facility continues to provide a range of sports for the community and is maintained as it ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Work with the Academy and the Nuffield Trust to ensure that its activity programme continues to complement that of other venues and CPBC sports development ambitions.</li> <li>◆ Invest in ongoing maintenance of the hall.</li> </ul>	Education Seevic Palmer's Academy	Long	Low
The Appleton School Level 3 <b>(Protect and Enhance)</b>	Benfleet Schools Academy Trust.	A multi-sport offer is provided at this site, through an above average 4 court sports hall and a below average swimming pool.  Community use is good with the swimming pool hired out by a number of agencies for swimming lessons.  The main challenge is the potential increased maintenance costs for the swimming pool due to its age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Continued investment in current facilities to maintain them to the best standard possible supporting both swimming and sports hall use.</li> <li>◆ The School should seek advice regarding long term investment/viability of the swimming pool and/or seek to invest any profits from swim lessons into the facility.</li> </ul>	Academy Trust CPBC	Medium	High
The Cornelius Vermuyden School Level 3 <b>(Protect and Enhance)</b>	Skanska	The School has two sports halls; a 4-court and a 1-court both of which are rated above average.  The challenge is to ensure that the facilities are maintained as they age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Work with the School to ensure that its activity programme continues to complement that of other venues and CPBC sports development ambitions.</li> <li>◆ Maintain the quality of the facility as it ages.</li> </ul>	Academy Trust	Long	Low

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Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
The King John School Level 3 <b>(Protect and Enhance)</b>	Benfleet Schools Academy Trust.	The School has a 4-court sports hall. The site was unassessed as part of the audit, however, consultation with the Local Authority indicates that it is available for community use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Work with the School to understand what activities are currently delivered and provide programming support to complement other sports in the Borough.</li> <li>◀ Maintain the quality of the facility as it ages.</li> </ul>	Academy Trust	Medium	Medium
Waterside Farm Leisure Centre Level 2 <b>(Protect and Enhance)</b>	CPBC	<p>This strategic site operates at capacity in the swimming pools and sports halls. There is reported high import demand from neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>The key challenge is to ensure that the facility remains accessible for all whilst supporting local resident's needs.</p> <p><u><a href="#">The fitness suite has been extended by 201sqm since 2018 increasing the capacity at the site.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">New short mat bowls has been provided on the site offering indoor facilities for bowls.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Three squash courts have been removed from the existing stock.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">New portable multi use mats have been provided on site.</a></u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Continued investment in current facilities to maintain them to the best standard possible in the medium term.</li> <li>◀ Continue to maintain high level of participation in sport and physical activity and, if possible, widen the range of sports on offer within the facility.</li> <li>◀ Intelligent use of data to identify current and future resident needs reflect venue programming.</li> </ul>	CPBC	Long	Medium

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Facility, level and objective	Management	Overview and Challenges	Actions	Lead Agency	Timescale (S/M/L)	Priority (H/M/L)
Runnymede Leisure Centre Level 2 <b>(Protect and Enhance)</b>	CPBC	<p>This pool also operates above capacity.</p> <p>The key challenge is to ensure that the facility remains accessible for all whilst supporting local resident's needs.</p> <p><u><a href="#">A new gym and two exercise studios have been created on site since 2018.</a></u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Continued investment in current facilities to maintain them to the best standard possible.</li> <li>◀ Intelligent use of data to identify current and future resident needs reflect venue programming.</li> <li>◀ Consideration re-programming classes to ensure increased participation.</li> </ul>	CPBC	Long	Medium

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### Sport specific recommendations

Sport	Challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale	Objective
<b>Badminton</b>	<p>There are no BE affiliated badminton clubs in Castle Point,</p> <p>No Strings recreational sessions are delivered at Waterside Farm Leisure centre. Pay and play opportunities are available at Seevic College and Deanes School.</p> <p>The challenge is to ensure that options for casual use remain accessible for local residents, both during the day and also in the evening. .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Work with Badminton England to maintain and possibly increase the number of No Strings Sessions available to help drive up participation.</li> <li>◆ Identify local volunteers to continue to lead and drive increases in participation in badminton across the Borough.</li> </ul>	BE/CPBC	Medium	Enhance
<b>Gymnastics</b>	<p>Cartwheels Gymnastics Club is the only club in the Authority. It leases the small hall at Deanes Sports Centre. With a waiting list of c.200. It has the capacity to increase the number of sessions at the site, however, it lacks volunteers and coaches to deliver this.</p> <p>Recreational Gymnastics is also delivered at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Support the Club, in partnership with British Gymnastics to assist with workforce development which will allow the Club to expand the number of sessions.</li> </ul>	British Gymnastics/ local gymnastics clubs	Medium	Enhance
<b>Netball</b>	<p>League netball is played outdoors in the Authority however, there is also a need to support training demand and recreational delivery within sports halls.</p> <p>Further details regarding competitive netball are presented in the Castle Point Playing Pitch Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Undertake regular consultation with netball clubs and work with respective sites to ensure courts remain accessible to accommodate training demand.</li> <li>◆ Maintain and possibly increase the number of Back to Netball sessions, whilst ensuring that pathways exist between these session and local clubs.</li> </ul>	CPBC /England Netball	Medium to long	Enhance

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Sport	Challenges	Recommended actions	Lead agency	Timescale	Objective
<b>Swimming/ aquatic sports</b>	Ensure the needs of aquatic activities and clubs as well as community users are satisfied via effective programming and pricing within the Authority's pools. Given the current demand on water space Authority Pools are uncomfortably full (over the ideal capacity of 70%) which will impact upon the quality of the experience of users. It will also limit their ability to increase levels of participation unless additional hours or facilities can be provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Current capacity within swimming pools is limited mainly due to imported demand from neighbouring authorities. Maintain dialogue between the Local Authority, Swim England, different user groups and clubs to ensure that users' needs are considered in the context of the wider swimming programme.</li> <li>◆ Work with other pools in the area, such as school pools/Virgin Active to explore options to offer casual use at certain sites to alleviate capacity issues at the two main pools.</li> <li>◆ Consider replacement of either or both facilities within the lifespan of the Strategy</li> </ul>	CPBC, Swim England and local groups.	Short	Enhance
<b>Sailing</b>	Club facilities at all three clubs are reported to be good, with recent investment made at Chapman Sands. The key challenge for the clubs is to increase membership numbers, particularly focusing on junior members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Develop and maintain effective relationships between Schools, RYA and local clubs to ensure participatory programmes delivered by the clubs are publicised and supported.</li> </ul>	Local Sailing clubs, RYA, CPBC,	Short	Enhance
<b>Squash</b>	<p><b>Waterside Farm Leisure Centre offers community accessible squash, however, there is limited demand for the sport. Consultation indicates the courts are occasionally used for cycle spinning classes.</b></p> <p><b>Three squash courts were removed from the stock at Waterside Leisure Centre due to limited demand. There is now no squash provision within the Borough.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>CPBC to work with England Squash and interested local volunteers to develop participatory programmes to increase utilisation of squash facilities.</b></li> <li>◆ There is need to identify local volunteers to lead and drive increases in participation in squash across the Borough <b>and links to facilities in neighbouring authorities.</b></li> </ul>	CPBC, and England Squash.	Short Long	Protect and Enhance Provide
<b>Tennis</b>	Deanes School is the only facility which offers indoor tennis facilities in the Borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Continue to work with the LTA, the anchor club (Deanes Tennis Club) and the School to</li> </ul>	Deanes Tennis Club LTA, CPBC,	Short	Protect and Enhance

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<b>Sport</b>	<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Recommended actions</b>	<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Objective</b>
	The challenge is to ensure that programmes and court availability remain to allow participation to increase.	<p>continue to offer a broad range of tennis programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Continue to evaluate and ensure the local community is engaged and that there is good transition from recreational play to the tennis club.</li></ul>			

# **SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT DRAFT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

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## **Appendix 1: Planning gain contribution toolkit**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this toolkit is to ensure that planning gain contribution sought from an individual development is based on a tailored approach, using the robust evidence bases provided as part of the South Essex Overarching Strategy and Action Plan for indoor and built sports facilities. This will help to clearly justify the needs arising from the development and how they are to be met.

It provides a step by step guide which should be used by those stakeholders which are directly involved in negotiating developer contributions either local authority case officers or housing developers/planning consultants acting on their behalf.

The following processes should be followed in order to inform the potential additional demand that a new housing development generates. This sets out the process for indoor and built sports facilities.

There is also a checklist summary for the process which should be completed as evidence of working through each step. In terms of social sustainability, a series of questions to explore are provided with possible options to consider.

For all developments (regardless of size) developer contributions should be sought towards social, sport and open space facilities. Where a development may be considered too small to provide a contribution, consideration should be given to where a number of small developments may have a cumulative impact on the community infrastructure and refer to local planning policy.

In instances where a development may fall within two or more local authorities it is recommended that the demand from the more urban area or locally reflective area are applied in calculating the requirements. This is in order to reflect the on the ground use of provision in the context of its setting. If provision is to be provided on the outskirts of an urban settlement and therefore is to act as an extension of that settlement, it is justifiable to utilise the demand/standards most appropriate.

The suite of evidence documents making up the Overarching Strategy and Action Plan includes:

- ◀ Basildon Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Basildon Sports Strategy
- ◀ Castle Point Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Castle Point Sports Strategy
- ◀ Rochford Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Rochford Sports Strategy
- ◀ Southend Needs Assessment Report
- ◀ Southend Sports Strategy

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## Process

Step 1	<b>Determine the key indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development</b>	<b>Navigation</b>
	<p>The key tools to assess this are provided within Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator which is accessed via the Active Places Power website.</p> <p><a href="https://www.activeplacespower.com/">https://www.activeplacespower.com/</a></p> <p>This will enable you to determine the demand for sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls facilities that the new population from a development generates.</p>	<p>Access to the calculator is restricted and requires a username and password to be set up.</p>

The individual local authorities IBF strategies provide an estimate of future demand for key indoor sports facilities based on population forecasts as a result of key housing growth areas. This key demand is translated into units of badminton courts, swimming pool lanes and indoor bowls rinks.

As the exact number of units are identified from specific housing developments then the Council will need to apply the household occupancy rate to this to determine the total population.

$$\text{Number of dwellings} \times \text{household occupancy rate}^1 = \text{associated population}$$

This is the population that is applied within the Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) to determine the additional provision that is required to meet the additional demand.

The SFC is a modelling tool designed to assist local planning authorities to quantify how much additional demand is generated by increasing populations and new housing areas. The model has no spatial qualities or dimension and can only be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations. The model makes no reference to:

- ◀ Location of existing facilities compared to demand.
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities (i.e. opening hours, how well they are used)
- ◀ Cross boundary movements of demand.
- ◀ Travel networks and topography.
- ◀ The attractiveness of the existing facility network.

The SFC uses information that Sport England has gathered on who uses facilities and applies this to the population profile of the local area. This ensures that the calculations take on board the population profile (e.g. age, gender, etc) of the local area.

The SFC then turns this estimation of demand (visits per week) into the equivalent amount of facility which is needed to meet these visits. For swimming pools it uses 25m lane equivalents and for sports halls it uses the number of badminton courts.

Registration is required to access Active Places Power (APP) and therefore the SFC. If you are not already registered, you can register for free via the link under the login button on the APP homepage.

Please note the SFC is one tool and should not be used on its own to determine the need for sports facilities from a single development.

<sup>1</sup> National occupancy rate of 2.3 persons per household is used

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Step 2	Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities required as a result of the development	Navigation
	<p>Use the Indoor Built Facilities Strategy to identify level of need that may be generated from new development(s) for indoor sporting provision not included within the SFC.</p> <p>This should also extend to community centre facilities within the area.</p>	<p>Indoor and built facilities strategy</p>

There is no clear calculation of the requirements for other indoor sports provision and community centre facilities (not covered by SFC) as a result of a new housing development. In this instance, the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy should be used to determine the need for additional facilities within the area. This should take into account the requirement for other dedicated sports facilities if the Strategy identifies this. For example, in Southend there is a recognised need for more sports hall space and as such, a contribution towards this may be seen as a priority.

The Assessment Report (within the specific sections of the report) should identify the need for other provision within the area. This will be as a result of the consultation with specific clubs and organisations, facility operators and national governing bodies of sport. It will also take account of the size, scale and quality of existing provision in order to inform this. The type of facilities identified within the Assessment report is determined by the scope of the study which the Council commissions.

This will also be informed by how busy existing facilities are. As an example, if an existing leisure centre (adjacent to the new housing development) is fully programmed with high demand for space, it is unrealistic to expect this facility to accommodate the demand generated from the new development. Therefore, additional provision will be required.

Step 3	Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for	Navigation
	<p>Consideration also needs to be given to the other infrastructure that will be generated as a result of the development. As an example, this could include primary and secondary schools, health centres, library, etc.</p> <p>The key focus here is to determine where there may be duplication of facilities and where there may be opportunities for shared provision.</p>	<p>Consultation with other council services, partners and developers</p>

In reality it will take a significantly large development to generate the requirement for a new stand-alone wet and dry leisure centre. Therefore, it is important to identify where other provision may be required as a result of the development in order to determine if this could replace or supplement the need to provide sports facilities or community facilities.

A key example of this is the requirement for primary and secondary school provision as a result of the development. A primary school will require a multi-purpose indoor hall, playground and playing field space to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE. A secondary school will require at least a four court sports hall and playing field space in order to deliver its national curriculum requirements for PE.

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Therefore, further investigation should be undertaken to identify if the opportunity exists to ensure that community use of the school sports facilities can be guaranteed, thus minimising the potential duplication of facilities. In this instance the 'contribution' associated with the increased demand for sports facilities could be used to enhance the school provision to ensure it was appropriate for community use (e.g. extend fitness facilities, community access arrangements, etc.).

In relation to other service (e.g. library, health centre, etc) there is a need to consider how these could be co-located with alongside sports and community facilities, thus creating a community hub. This is a key driver for sports facilities in attracting users that might not otherwise use these types of facilities.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/>

Step 4	<b>Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.</b>	Navigation
	Further investigation is required to determine if there is an existing facility that is close enough to the development site which, if extended /refurbished / remodelled could accommodate the increased demand generated from the new development.	Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report

Detailed analysis of facilities within the vicinity of the new development should be undertaken to assess the suitability of these facilities to accommodate the increased demand generated from the development. As an example the following information should be pulled together in order to determine if this is an appropriate solution to accommodate the increased demand:

- Is the facility close enough to the development to accommodate the increased demand?
- The quality of the facility.....does it need investment?
- Is there capacity to accommodate increased demand....how well used is the facility?
- Are there any restrictions in access to the facility?
- Are there plans in place to maintain or refurbish the facility?
- What type of activities are accommodated within the facility?
- Are the current management arrangements appropriate to accommodate changes or increased demand at the facility?
- Are there opportunities to co-locate other services alongside or within the facility?

In addition to the above it will also be important to assess the potential impact of the additional demand on clubs and organisations within the vicinity. As an example, some clubs and organisations may already be at capacity; therefore, there may be no capacity to accommodate increased demand within the existing infrastructure.

Step 5	<b>Consider the design principles for new provision</b>	Navigation
	The exact nature and location of provision associated with either onsite or off-site developments should be fully determined in	<a href="https://www.sportand.org/facilities-">https://www.sportand.org/facilities-</a>

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT DRAFT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

	partnership with leisure and community specialists (e.g. NGBs, local authority, advisers, etc.) and community groups themselves.	<a href="#">planning/design-and-cost-guidance/</a>
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It is important to ensure that the design of new or extended facilities is in line with the needs of local clubs and organisations as well as relevant design guidance. It will be important that any design reflects best practice design guidance taking into account all the key considerations which will be relevant to each facility. As an example this will include aspects such as: health and safety, safeguarding, storage, sport specific design features, etc.).

Where an extension or refurbishment of an existing facility takes place it will be important to ensure that the local community is involved in that design. It will also be important to ensure that continuity of provision is also considered as clubs and organisations will need alternative accommodation during the construction period associated with a refurbishment or extension. This is important in ensuring these organisations continue to exist in the longer term.

The development of community hubs is a key focus for many organisations as the benefits derived from the co-location of facilities is often greater than from stand-alone facilities. Therefore, there is a need for developers and stakeholders to consider how different facilities may 'fit' together. As an example, this could include the following facilities which may be required as part of a development:

- ◀ Indoor and outdoor sports facilities
- ◀ Primary and Secondary schools
- ◀ Health centres and GP surgeries
- ◀ Library
- ◀ Early years provision.
- ◀ Community centre
- ◀ Children's play areas
- ◀ Allotments and community growing areas
- ◀ Local retail centres

The master plan for new developments need to consider the strategic location of facilities and the clustering and co-location of facilities in order to maximise the benefit for the local community.

There is also a need to ensure that the location of outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities are appropriately located in the context of indoor sports provision (if also being provided onsite) to ensure a cohesive approach to the whole sporting offer.

Step 6	Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision	Navigation
	Consideration needs to be given to the multiple developments across the local authority or a combination of local authorities in order to determine if the combined increased demand is sufficient to warrant a contribution to a strategic leisure development.	Wider housing growth strategies.

If authorities consider each housing growth area in isolation then it is unlikely that there will be sufficient demand generated from a single development to warrant a new stand-alone leisure provision, especially swimming pools

# SOUTH ESSEX INDOOR BUILT FACILITIES CASTLE POINT DRAFT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

As such the council needs to consider how the cluster of housing developments within the local authority boundary, or relevant cross border area should make a contribution to strategic sport and leisure facilities. As discussed previously, this may be to provide new provision or to enhance existing in order that it can accommodate increased demand.

This in turn requires the Council and developer to consider the wider housing growth within the area which may also include that within a neighbouring authority. Where the combined increased demand generates the requirement for a strategic facility this should be pooled via developer contributions to a strategic development. However, it should be noted that the contribution may go towards a facility which is outside of the local authority boundary but reflects how people will live their live within that specific development. A key example of this is in Southend where residents within the Rochford boundary will gravitate to Southend rather than using facilities within the authority's boundary.

In order to calculate the contribution from each housing development into a strategic leisure facility fund the Council should use the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator. Using the population growth and process identified from stage 1 this will provide a basis for negotiation with developers on the contribution from each development.

<https://www.activeplacespower.com/>

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

## **Checklist summary**

Prompt	Evidence	Navigation
<b>Step 1: Determine the indoor sports facility requirement resulting from the development</b>		<a href="https://www.activeplacespower.com/">https://www.activeplacespower.com/</a>
<b>Step 2: Determine the other indoor sports and community facilities are required as a result of the development</b>		Indoor and built facilities strategy
<b>Step 3: Demonstrate an understanding of what else the development generates demand for</b>		Consultation with other council services, partners and developers)
<b>Step 4: Consider if there are existing facilities within close proximity that could be enhanced or extended to accommodate increased demand.</b>		Facility mapping within the Sports Facilities Assessment Report
<b>Step 5: Consider the design principles for new provision</b>		Consultation <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/">https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/</a>
<b>Step 6: Strategic pooling of financial contributions to deliver new provision</b>		<a href="https://www.activeplacespower.com/">https://www.activeplacespower.com/</a> <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/">https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/</a>

**AGENDA ITEM NO.7**

**CABINET**

**17th January 2024**

**Subject:** **Notice of Motion - Parking Standards**

**Cabinet Member:** **Councillor W. Gibson – Strategic Planning**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

**For Cabinet to consider whether to report to Council on the budget implications of the Motion deferred from Council held on 29 November 2023.**

**2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives**

**This report impacts on the Corporate Plan objectives - Economy and Growth, Place and Environment.**

**3. Recommendations**

**(1) To report to Council on the budget implications of the Motion namely that the creation of a Castle Point bespoke parking standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is not a good use of the Council's resources because the law requires that the provision of parking standards is undertaken as part of the local plan making process in any event and, therefore, the Council's resources should remain focussed on the preparation of the Castle Point Plan and not be diverted into the creation of an unnecessary SPD.**

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**4. Background**

**4.1 At the Ordinary Council held on 29 November 2023 ,Councillor Skipp gave notice of the following motion:**

*"We call on this Council to begin work on its own Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document for adoption by the Council to provide the material planning considerations needed to adequately address parking concerns raised during the planning process."*

As this Motion had budget implications the Motion was deferred without debate for a report to Cabinet pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13.

4.2 This report is presented to Cabinet to consider the budget implications of the Motion and whether a report should be made to Council on those implications.

## **5. Proposals**

5.1 At the meeting of Cabinet last month on 20.12.2023, Cabinet considered and approved the response to consultation on the Essex Parking Guidance Consultation. The Essex Parking Officers Association (EPOA) working with ECC at the Transport Authority have been working on this for approximately 18 months and they commissioned evidence at a cost of £40k. To prepare parking standards different to those proposed for Essex the Council will need its own, separate evidence – estimated to be a further £40k.

5.2 Currently, the 2009 Essex Parking Standards are adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Council. The Council response was generally supportive of the new standards. The comments to the consultation are being considered by the County Council before they issue a revised version. For reasons set out below, the Council will need to consider the incorporation of the final standards into the Castle Point Plan.

5.3 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 removes Supplementary Planning Documents from the planning system. To this end, policies related to parking will need to be incorporated in any event into the Castle Point Plan as it is prepared. The effect of this change means that work on a separate Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) would be unnecessary, duplicating work which is required to take place as part of the Castle Point Plan and would, therefore, place an unreasonable burden on the Council's financial and human resources. Preparing an SPD is a separate document to the Castle Point Plan, will require its own Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Because parking has a potential negative effect on the use of land this would need to be a full SEA which has a cost of approximately £10k.

5.4 In summary the cost of preparing a separate SPD, bespoke to the Council, would be in the region of £50k for which no budget provision has been made.

5.5 There is also a staff resource implication. It would take an officer around six months to complete the work to prepare an SPD over and above what officers are already doing on the Castle Point Plan, which will divert the officer resource from preparation of the Castle Point Plan. Given the recent letter received from the Secretary of State threatening intervention if the Castle Point Plan is not delivered by June 2025, the Council should not adopt an approach which will result in any delay in delivery of the Castle Point Plan.

## **6. Corporate Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

As set out in this report.

### **(b) Legal Implications**

As set out in this report.

**(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications**

**Human Resources**

As set out in this report.

**Equality Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken because no decision has been made by this report.

**(d) IT and Asset Management Implications**

None.

**7. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors**

The Notice of Motion was deferred for consideration at the Council meeting rearranged to 13th March 2024.

**8. Background Papers**

Email dated 20.1.2023 Principal Transportation & Infrastructure Planner(New Communities) Planning Services Essex County Council.

**Report Author:** Ann Horgan, Head of Governance ,Monitoring Officer