

## **RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

---

meeting date: 9 JANUARY 2024  
title: PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY INTERIM UPDATE  
submitted by: ADAM ALLEN DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

### **1 PURPOSE**

1.1 To provide Committee with an update on the progress of the playing pitch strategy work which the Council has commissioned.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To help make peoples' lives healthier and safer.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Council has jointly procured a playing pitch strategy with Pendle Borough Council. The finished reports will be specific to each Borough, but there was a cost saving in the procurement by working with Pendle Council.

2.2 A playing pitch strategy (PPS) is a strategic assessment of outdoor playing pitches and courts that provides an up-to-date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) for a local authority area. It does not just cover one sport but all sports that require an outdoor area to play their chosen sport, excluding cycling and athletics.

2.3 The PPS is seen as a key document by Sport England and forms part of an authority's local plan. They take nearly a year to complete, because they are an assessment of both summer and winter sports.

### **3. ISSUES**

3.1 This Council has not had a PPS previously, which has is now being addressed, having one makes it easier for local clubs and the Council to make a case for funding as appropriate for enhancing existing or developing new facilities.

3.2 The full report will not be available until the Spring once the winter season assessment has been carried out.

### **4 INTERIM REPORT**

4.1 The initial phase for summer sports has been completed.

4.2 The consultants who have been working to prepare the strategy have consulted widely across the Borough and that feedback has helped so far with providing a picture of playing pitches for summer sport.

4.3 The sports which formed part of the summer survey were cricket, tennis, bowls, other sports which are traditionally summer e.g., rugby league, rounders are not represented by clubs in the Borough. Although all the recognised clubs in the Borough for the sports were contacted not all responded, which is disappointing, because they lose their chance to engage with our consultants and help in the development of the strategy, identifying their ambitions and requirements for their sports club.

- 4.4 As expected the interim report provides a mixed picture across the Borough, with generally good or adequate facilities for the sports consulted. Though there are opportunities for development, with new courts for tennis and wickets and better changing for cricket sought by some of the clubs that responded.

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The production of a PPS is an important milestone for the Council and the various sports clubs and organisations involved in outdoor sport in the Borough. Once complete the final document will be provided to Committee and incorporated into the Local Plan.

MARK BEVERIDGE  
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

ADAM ALLEN  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS – None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 4479.