

# Public Document Pack

## Governance

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### The Chair and Members of Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Please ask for

Martin Elliott

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4 December 2014

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE to be held on THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2014 at 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield, the agenda for which is set out below.

## AGENDA

### Part 1(Public Information)

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Executive Member for Housing - Report on Housing Allocations Policy (Pages 1 - 8)  
  
5:05 – 5:25pm
3. Executive Member for Housing - Report on Support for Vulnerable Tenants (Pages 9 - 14)  
  
5:25 – 5:45pm
4. Scrutiny Project Group Report on Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (Pages 15 - 58)  
  
5:45 – 6:00pm
5. Scrutiny Project Groups, Progress Reports (Pages 59 - 64)

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Chief Executive  
*Huw Bowen*



6:00 – 6:10pm

- Dog Fouling
- Leisure, Sport and Culture Activities
- Sub Group - Sports Facilities Strategy – Proposed Project Group Scope
- Sub Group – Parks and Open Spaces Strategy – Proposed Project Group Scope

6. Scrutiny Project Group Report on Sports Facilities Strategy (Pages 65 - 66)

6:10 – 6:20pm

7. Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism - Sports Facilities Strategy (Pages 67 - 112)

6:20 – 6:55pm

8. Forward Plan and Notices or Urgent Decisions (Pages 113 - 132)

6:55 – 7:05pm

9. Scrutiny Monitoring (Pages 133 - 136)

7:05 – 7:15pm

10. Overview and Scrutiny Developments

7:15 – 7:20pm

11. Work Programme for Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (Pages 137 - 140)

7:20 – 7:25pm

12. Minutes of the Meetings held on 2 and 20 October, 2014 (Pages 141 - 156)

7:25 – 7:30pm

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager

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## ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11<sup>TH</sup> December 2014

### Briefing paper – Housing Allocations Policy

#### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The Council amended its Allocations Policy in 2013 in response to the changes introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

1.2 Although it is difficult to predict fully what the impact of the Welfare Reform changes may be in the longer term, and what further challenges may arise, we have already experienced an increase in demand for housing advice, and footfall has remained constantly high at around 420 visitors per week since April 2013.

We receive on average 223 housing applications per month and our current waiting list is around 2200. The numbers of people approaching with complex needs has increased and homelessness within the Borough is increasing. For example, the need to carry out criminal conviction checks has increased by 253% from 2012 to 2013 and homelessness acceptances have increased by 23%.

1.3 The number of households facing repossession is high and in a recent Shelter study which monitored possession claims entered in to court, the Borough ranks 61st out of 324 local authorities placing the Borough in the top 20%.

1.4 The impact of the changes made to the Allocations Policy has been reviewed and as a result it is proposed that changes are made to Policy.

#### **2.0 Current Position**

2.1 The changes made to the Allocations Policy in 2013 have been very successful in meeting the intended outcomes. Smaller properties are now available for households who need to move to

smaller accommodation and 45% of all properties have been advertised with a preference to transfer band applicants. 142 two bedroom houses have become available to let (127 in 2012/13) and 440 one bedroom flats (409 in 2012/13).

- 2.2 By awarding preference to households who are under-occupying properties and by working closely with the Housing Benefits Team we have been able to assist households to move into smaller accommodation.
- 2.3 Households moving by way of mutual exchange increased by 20% during the year.
- 2.4 There are however increasing numbers of vulnerable people approaching the Council for accommodation, many of whom may find living independently difficult. One particular group of people are young people aged 18-24 and specific targeted work with this group is essential in order that they can manage and sustain a tenancy.
- 2.5 In addition, Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is proposing changes to the housing related support programme, the result of which will reduce some services from April 2015. The supported accommodation provision is currently being phased out with no new referrals from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. It is proposed that floating support services for vulnerable clients including people with substance misuse problems, ex-offenders and young people are decommissioned from April 2016. It is reasonable to assume that the people previously housed and supported by DCC funded schemes will approach the Council for housing advice and assistance. Derby City Council for example, has experienced a 458% increase in single homelessness since the ending of Supporting People funded housing related support in Derby in April 2013.
- 2.6 Changes made to Housing Benefit entitlement, most notably the single room rate and under-occupancy charge have led to an increase in young, single people applying to the Council for accommodation. Young people aged 18-24 on benefits are of a particular concern as they do not have the financial means to

sustain a tenancy and as such many such tenancies are failing in the first year.

- 2.7 In 2012 the Council let 162 flats to single young people aged between 18 and 24, 58% of these tenancies failed within the first 12 months. In 2013 we let 270 flats to young people aged between 18 and 24. Since April 2013 we have been monitoring the reasons for termination of tenancies with unaffordability/returning to live with family being a major reason for termination.
- 2.8 The rate of tenancy breakdown particularly in one bed flats is unacceptably high and steps must be taken to settle and stabilise our estates.
- 2.9 An annual turnover rate of 10% or more is accepted as an indicator of unstable community. We have tracked the outcomes of new tenants of working age offered introductory tenancies since 2012 and have noted that the tenancy turnover rate of 1 bed flats is over 20% in some areas.
- 2.10 There have been a number of meetings with other agencies chaired by the Executive Member for Housing, to discuss the issues surrounding young people, and Officers and Members are currently working with other agencies to look at progressing a number of homelessness prevention and tenancy sustainment options for 18-24 year olds, most of which we are aiming to fund from the Homelessness Prevention Funding and by external funding opportunities available to us.
- 2.11 Following the completion of our research in this area it is likely that further policy recommendations are made.

### **3.0 Proposals to date**

- 3.1 The purpose of the report to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 is:

To update Members on the implementation of the changes made to the Council's Allocations Policy in April 2013;

To comply with the recommendations of the December 2013

## Allocation of Accommodation guidance

To provide an update on the impacts of the ongoing implementation of the Government's Welfare Reform programme.

To make recommendations regarding further changes including:

### **3.2 Introduction of Residency Requirement**

- 3.2.1 On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 the Secretary of State issued statutory guidance entitled Providing Social Housing for Local People, to Local Authorities regarding the inclusion of a residency requirement for applicants wishing to apply for Council accommodation.
- 3.2.2 Housing Authorities are encouraged to review their existing allocations policies and to revise them where appropriate in light of the guidance. The Localism Act 2011 gave local authorities the freedom to better manage their social housing waiting list and local authorities can now decide who qualifies for social housing in their area.
- 3.2.3 The Guidance strongly encourages all housing authorities to adopt a residency requirement and recommends a period of 2 years.
- 3.2.4 Having carefully considered the Guidance and considering the potential impact on voids, we are proposing to allow households from outside the Borough to continue to register on the waiting list but they will not be eligible to bid on a property until they have lived in the Borough for a minimum of twelve months. Households from outside the Borough who are working within the Borough or who have an offer of permanent or long term employment, and certain groups of armed forces personnel will not be subject to the twelve month residency requirement. Any other request for an exception will be assessed on a case by case basis as per the Statutory Guidance.



- 3.2.5 We currently have 302 applications registered for people living outside of the Borough and last year we offered 96 tenancies to people who did not live in the Borough.
- 3.3 **Discharge of Statutory Duty in the Priority Band and offers to other groups within the priority band**
- 3.3.1 As Members will be aware applicants with the highest housing need are placed in the Priority Band, which includes statutory homeless households, those with high medical needs, alternative to adaptations and statutory unfit and overcrowded. The aim is to provide suitable accommodation as quickly as possible.
- 3.3.2 Under current policy, statutory homeless households are able to bid on suitable properties advertised for a minimum of four weeks before a proxy bid is made on their behalf. Many applicants do not exercise this choice and the four week period passes with no bids being made despite contact from the Homelessness Officer working with the applicant.
- 3.3.3 The average time to discharge duty to a statutory homeless household is currently 15 weeks.
- 3.3.4 It is good practice for many reasons that homeless households are accommodated as soon as possible in suitable accommodation, not least being the financial imperative to reduce the costs of accommodating applicants in bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 3.3.5 Therefore it is proposed therefore that duty is discharged by way of direct match rather than allowing applicants to bid. This method will also help the Operational Services Division to prioritise void repairs for properties allocated to households in temporary accommodation, thus reducing the costs to the General Fund and ensuring that the household is settled in to suitable accommodation as soon as possible. We estimate that the average time taken to discharge duty should reduce to an average of 10 weeks.
- 3.3.6 Any offer made must be suitable for the household as defined by the Housing Act 1996 (Homelessness Act 2002) and any

individual needs and preferences will be considered and taken into account where appropriate and practicable.

3.3.7 At present, there are no time limits for other groups of applicants in the Priority Band. This means that an applicant can wait in the Priority Band indefinitely, despite the fact that suitable properties have become available during the period that they have been eligible for priority status. It is therefore proposed to time limit priority status for Priority Band applicants (not Statutory Homeless households) to 12 weeks. After 12 weeks a review of their application and circumstances will be made and normally a direct match of the next suitable property will be made.

### **3.4 Children in Flats Points - Transfer Band**

3.4.1 In April 2013, children in flats points were removed. This was because the Council had to maximise the number of properties available for households affected by the under-occupancy charge, and at that point did not envisage having the luxury of being able to assist households with children who were living in flats but who were otherwise suitably accommodated. (This change only affected households who were not overcrowded, any household that was overcrowded as per policy attracted the points applicable for overcrowding).

3.4.2 Understandably, many households with children living in flats wish to move. Having now had a year to gauge the demand for transfers generated by the 'bedroom tax' against the turnover of properties in various areas, we are now in a position to assist some households in flats in some areas of the Borough and therefore it is proposed to award 25 points for households with children in flats who are not overcrowded in order to recognise their housing need.

### **3.5 Lodging Points**

3.5.1 At present, points are awarded to applicants who are lodging with family or friends. The majority of these applicants are single young people who have no housing need to move. Following consultation with the Council's Solicitor and a Housing Barrister

regarding the proposed changes to the Policy, we are recommending on his advice, that lodging points are removed.

3.5.2 All applicants currently awarded these points will have their circumstances reassessed. If they are a 'household with dependent children living within a household' then the application will be eligible for 70 social/welfare points in General Band 1.

### 3.6 **Delegated responsibility to Executive Member for Housing**

3.6.1 The current Coalition Government has released two Guidance notes for Local Housing Authorities and several statutory instruments. In order for the Council to respond quickly to minor instructions and make the necessary changes to the Allocations Policy, delegated responsibility to the Service Manager (Customer Division) in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing is required.

3.6.2 Any major changes to the Policy will still be reported to Cabinet.

### 3.7 **Ending of Sub-Regional Scheme**

3.7.1 Funding was secured in 2009 to establish a sub-regional housing allocation scheme with North East Derbyshire District Council (Rykneld Homes) Bolsover District Council and Bassetlaw District Council (A1 Homes) to enable applicants to move more easily between Council areas.

3.7.2 The Link scheme was launched in 2010 and the four authorities have worked together to deliver the scheme and monitor the outcomes.

3.7.3 In April 2013 it was reported to Members that the scheme was not delivering the outcomes we had anticipated. Indeed Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC), due to the large numbers of flats available in the Borough, had become a net importer of primarily single people often with complex needs. Only 6 CBC households had moved out of the Borough in 2013/14 and 19 households moved in. All authorities reported a negative impact on voids and a disproportionate amount of staff time spent on processing sub-regional applications. For example, another authority may have

carried out a criminal convictions check for one of their applicants but they are unable to share that information with another landlord which means that CBC has to carry out its own checks thus potentially impacting on voids time.

- 3.7.4 All four authorities are therefore recommending to their Members to end the sub-regional scheme at a mutually convenient date during 2014/15.

## Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Briefing Note – Support for Vulnerable Tenants

#### **1.0 Background information**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report to Cabinet on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 is to review the current arrangements in place to support vulnerable tenants and to update Members on the new support in place or in progress to manage the emerging issues.

#### **2.0 Existing Support**

- 2.1 **In-house Tenancy Support Service** – the Council currently has 3 fte Tenancy Support Workers, 2 permanent and one on a 2 year temporary contract due to expire in April 2015. Each of the three have a massive caseload, over 35 each, which is way over the optimum size.

- 2.1.1 It was always envisaged, and indeed initially the TSW's were to provide low level general tenancy support, referring the cases requiring specialist support, for example substance misuse and mental health issues, to the specialist support providers.

- 2.1.2 However, this is no longer the case due to the number of cases requiring support, and the lack of other provision. and TSW's are finding themselves dealing with the specialist, resource intensive cases themselves and the Estate and Neighbourhood Officers are becoming more involved in the low level support cases.

- 2.1.3 We are currently reviewing our requirements in terms of current caseloads, service demands and emerging issues as part of a fundamental review of the Neighbourhoods Team, in order to establish where our resources should now best be deployed.

- 2.2 **Specialist Support Providers** – there are currently a number of specialist support providers funded by Derbyshire County Council providing support services to specific groups, for example, young

people, offenders and substance misusers, learning disabilities, mental health etc..

2.2.1 These service will either disappear or reduce dramatically as part of the DCC budget cuts.

### **3.0 Emerging Issues**

3.1 **Tenancy breakdown** - It is clear that there is a higher incidence of tenancies breaking down amongst young people than in any other group, and therefore a review of the housing waiting list, allocations, tenancy breakdown, terminations and affordability has been carried out.

3.1.1 Meetings have been held with other interested and appropriate agencies, chaired by the Executive Member for Housing regarding the issues that had been raised.

3.1.2 Specific concerns regarding affordability and the ability of young people to sustain a tenancy were discussed. All partner agencies agreed that we should not be allocating tenancies to people who had little chance of sustaining a tenancy and that we needed to look at other options.

3.1.3 There was, however an understanding that the homelessness safety net would ensure that vulnerable young people were still accommodated and that they would need support to sustain a tenancy

3.2 **Young people and welfare reform** - Changes introduced as a result of welfare reform could all lead to increased financial pressure and stress on family relationships and include, changes to the shared room rate, non-dependant deductions to Housing Benefit and changes to the sanctions regime – data produced by the DWP show that 46% of JSA sanctions imposed since October 2012 were on claimants aged 18-24

3.2.1 Further planned reforms such as the introduction of Universal Credit will place increasing pressures on young people who lack financial budgeting skills. It has now been confirmed that Universal Credit will roll-out in Chesterfield from February 2015.

**3.3 Reduction in supported accommodation and tenancy support as a result of DCC cuts** -the reduction in supported accommodation available to young people and other vulnerable households as a result of the cuts by Derbyshire County Council will increase the number of people applying to the Council for accommodation.

3.3.1 Derby City Council reported a 458% increase in single homelessness as a result of their supported housing services being decommissioned in March 2013.

3.3.2 Many young and vulnerable people need accommodation with support and tenancy training before they are ready to live independently successfully.

## **4.0 Research**

4.1 The key findings of our research is:

- There are 336 young, single people aged under 25 registered on the Council waiting list
- In 2012, 162 tenancies were allocated to single, under 25's; only 72 of those tenancies became secure (44%), that is 56% failed
- In 2013, 270 tenancies were allocated to single under 25's
- On several of our estates, turnover of 1 bed flats is over 30% per year. The average across all areas in 2013/14 was 18.5% (with almost all estates being over 10% which is seen as being unacceptable)
- Young people on JSA simply do not have enough money to live independently
- Increasing numbers of young people are terminating their tenancies, often returning to live with parents because they cannot afford to live in them; the majority have accrued debts which they must repay

4.2 The problems we are identifying are fairly unique to Chesterfield because of our stock profile and the availability of single person accommodation. Many authorities, whilst allowing young people to apply for housing, will not in reality offer them accommodation, due to the lack of supply.

## 5.0 National research

5.1 In January 2014, Homeless Link published the report, Young and Homeless 2013. The report, whilst focussing on homelessness, captures many of the issues that also face young people who may not be without somewhere to live but who may be threatened with homelessness due to problems with parents, overcrowding or lack of income. The key findings of the report are:

- That the main cause of homelessness amongst under 25's is that parents are no longer willing to house them,
- Over half of those in need of accommodation are not in employment, education or training,
- Local authorities and homelessness agencies are reporting that young people's needs are increasingly complex,
- A range of welfare reforms are having a negative impact on young people, for example, the shared room rate limiting access to private rented accommodation as well as benefit sanctions.

5.2 Preventing young people becoming homeless or threatened with homelessness is key, and the report highlights that there is an increasing recognition that young people who are supported to remain with their immediate family or other family members, have better outcomes than those young people who leave home or become homeless.

5.3 Agencies working with young people have stated that young people may not understand the realities when they come to leave home and have unrealistic expectations of what independent living entails.

5.4 Homeless Link's survey of Needs and Provision 2013 found that over 50% of young people who were homeless were not in education or training and lacked independent living skills. Almost 30% had an offending history and substance misuse problems and 20% had mental health problems.

5.5 For many young people a tenancy is not necessarily the solution. For many young people they need the opportunity to prepare for a tenancy, develop life skills and get into education, training or employment.



5.6 Helping young people to return or remain at home, provided that it is safe to do so, is often the best option for some young people.

## **6.0 Recommendations from the National Youth Reference Group regarding housing for young people**

6.1 The recommendations from the National Youth Reference Group are -

- That homelessness prevention work is carried out in schools
- That families are made aware of housing issues facing young people
- more access to mediation services
- more information regarding housing options for younger people
- more options for work and training
- support services which are less generic and more specialist to meet the needs of young people
- more move on and emergency accommodation available
- young people in employment should be prioritised for move-on accommodation
- current investment in services to support young people are protected
- any further welfare reforms should not cause additional hardship for young people, for example, the proposal to withdraw housing benefit and JSA for under 25's
- continue to prioritise partnerships between housing and children's services

## **7.0 Proposals for CBC**

7.1 **Communication and Information** - we are aware that we need to get the message across to young people and their parents of what the realities and responsibilities of holding a tenancy really mean, and as a result have introduced the following:

- A tenancy training scheme for under 25's delivered by SYHA (piloting at present)
- Producing literature for schools and running a housing education project (SYHA to pilot)
- Producing literature for parents re the difficulties of their children sustaining a tenancy on benefits/low income
- Considering a mediation service to encourage parents to keep their children at home

7.2 **Supported Accommodation** - where young people have tenancies we are exploring the following:

- Developing a 'supported' housing project in partnership with Action Housing to incorporate tenancy training and signposting to other agencies for support. This will provide 13 units initially with the potential to expand the scheme to a total of 30 units or more as demand dictates.
- Looking at the feasibility of a furnished accommodation scheme

7.3 **Specialist advice and support** – we are exploring all opportunities to access funding in order to enhance current service provision, for example:

- Bidding for additional funding in partnership with NEDDC and Bolsover DC to provide specialist housing advice for young people in receipt of benefits (working in partnership with the Ambition project funded by Sheffield City Region)



# Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

## Scrutiny Project Group

### *report on Parks and Open Spaces Strategy*

Date : 2 December 2014

## PROJECT GROUP MEMBERS:

Councillors:

Lead	Keith Miles
Group Members	Avis Murphy Gordon Simmons Mark Rayner Andy Slack David Stone Helen Elliott Sharon Blank

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW AIMS

- 1.1 This review aims to contribute to the development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy with a view to develop and contribute to the Council's overarching Health and Wellbeing strategic portfolio.
- 1.2 The Project Group had hoped to deliver a more in depth review, but to co-ordinate this report alongside sport and leisure and their demands on the timeframe from planning review requirements, we have investigated and reported only on the key issues to enable the early implementation of this important report.

### BACKGROUND

- 1.3 The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was adopted in 2003 and had not been revised until now.
- 1.4 The Council's Local Plan Core Strategy has recently been developed and the refreshed Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is needed to support this as a basis on which to avoid inappropriate developments on designated playing fields and to maximise and direct investment to support new development.
- 1.5 It is recognised that the availability of green space within the Borough has an essential part to play in contributing to improving the health and quality of life for all our communities.
- 1.6 The Public Health England's 2014 Health Profile for Chesterfield demonstrates a number of areas of concern regarding the health of

people in Chesterfield including lower than average life expectancy in the most deprived areas, and higher rates of diabetes and cardiovascular problems than the national average. Rates of smoking-related deaths and hospital stays for alcohol-related harm are also above the national average.

- 1.7 There are also many areas of deprivation within the Borough indicated in the map attached at Appendix 1, which shows the various measures of deprivation including income, employment, health and disability etc.
- 1.8 Various studies have shown that green space can benefit health through physical activity, relief from stress and fatigue and facilitation of social contact. Many of these studies have been summarised in a report by the Public Health Department, Derbyshire County Council, '*Green Space, Health Benefits and Chesterfield*' (Appendix 2) to this report.
- 1.9 It is reported that the use of green space can be impacted by the distance from which it is accessible to residents and also by physical boundaries such as busy roads, fences, poorly visible paths and signs.
- 1.10 There is evidence that the lack of good quality green space has a disproportionate effect on people from lower socio-economic groups. This is why the Project Group has taken a focus on the promotion of the health benefits in the use of parks and open spaces in the areas of the Borough that are more deprived.
- 1.11 Research also identifies that well-maintained facilities and organised activities are necessary to encourage the use of green spaces for physical activity and social contact. It is therefore suggested in the proposed strategy that a focus should be placed on investment in the quality of many areas, whilst considering the disposal of other low-quality areas of limited recreational potential. Promotion of community activities such as walks is also a key element.
- 1.12 An audit of the quality and availability of the parks and open spaces within the Borough was carried out by the Council as part of the strategy development. This data combined with information on the deprived areas of the Borough identified specific areas of combined multiple deprivation, low quality and deficiency of open space within wards Old Whittington, Dunston, St Helen's, and Hollingwood and Inkersall. A map that illustrates this data is attached at Appendix 3.

1.13 This review focuses on the areas of Dunston and Old Whittington as a small sample of the issues within the Borough to consider the principles and application the Strategy on these areas.

1.14 The main objectives of this review are:

- a) to ensure the strategic plan for Chesterfield Borough is based on robust needs and evidence.
- b) to ensure there are sustainable value for money and quality services, future-proofed for community need.
- c) to ensure the strategy meets the strategic needs identified to meet statutory Planning obligations.

## **2.0 REASONS FOR THE REVIEW AND LINK TO PRIORITIES**

2.1 This strategy was required to support the Council's Local Plan and Core Strategy adopted in July 2013 as it had been identified that the previous strategy was out-of-date.

2.2 The review of the strategy was to develop and contribute to the Council's overarching Health and Wellbeing strategic portfolio.

2.3 The review was linked to the priority 'to improve the quality of life for local people' and the aim 'to encourage people to lead healthy and active lifestyles.'

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **The Project Group recommends:**

3.1 That consultation is carried out with local residents and community groups when proposals are put forward for investment in a park or open space, in conjunction with promoting awareness of the health benefits.

Such consultation should be in line with the Council's Community Engagement Strategy and regard should be given to the community engagement model produced by students from University of Nottingham's masters in public health course in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Public Health Department.

- 3.2 That disability access should be prioritised when proposals are developed for investment in parks and open spaces.
- 3.3 That the Play Strategy be reviewed within the next 12 months in order to rationalise the provision of equipped play areas, taking into account the age profiles of the surrounding areas.
- 3.4 That the Council's website should be used more effectively to promote parks and open spaces with maps and details of community events and activities.

#### **4.0 REVIEW APPROACH**

4.1 The review was carried out with three key aspects:

- a) Review of the strategy document in principle
- b) Site visits to consider the application of the strategy in priority areas
- c) Review of the feedback to the consultation responses from members of the public, Community Assemblies, the Equalities and Diversity Forum and the 'Friends Of' group.

4.2 Site visits were conducted at four areas of open space within Dunston and Old Whittington, identified as priority focus areas. Ward Members were invited to attend the site visits and to contribute to the review. A site visit was also conducted by a member of the Project Group at Hasland Hall Park to look at play equipment.

4.3 Consideration was also given to the report of the Public Health Department at Derbyshire County Council, which also focussed on Dunston and Old Whittington as priority areas.

#### **5.0 EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH**

5.1 A study of the research into the benefits of green space, and the impact of proximity and the quality of facilities on the use of green space was provided in the report of the Public Health Department at Derbyshire County Council.

5.2 Site visits by the project group and ward members were carried out at green spaces at:

- a) Coniston Road, Dunston
- b) Windermere Road in Dunston
- c) Roecar Close, Old Whittington

d) Hilltop Road, Old Whittington

Satellite photos from Google Maps of the sites are attached at Appendix 4.

- 5.3 The public responses to the consultation questionnaire were considered, as were the notes of the meetings of the Equality and Diversity Forum, Community Assemblies and the 'Friends of' Group.

## **6.0 REVIEW FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS**

- 6.1 The Project Group were not able to carry out extensive site visits and carry out consultation with all community groups and residents within the priority areas proposed within the strategy and only a small sample of areas were visited. The project group's assessments from the site visits identified that while there can be various options for investment, not all will be suitable for the local community.
- 6.2 It was considered essential that any future investment be tailored to the needs of the local residents in the catchment area of a park or green space and that thorough consultation should be carried out with community groups to ensure this goal is met.
- 6.3 It is also hoped that by developing green space in a way that allows all members of society to get involved, social exclusion can be reduced.
- 6.4 Derbyshire County Council Public Health Department has recently started a project with students from the University of Nottingham studying Masters in Public Health to look into this issue of community engagement. Their project is to develop a model that engages with the community with a focus on promoting the health benefits of the use of the park or open space. Their model is being developed using Rother ward as a basis but a framework will be created that can be replicated in other areas.
- 6.5 The Project Group has not had opportunity to see the model that is being developed but believe it could offer fresh ideas that the Council should have regard to when carrying out consultation on investment in parks and open spaces.
- 6.6 The Council's Community Engagement Strategy should also be used as the framework for any such consultation.



**Recommendation: That consultation is carried out with local residents and community groups when any proposals are put forward for investment in a park or open space, in conjunction with promoting awareness of the health benefits.**

**Such consultation should follow the Council's Community Engagement Strategy and regard should be given to the community engagement model produced by students from University of Nottingham's masters in public health course in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Public Health Department**

### **Strategic Objectives and Priority Areas in Proposed Strategy**

- 6.7 The Strategic Objectives set out in the proposed strategy are supported by the Project Group:
- Prioritise Investment in Parks and Open Spaces
  - Use Resources Effectively and Sustainably
  - Increase the use of Parks and Open Spaces
  - Engage with our community and partners effectively
- 6.8 The list of priority wards for the targeting of resources set out in the proposed strategy is supported by the Project Group. This places Middlecroft and Poolsbrook and Rother as the highest priorities, with a second priority group of Hollingwood and Inkersall, Dunston, St Helens, Loundsley Green and Old Whittington.
- 6.9 The areas of Dunston and Old Whittington that were visited by the Project Group demonstrate the limited use that these low quality green areas have.
- 6.10 The Project Group also supports the principle that some low-value green space could be disposed of in order to rationalise the maintenance that is required and also seek re-investment in other areas through the sale or development of such land. It was clearly identified that many areas do not have much potential for recreation even with investment in new facilities.

## **Findings from site visits**

- 6.11 In the Dunston ward, whilst there is a large green space along Coniston road, this is not considered suitable for development or the investment of new facilities. The site runs along busy roads and is too narrow in places.
- 6.12 It is considered that the area behind Newbold Working Men's Club could benefit from some areas for benches and shelter. This would provide for greater opportunity for social contact within the green space. Paths that also allow access for disabled people would also promote the use of the area. The possibility for provision of leisure facilities for older children/teenagers was also suggested as there is an area with play equipment for younger children nearby.
- 6.13 In the Old Whittington ward, the green space in the area of Roecar Close is not considered suitable for investment in leisure facilities as it is on a gradient making sports activities difficult. Use of the site for car parking or other development could be considered.
- 6.14 The location of Old Whittington Park at Hilltop Road is considered essential as there are no other comparable areas in the vicinity. The limited access is identified as priority for improvement as there are no paths and disability access is restricted.
- 6.15 The addition of shelter and benches is suggested to facilitate greater use of the park for social contact and would also provide somewhere for people to sit whilst accompanying children playing on the park. It is also suggested that the areas for shelter and seating be located away from the houses that surround the edge of the park so as to limit any noise or anti-social behaviour that may occur from disturbing the local residents.
- 6.16 Other facilities such as an outdoor/natural gym were suggested for all of the sites other than Roecar Close as a way to promote the health benefits to a wider age-range of the community.

## **Disability Access**

- 6.17 The Project Group considered that the use of the sites could be improved and there could be greater equality in such use if access was easier for those with disabilities. Whilst it was difficult to define 'disability access', in some cases this was clearly restricted by gates that could not be used by wheelchair users. In other cases the lack

of level paths and benches or seating areas caused restrictions for those with difficulty walking.

- 6.18 It was recognised that some restrictions on access on parks may be required to prevent access by vehicle, bike etc that could be disruptive and cause damage. There should be a balance drawn and adjustments should be made where reasonable to ensure access is possible for people with disabilities.
- 6.19 There could be many other features or facilities that could be developed to make parks usable by everyone, such as sensory gardens with fragrant plants or herbs and interesting textures.

**Recommendation: That disability access should be prioritised when proposals are developed for investment in parks and open spaces.**

### **Play Equipment**

- 6.20 In addition to the site visits carried out in Dunston and Old Whittington, a small sample of play areas in Hasland Hall Park were visited by a member of the Project Group. An outline of the findings based on this is attached at Appendix 5.
- 6.21 The provision of play facilities across the Borough needs rationalising. There are areas such as Hasland Hall Park where there are many single pieces of play equipment spread out that are not regularly used, some areas with play equipment only for very young children and other areas with very limited provision for any age range.
- 6.22 From the site visits it was clear that the demographics of the community surrounding the park or open space will be a factor in determining the suitability of the play equipment. The needs of older children as well as toddlers should be considered.

**Recommendation: That the Play Strategy be reviewed within the next 12 months, in order to rationalise the provision of equipped play areas, taking into account the age profiles of the surrounding areas.**

## **Promotion/Marketing to increase use**

- 6.23 The proposed strategy contains provisions aimed at increasing the use of the parks and open spaces through partnership working as well as promoting the benefits for health, learning and wildlife.
- 6.24 Many open spaces owned by the Council do not have signs or notice boards informing the public that the areas are available for public use or giving details of forthcoming events or activities. These would be a straightforward way of encouraging increased use of these areas.
- 6.25 There are also many community groups, including sports clubs, that regularly use the Borough's parks and open spaces but it is not always easy to find out about what is happening in any local area.
- 6.26 The Council's website contains some information on the parks and green spaces in the Borough and there are A-Z lists of the parks and play areas. It is suggested in the '*Green Space, Health Benefits and Chesterfield*' report that it would be easier for residents to identify their local parks and nearby green spaces if the website provided a map, ideally interactive. This could also be done for allotments and gardens. Using existing search engine tools and maps, such as Google, could also be used to identify these areas.
- 6.27 The website could also be used as a central portal for members of the public and community groups wanting to promote their events in local parks – such as nature walks, bird watching, games or sports etc. A web-form that could be completed would help to simplify the process of promoting an event and provide a central place for members of the public to find out about events and activities in their area.

**Recommendation: That the Council's website should be used more effectively to promote parks and open spaces with maps and details of community events and activities.**

## **7.0 REVIEW CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The Project Group supports the proposed Parks and Open Strategy in principle. It is agreed that there are many areas which need investment and it is hoped that the implementation of the strategy will lead to improvements in the quality of the provision of parks and

open spaces in the long term when appropriate resources are identified.

- 7.2 The parks and open spaces should be accessible to all members of the public so that the benefits of their use can be wide reaching. This will involve improving the facilities that are on offer within a reasonable distance, promoting the activities and events taking place and increasing the community's sense of ownership of public spaces.
- 7.3 The Project Group note there are a number of ways this is already being achieved. A wide range of examples in Chesterfield is listed in the Public Health Department report. It is also suggested that engaging with the public and partners will be key to continuing this success.

#### APPENDICES:

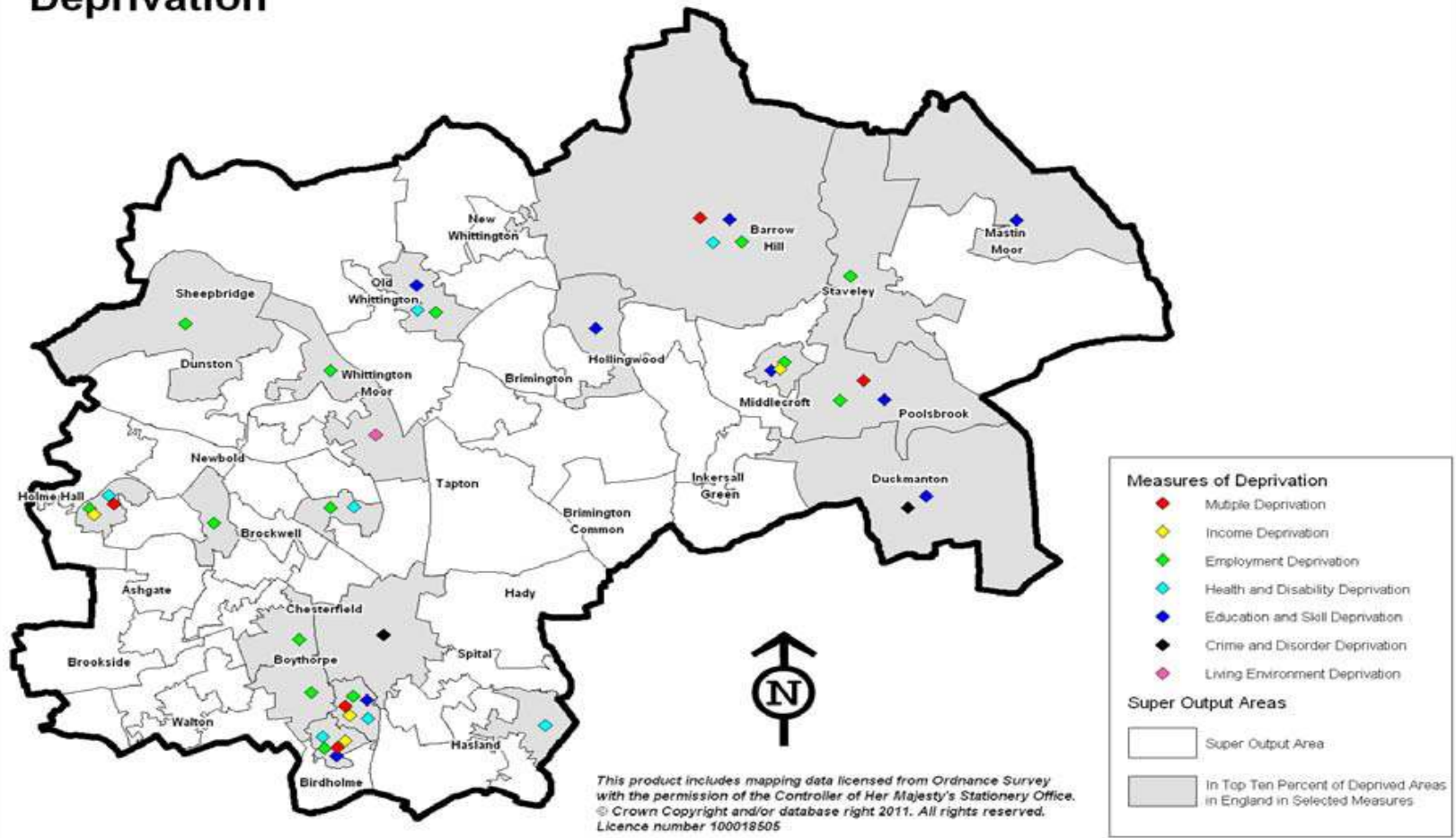
1. Map showing areas of deprivation within Chesterfield Borough
2. Public Health Department, Derbyshire County Council, '*Green Space, Health Benefits and Chesterfield*'
3. Map showing areas of combined multiple deprivation, low quality and deficiency of open space within Chesterfield Borough.
4. Satellite photos from Google Maps of site visit locations
5. Hasland Hall Park findings on equipped play areas.

#### Contacts:

Project Group Lead – Cllr Keith Miles  
Donna Cairns, Committee and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

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# Deprivation



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## Public Health Department, Derbyshire County Council

### *Green space, health benefits and Chesterfield*

The biggest cause of death, morbidity, disability, health inequalities and low perceptions of wellbeing are caused by avoidable and connected chronic diseases and conditions. Prevention is needed to tackle wider social influences on health, as is the empowerment of individuals so they are able to make their own healthy choices and communities are able to address their own needs. To prevent these conditions from developing and to ensure that people have healthy lives, it is important to provide them with a healthy environment throughout all stages of life.

The presence and use of green space has been proven to benefit health in a variety of ways. The 2010 Marmot Review acknowledges how green space is associated with a decrease in health complaints, blood pressure and cholesterol, improved mental health and reduced stress levels, perceived better general health and the ability to face problems. Some of these health benefits occur as proximity to green space is more likely to encourage physical activity and enable people to meet their recommended daily amount of exercise. As exercise in more natural, outdoor environments has been found to be one of the most beneficial types of exercise, the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and other associated risks such as hypertension is reduced.

The presence of green space can also have a positive influence on mental health. Modern lifestyles and urban living can contribute to increasing levels of stress, anxiety and depression; however, contact with natural environments can be calming and help improve mental wellbeing as areas of tranquillity enable relaxation to take place (Natural England, 2012). Green spaces provide opportunities to increase social contact, promote social inclusion and create community ties and support systems, therefore reducing social tensions and isolation.

Each community is affected by the quality of environment that surrounds it, this includes: pollution, air quality, noise, the availability of green and open spaces, transport, housing, access to good quality food and social isolation. Access to, and use of, green space is varied and often linked to socio-economic status. The HM Government's White Paper: Healthy Lives, Healthy People (2011) notes how health inequalities in Britain have been getting worse and it is now estimated that people living in the poorest areas will on average, die 7 years earlier than people living in richer areas. Those in the poorest areas will also spend up to 17 more years living in poor health, with higher rates of mental illness, harm from alcohol, drugs and smoking, and of childhood emotional and behavioural problems.

Deprived communities in England are 10 times less likely to live in the greenest areas. Long term conditions such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and dementia are much more prevalent in these communities and are possibly explained by the chronic stress of poverty and living in a hostile environment. Areas which appear unsafe and intimidating will discourage activity, but by improving the environment it is possible to make physical activity and contact with nature part of everyday life. Across all socio-economic groups, this is associated with improved mental and physical health.

**Recent research conducted regarding access to, use, quality and quantity of green space and its impact on physical and mental health, social contact and the influence of socio-economic status**

Green space benefits health through physical activity, relief from stress and fatigue and facilitation of social contact. To receive the full health benefits that green space makes available, there are a number of factors which must be considered, such as what influences whether or not people use green space and what they use it for. A wide range of research in a variety of countries has been conducted and looks into such features.

### **DISTANCE FROM GREEN SPACE IMPACTS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**

Distance from useable green space is one reoccurring factor which has been found to influence people's use of green space. Research conducted by Coombes et al (2010) in Bristol found that the further participants were from green space, the less likely they were to use it. This influenced their health as they were less likely to meet recommended physical activity levels and therefore more likely to be overweight or obese. In Auckland, New Zealand, Nutsford et al (2013) also found that being closer to green space had positive health benefits. These benefits however, were related to mental wellbeing. In areas with a greater proportion of green space and with shorter distances to it, the population was found to have lower levels of anxiety and mood disorder treatments than in areas further away and with less available space. Van den Berg et al (2010) also found that residents who lived within a 3km radius of green space were able to deal with stressful life events better than those who didn't, and subsequently experienced fewer health complaints. These results were said to be associated with nature-based coping strategies which enabled people to be more relaxed and calm during worrying times.

### **PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES (INC. GENDER)**

Nevertheless, even if green space is available in the community, people may not be able to use it due to physical and psychological barriers. Physical boundaries such as busy roads, fences, and poorly visible paths and signs were found to deter people from using the Thames Chase Community Forest in Upminster, London (Kessel et al, 2008). Size, attractiveness, appropriateness and personal perceptions of safety were also found to be important determining factors in whether or not people would use the community forest. UK-wide research by Richardson and Mitchell (2010) discovered that when faced with more green space, male cardiovascular and respiratory disease mortality rates decreased. However, women did not receive the same benefits. This was due to women not actively using the space as they either had concerns over their own personal safety, or their lifestyle (child care etc.) made it difficult to do so. It is therefore important to note that the benefits of green space vary depending on the population subgroup in question. Kessel et al (2008) also found that the health benefits of green space weren't recognised by some socio-demographic groups, and if they were, they weren't necessarily prioritised.

### **INFLUENCE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS**

In the Netherlands, Maas et al (2006) found that having a lack of good quality green space had the most effect on people from lower socio-economic groups. This was because these people cannot afford to move house or travel elsewhere to experience other green space. However, when faced with good quality green space, there were strong relations between perceived general health and lower socio-economic groups. This is because groups who tend to spend more time in their own home environment, such as the unemployed or elderly, receive the most health benefits from the presence of green space. This piece of research found that in areas where 90% of the surrounding environment of the home is green, only 10.2% of the residents felt unhealthy compared to areas

with 10% green environment, in which 15.5% of residents felt unhealthy. In areas of deprivation, poverty-related stress is also common. Mitchell and Popham's (2008) English study found that if these communities had improved environments they would be more protected from such stress and also increase their physical activity levels which would reduce mortality from circulatory disease.

### **USE OF GREEN SPACE DEPENDS ON ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES**

Park use however, isn't always determined by socio-economic status. To encourage the use green space research has suggested that specific facilities need to be in place, such as well-maintained paths or cycle routes (Coombes et al, 2010). Various studies such as the research conducted for Openspace by Thompson et al (2010) suggest that deprived areas have fewer appropriate facilities. Taking place in six deprived and ethnically diverse study areas - two in the Greater Manchester area, two in the West Midlands and two in London, 46% of people said they would use their local green space more if it had better facilities, such as cafés, toilets etc. By using their green space more, 60% of interviewees thought their overall physical health would improve, 48% thought it could improve their mental health, and 46% thought it would make them feel better about their relationships with family and friends. This research shows that people are more likely to use the space available to them if it is of a high quality, containing a variety of facilities.

However, Cohen et al (2013) found that when comparing 12 high-poverty and 12 low-poverty neighbourhoods in America, parks had the same standard of facilities. The number of people using the park was instead influenced by the number and type of programmed activities. By making sure the space was utilised through creating competitions, events and classes, the number of park users increased. Nutsford et al (2013) reinforce the importance of being actively involved in green space as their research found that there was very little impact on the health of participants who just observed green space up to 300m from their home.

### **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN GREEN SPACE**

Whilst Hillsdon et al's (2006) research found no evidence of a relationship between the levels of green space and physical activity levels in the elderly population of Norwich, many other studies have acknowledged that green space provides great opportunities for exercise which will subsequently reduce health issues. In New South Wales, Australia, residents over the age of 45 that lived in greener areas were more active and also at lower risk of psychological distress, showing that exercise can benefit both physical and mental health. Richardson et al (2013) also found that in areas of New Zealand with >15% green space availability there was reduced cardiovascular disease, but this was not just due to exercise. Psychosocial factors also played a role as reduced anxiety, stress and social isolation also influence cardiovascular issues. This research did not find strong direct links between green space and levels of obesity as it was concluded that other risk factors such as diet may be more influential.

### **SOCIAL CONTACT IN GREEN SPACE**

Using green space also provides an opportunity to boost social contact and therefore improve health. In the Netherlands, Maas et al (2009) found that green space was used as a place to meet, for group activities and to build relationships. Results showed that being socially engaged within the community led to living longer lives and better physical and mental health. The strongest relations

were found within a 1km radius of the home. People were also more likely to use the green space for social contact if it contained features that facilitated it, such as benches for sitting and trees for shelter and as noise buffers. Participants who had less green space available reported feelings of loneliness and a lack of social support.

The above research shows that when creating or developing green space, there are a variety of factors which need to be taken into consideration. Ideally, green space should be around 1-3km away from homes, enabling people to benefit from their relaxing properties and enable them to participate in physical activity. So that people can access this space, physical boundaries such as busy main roads, and psychological boundaries such as the area appearing unsafe, should be kept to a minimum. The populations that will benefit most from useable green space are lower socio-economic groups and people who spend more time within their own home. Therefore, deprived areas should be a high priority. To attract more users to the space, the research suggests that suitable, well maintained facilities and organised activities are necessary to provide an environment which facilitates physical activity and promotes social contact. However, even if all of these elements are implemented, it is still crucial that residents are made aware of the health benefits that using green space gives

### **Current examples of green space being utilised in the UK**

Throughout the UK there are a wide range of examples showing how green space can be best utilised in order to create a healthy and sustainable environment. This may consist of already green areas being improved or completely transforming a derelict urban area which contains no aspects of the natural environment. The examples below show how ideas such as community gardens, information centres and urban orchards can really transform an area.

#### Green space used to provide information and facilitate learning

- [Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre](#), Southampton – by providing members of the public with information regarding the wildlife in the area it is likely that they will become more knowledgeable and have more respect concerning the natural environment. This will also encourage people to use the area more
- [Route to Health](#), Cannock Chase – an arts and health trail created by local artists, students, schools and community groups which aims to generate interest and provide information regarding the health benefits of the natural environment in an informal way. It targets those who don't typically access the forest environment
- [Green Shoots](#), New Cross – a project which uses the environment to offer the community a wide variety of courses, such as beekeeping and circus training, whilst also offering educational opportunities such as presentation skills and children's numeracy
- [Green for Go!, Leeds](#) – helping unemployed adults who may have learning, mental and physical conditions to meet in a safe environment whilst participating in outdoor activities such as caring for allotments and taking part in conservation tasks. An Open College Network certificate may be achieved.

#### Green space as a way for bringing communities together whilst making healthier choices

- [Springfield Park Community Resource Centre](#), Cheltenham – originally shunned by nearby residents due to concerns over safety, after consultation with the locals this centre was transformed and resulted in community pride and involvement in the area. The new design has led to reduced vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- [Leechwell Garden Association](#), Totnes – to encourage more people to use this green space extra features were introduced such as a natural play structure, a pergola and benches. A public art competition also took place with the winning entry being placed in the park
- [Sandford Court](#), Hackney – the creation of a community garden enabled the growth of fresh food in an environment where space was limited. The community also designed and painted a mural to brighten up the estate
- [St Mark's House Estate](#), Northampton – this deprived area now has a self-sustaining garden containing water butts, structures made from recycled materials and plants grown from seed. Plans are in place to build allotments and large numbers have already signed up for them. The community are working together and taking an interest in their environment
- [Incredible Edible](#), Todmorden – a community project which grows food in public space such as herb gardens at the train station and vegetables and orchards planted around the town centre, available for everyone to help themselves to. Businesses, schools and services have all got involved and a wide variety of projects have been created including; a History Project, Every Egg Matters and the development of donated Greenfield sites. After its success the idea spread to Bristol which wants to become the UK's first Edible city
- [Edible Bankside](#), London – members of the public are brought together and develop urban green spaces and take part in local food-growing projects. When residents attend a fun day they are given a free container with compost, seeds and plants to take away and grow themselves. Local schools have also been targeted. Their research has shown that if children grow their own vegetables, they are more likely to eat them. (The Bankside Open Spaces Trust also develops other parks and spaces in this area)

#### Using trees to transform urban public space

- [Community Orchard](#), Stockport – by planting an orchard in each ward of the borough people will hopefully understand where their food comes from whilst being in a relaxing and peaceful environment. Fruit trees which used to exist in the area will be planted to maintain local species and wildlife. To survive, local commitment is essential but this projects offers great opportunity to improve physical and mental health
- [Treemendous York Group](#) – to improve the appearance of the urban environment, help local food growing initiatives and combat air pollution, this project aimed to plant 50,000 fruit and nut trees around the city in school grounds and public spaces
- [Green Streets](#), Manchester – a project aiming to put trees and other greenery in densely populated, terraced neighbourhoods which are often deprived. The residents are consulted on what they would like to see on their street and the design on each street is specific to their requests. Local people are involved in the planting and maintenance of the trees

#### Actively engaging various social groups to work together

- [Mundella Park, Nottingham](#) – after clearing a small patch of land, local school children planted flowers, bulbs and strawberries and also designed a mural with the help of their

parents. This gave an opportunity for people to get to know each other and became a place that the community want to look after together

- [Queen Street Guerrilla Gardening](#), Dundee – a group of teachers and secondary school pupils took part in day and night time sessions to transform a local eye-sore that no one claimed to own. A wildflower meadow was created and continues to be maintained by the students. Rubbish has been removed, bird and bee boxes installed and future plans of a herb garden are in place
- [Digging New Boarders](#), Hereford – elderly allotment plot-holders noticed how the skate park next-door was bare and void of vegetation. By working with the young people who used the skate park, the area was transformed. Allotment members taught the children how to use garden tools for a variety of jobs and relations between the two groups were vastly improved. Monthly meetings to share project ideas now take place in the hope to improve the area further
- [Breathing Spaces Project](#), Bradford – a city farm which targets young people (particularly those with mental health conditions or that have struggled with mainstream schooling) and aims to improve their mental health and wellbeing through eco-therapy. Activities such as building fences, caring for animals and growing fruit and vegetables all take place and the group has also produced their own cookbook

### **Local areas which could benefit from improvements or transformation and why**

Using Public Health England's 2014 Health Profile for Chesterfield, it is clear to see that the health of people in Chesterfield varies compared to the England average. Not only is deprivation higher than average, with about 3,800 children living in poverty, but inequality is also apparent. Life expectancy for men in the most deprived areas of Chesterfield is 10 years lower than for men in the least deprived areas (8 years in 2013), and for women it is 7.6 years lower (5.2 in 2013). These figures show that inequality is on the rise and suggests that something needs to be done to target and reduce it.

Whilst adult and childhood obesity levels have reduced since 2013, other health indicators, such as recorded diabetes, early death from cardiovascular problems and hospital stays for self-harm are all worse than England's average. Only rates of statutory homelessness, TB and of people killed or injured on roads are significantly better than England's average. By improving the green space within Chesterfield, it is hoped that health would also improve.

### **The current and future use of green space in Chesterfield**

There are a range of projects and activities that currently take place in Chesterfield's green spaces and some which are planned for the future. Many have health benefits as a primary or secondary outcome. By teaching communities about gardening or encouraging them to engage with each other, healthier lifestyles should emerge as physical and mental health and wellbeing improves. Some examples are listed below:

- Loundsely Green Community Centre have recently created a new community garden containing raised beds, water butts etc. in order to plant herbs and vegetables for everyone to enjoy and help maintain. Actively involving the community will help build relations and growing food should also encourage healthier eating

- Transition Chesterfield's annual Potato Day encourages people to take their first step in growing their own food and any leftover produce is donated to schools to be planted and to help educate children. The money raised from this day helps to pay for the plantation of fruit trees and other edible plants in public places
- 45 fruit trees have been planted in Grangewood by the local school to improve the quality of the environment in that area whilst also aiming to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy eating. By teaching the children about these aspects and involving them, the project should provide longevity as they will continue to maintain the project
- Estate Improvement Budgets have provided some funding to facilitate the planting of crops in some areas. Communities involved have already arranged when they will be cropped so that the food isn't wasted, this will then be sold on or given to charity
- 10 areas around the borough are being close-cut less to create 'wild' areas where pollinating insects can thrive in a wild habitat as the natural environment flourishes. The public will benefit from the health boosting properties that nature provides
- 30 fruit trees and four walnut trees have been planted behind Staveley's Healthy Living Centre. The public are free to help themselves to the produce of the trees. This provides everyone with an opportunity to access free healthy food on a regular basis
- New development of Queens Park Leisure Centre will contain a greenway consisting of various ecosystems (woodland, grassland, wetland etc.) with signs providing information and identification of the various flora and fauna species. This will enable people to experience different types of nature that they may not be used to, whilst encouraging active transport
- In Brimington Cemetery 30 bird boxes have been put up and a wild area created so that visitors can reminisce and remember lost loved ones whilst in a calming, natural environment where wildlife live undisturbed - A similar project is happening at Spital Cemetery where poppies are being planted for World War commemoration
- Pollinating the Peak, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Winding Wheel – A project which looks at areas within Chesterfield and determines where bees are flourishing or threatened. Chesterfield College are creating woven bee sculptures to be placed on West Bars roundabout and a wooden sculpture of a nesting queen bee will be placed in the grounds of St Mary's Church. By providing the public with the necessary information, it is hoped that they will have more respect for the environment and the fear of bees is reduced. By fearing bees and nature less people will hopefully use the natural environment more
- The three Borough Parks contain a variety of facilities including play areas, cafés, green gyms and lakes for fishing. Graded cycle paths are being implemented in Poolsbrook and being linked with Holmebrook to encourage people to use healthier transport methods and spend more time doing so
- It is possible to volunteer at Poolsbrook Country Park and Holmebrook Valley Park. This enables people to give something back to the community whilst being recognised for their work. It also provides people with a regular place for social contact and physical activity

### **Potential projects to be implemented in Chesterfield**

Chesterfield has an abundance of green space and therefore, rather than create new space, the ideal scenario would be to improve that space. It is important to attract more people to these areas and encourage them to be more active, more often.

Whilst there are lots of green areas, this does not necessarily mean they are of a good quality or have any recreational value. Previous assessment on quality of green space by Chesterfield Borough Council found that many of the smaller sites lacked signs indicating ownership, entrance and boundaries. Many needed refurbishment and repair of basic facilities such as paths and fences. Community involvement in the management of the vast majority of the smaller green spaces was notably absent. Friends groups in Chesterfield currently exist for Queen's Park, Stand Road Park,

Eastwood Park, Homebrook Valley Park, Poolsbrook Country Park, the Inkerman and Pevensey Green.

In areas of deprivation and where community involvement is low, development workers would be needed to engage residents determine their wants/needs and encourage them to be active in the design and management processes regarding their open green spaces. Some residents may not want to get involved or reject ideas to develop previously unused land so it's important that people are aware of the benefits that green space gives. It's important to train the volunteers who wish to get involved to make sure that the schemes survive and the parks/green spaces are maintained in the future.

As Chesterfield has such a diverse demographic, the green space will need to be developed in such a way that allows all members of society to get involved. The needs of all stakeholders should be acknowledged, including those of children, teenagers, the elderly, various ethnicities, disabled and parents. By creating a space attractive to everyone, it is hoped that communities will come together to use the area and social exclusion will be a thing of the past.

A draft 'Parks and Open Spaces' strategy has been created by the Chesterfield Borough Council and shows areas of Chesterfield which are deprived of certain aspects, such as access to good quality green space. Figure 1 shows areas of multiple deprivations with low quality or deprived of open space. This suggests that the areas of highest priority for transformation are in Dunston Ward, Old Whittington Ward, Hollingwood and Inkersall Ward, and Brockwell Ward. I have attached some images taken from Google Maps of some green space available in the largest deprived areas. These images show that there are large areas of grass which are easily accessible for the communities nearby and could possibly be developed.



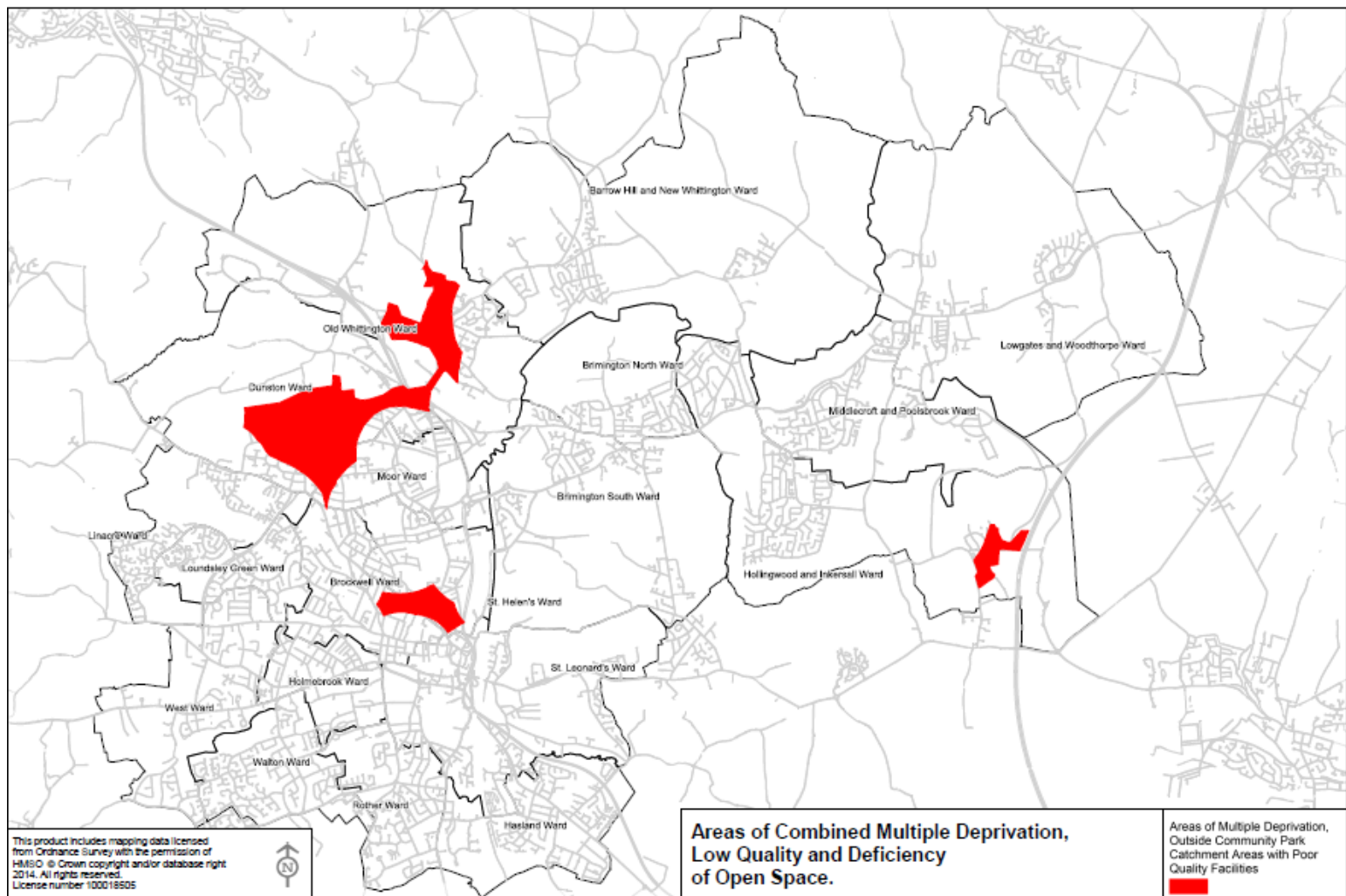


Figure 1

DUNSTON GREEN SPACE



Figure 2

Figure 2 shows an area in Dunston alongside Coniston Road which contains houses out of the catchment zone for Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAPs). Here there would be space to develop a linear park with play equipment for various ages. According to the image, there has been no development to this area other than a few paths and there are also some large trees. To encourage people to spend time in this area it may be an idea to plant more flowers and other vegetation to improve the appearance of the area, and put in some benches so that people stay there for longer.



Figure 3

On the grassed space next to Derwent Crescent (Figure 3) there is a LEAP consisting of some swings, a slide and some climbing equipment. This is in the centre of the green space and little else surrounds it. Whilst there are a few benches, picnic style benches may be more beneficial in this area as they are more social and may encourage families to eat outside whilst children play. The play area may also benefit from an upgrade or an introduction of some new equipment. By bringing in natural play structures, such as frames made of wood or resembling natural features, it would make the green space appear less urban and bring aspects of the natural environment into children's lives.

The circular space behind the Newbold Working Men's Club could also benefit from some development. This space may be large enough for a junior sized sports pitch. By encouraging community sports, children in the area will lead healthier lives and increase their social contact. Alternatively, depending on who owns the land, to boost the use of the WMC and to involve the older men in this area it may be an idea to create allotments in this area to promote growing your own vegetables and healthy eating.



Figure 4

Figure 4 shows two green spaces along Kirkstone Road, one large and one smaller. The larger space contains a LEAP and two football posts. However, these posts are obstructed by the play area. To make the most of this space, the posts could be moved elsewhere on this patch of land to enable people to use them more.

#### OLD WHITT GREEN SPACE



Figure 5

Figure 5 shows a park in Old Whittington that contains a few play structures and two goal posts. If these goal posts were relocated so that they were no longer at an angle, it would leave more room on the rest of the park and this could then be used for other activities. In the new space made available another set of goal posts could be introduced so that multiple football games could take

place at once, this would facilitate sporting tournaments and enable more people to play at once. The space could also be used as an area for social meetings if more benches were put in place and more trees and hedges planted to create noise buffers and areas of shade. Lack of shaded areas could limit the use of this green space in the summer as families with young children may be reluctant to use it. It would also give parents a space to sit and watch their children play football or whilst they're on the play equipment.

The oval shaped green space of Roecar Close could also be developed on. In contrast to the play area, this space could be used to engage the community with planting their own produce. By getting them involved with the planting of fruit trees and other similar vegetation, people will get to know each other and feel pride in their local space whilst learning valuable skills and having access to readily available healthy food. This is important in an area faced with employment, health and disability, and education and skills deprivation. Local schools could also get involved in this project to teach the children about the importance of being healthy, whilst teaching gardening skills.

#### OTHER CHESTERFIELD IDEAS

- A map which shows the location of all the parks in Chesterfield would be beneficial on the local council's website. There is currently a list of all the parks, however, if you're new to the area or fancy going elsewhere, it is hard to know where these places are as many are only described by their name and no location given e.g. 'Pearsons Rec'. Other possible features could include locating parks certain distances from postcodes, and listing the equipment and facilities available at each park. This could also be done for allotments and gardens
- Group fitness sessions – there are currently health walks operating in the area and whilst suitable for most, they may only appeal to some. There is a need for something more appealing to the younger generations, something which is more exciting and will get people wanting to be active e.g. introducing ParkRun to Chesterfield – A weekly free 5k timed run in parkland available to people of all abilities and ages, with some meeting for coffee afterwards. 2k junior ParkRuns also exist for children aged 4-14. Also group bike rides, buggy fitness, yoga etc. (in large, developed green space). Active and continuous promotion would be needed to begin with to boost involvement
- GP referral for health activities as mentioned above may be useful to target the needier and more deprived populations. This would provide people with information that shows how the environment can improve health. After their referral they may continue to use other facilities as they are now aware of the benefits they will receive from the natural environment
- Creating community growing areas will encourage residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables either in their garden or public area; if this is successful it may be an idea to develop allotments in these areas as the demand for such space would be evident. These projects will provide people with skills and if possible, an educational certificate may persuade more people to join.
- Involving schools in development projects will encourage the use of green space from a young age and teach skills that will benefit them throughout life. Projects such as planting things, designing play areas etc. will have a positive impact on the children but also their parents as they will subsequently get involved
- In areas containing a high proportion of elderly people, green space which incorporates local history and reinforces a local sense of place may be appealing and encourage them to use it.

By putting in plants, statues, art work or other means which relate to local characteristics and history it will stimulate the memories that people have of the area and improve mental health. This may be best placed in areas with a strong link to the industrial or mining past

- Adding simple facilities such as benches and bins and the plantation of trees and bushes for shade and as noise buffers will encourage more social interaction and a longer stay in the green space. This can be done in areas large or small and will have a massive impact. Adequate lighting is also extremely important as people will not use space if they have concerns for their safety.
- Community involvement is vital. By introducing competitions and events, it is likely that residents will want to spend time in their local green space and take more pride in it.

### **Possible research design**

To make the most of the green space in Chesterfield, the opinions of the local residents are essential. By asking people what they would like to see and seeking their opinions on other ideas, residents may feel as if they are more involved and valued, therefore the area will hopefully be better looked after and vandalism will be kept to a minimum. By engaging the community it is hoped that the local population will feel responsible enough to take on the management of the area and hopefully form a 'friends of' or community group to deal with issues regarding the everyday running and use of the areas. If such groups are formed, a strengthened neighbourhood identity should emerge. To make sure that this occurs residents should be asked about their views through a possible variety of means such as questionnaires, interviews, focus groups and through community forums.

Possible questions include:

- What is your favourite aspect of the space?
- What is your least favourite aspect?
- What would you like to see in this area?
- How do you think the area could be improved?
- What is your favourite thing about the natural environment?
- Are you aware of the health benefits that green space provides?
- How often do you visit green space? Is it important to you?
- What do you mainly use this space for?

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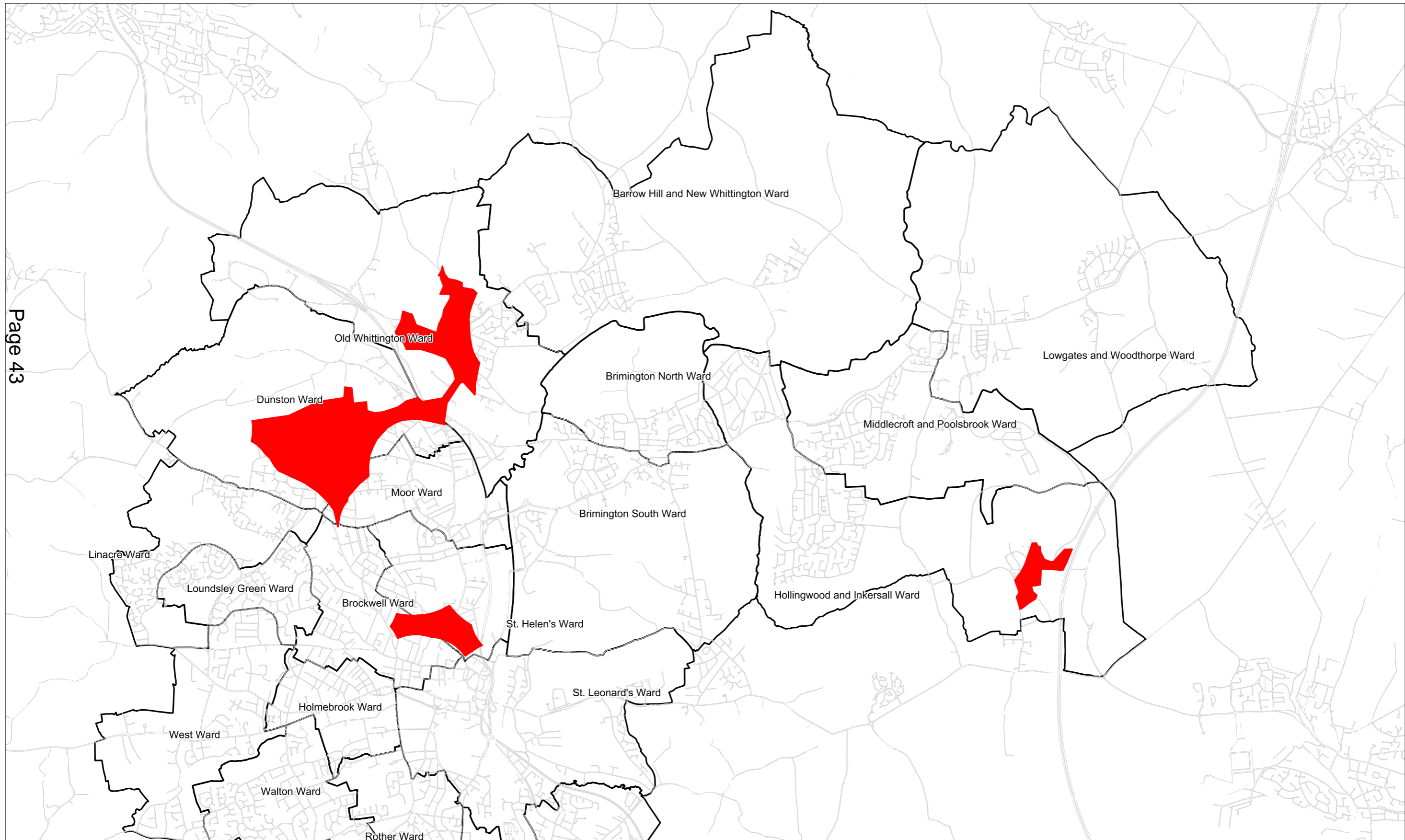
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**Areas of Combined Multiple Deprivation, Low Quality and Deficiency of Open Space.**

Areas of Multiple Deprivation, Outside Community Park Catchment Areas with Poor Quality Facilities



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## DUNSTON GREEN SPACE

Amenity Green Space along Coniston Road



Amenity Green Space at Windermere Road



## OLD WHITTINGTON GREEN SPACE

Amenity Green Space at Roecar Close and Amenity Green Space at Hilltop Road



## Scrutiny Project Group – Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - study into small equipped play areas – Hasland Hall Park

This estate was built approximately 10 years ago with small play areas at various locations. Listed on the strategy are 5 LAPs\* and 1 LEAP\*\* (though on inspection I found an extra LAP)

I visited the site 11.00 to 12:30 on Sunday 19 October. It was a sunny morning, temperature 17 deg C and would therefore be expected to be a popular playing time for young children.



These are the locations of the play areas, 1 to 6 are LAPS 7 is a LEAP.

The following pages show photographs and list my observations.

[\* Local Areas for Play, \*\* Local Equipped Areas for Pay]

## 1 Kirkby Close LAP

- Pedestrian access only therefore limited alternative use.
- One piece of equipment.
- Fenced off.
- No children using this play area.





## 2 Cropston Close LAP

- Vehicle access from Seagrave Drive.
- Fenced off.
- Shrubbery overgrown.
- No children using play area.





### 3 Oadby Drive LAP

- At the side of the highway
- Fenced off
- One piece of equipment plus one bench
- No children using play area





#### 4 Bradgate Croft

- Adjacent to the highway
- One piece of equipment plus one bench
- No children using the play area



**5 Oadby Drive LAP (extra one listed at South West end)**

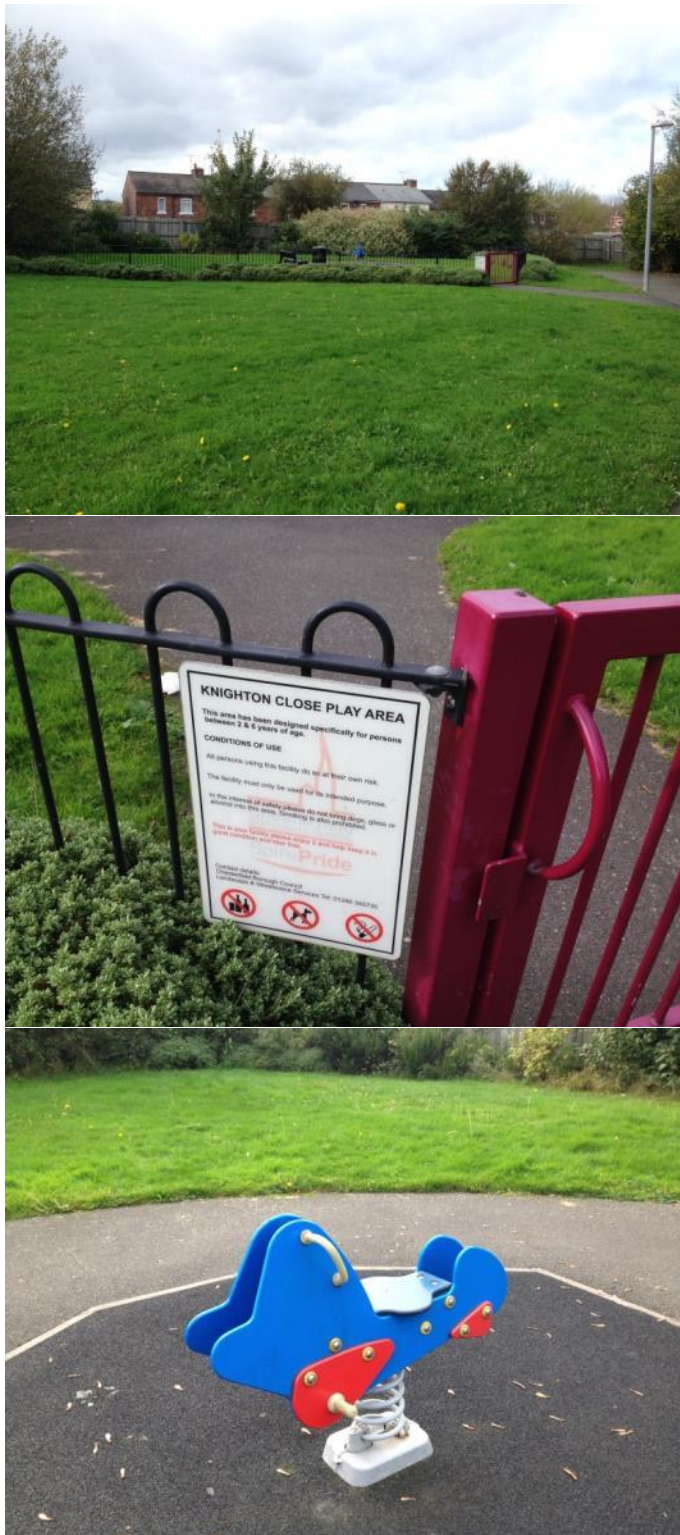
- Only one listed on Oadby drive (awaiting confirmation on this).
- Access via what appears to be unadopted road.
- One piece of equipment, one bench.
- No children using play area.





## 6 Knighton Close

- Large area of green space adjacent to play area
- One piece of equipment, one bench
- No children using play area



### Harcourt Close LEAP

- The only “proper” play area on the estate
- Adequate equipment plus a bench
- No children using play area



**For consideration:**

- The LAPS seem to have little play value.
- All LAPs are within 600 metres of the LEAP.
- Consider adding more equipment to LEAP?
- Balance between maintenance cost and removal cost.
- Should not remove them without consultation of all residents.

Cllr Andy Slack

**Enterprise and Wellbeing  
Scrutiny Committee**

**Scrutiny Project Group on  
Leisure, Sport & Culture Activities**

**(Scope / Brief) on SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY**

<b>Group Members :</b>	Councillors Flood, Bradford, Callan, Clarke, Elliott, Miles, David Stone
<b>Subject to be reviewed:</b> (the issue)	The development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Facilities Strategy, including new Queens Park Leisure Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Reason for the Review/ Terms of Reference:</b> (why are we doing this)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy is required to support the Council's Local Plan, Core Strategy adopted in July 2013.</li> <li>• To develop and contribute to the Council's overarching Health and Wellbeing strategic portfolio.</li> </ul>
<b>How the review aligns with the Council's priorities and vision:</b>	<u>Vision- Putting our Communities First</u>  <u>Priority - To improve the quality of life for local people</u>  <u>Aim - To encourage people to lead healthy and active lifestyles</u>
<b>Aims and Objectives of the Review:</b> (what do we want to achieve / what will success look like) - consider Equalities issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic plans for Chesterfield Borough based on robust needs and evidence</li> <li>• Sustainable value for money and quality services, future proofed for community need</li> <li>• Meet strategic needs identified to meet statutory Planning obligations.</li> </ul>
<b>Method of Review:</b> (how the work will be undertaken)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmed Scrutiny reporting and assessment through service lead officers mapped to strategy development timelines and project plan.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Research and Evidence:</b> (information that needs to be gathered)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and stakeholder consultation on current provision and future need.</li> <li>• Understanding statutory compliance involved eg Protection of Playing Fields</li> <li>• Needs and Evidence data for future service retention and/or investment \ reinvestment eg Population and future swimming provision</li> <li>• Other Stakeholder strategies eg National Sports Governing Bodies and Health</li> <li>• Disability and cultural needs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Witnesses:</b> (who to invite, information and answers needed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Officers CBC</li> <li>• Any consultancy services commissioned</li> <li>• Stakeholder leads eg Sport England</li> <li>• Club forum officers as may be available</li> <li>• County Sports Partnership lead officers</li> <li>• Accessibility adviser</li> </ul>
<p><b>Review Group Meetings and Site Visits:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be determined as part of review method adopted.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resource Requirements:</b> (what resources will be used)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Officer time</li> <li>• Admin support and document management</li> <li>• Occasional transport subject to method of review adopted</li> <li>• Room bookings and IT support</li> </ul>



<b>Project Start Date:</b>	12 July 2013	
<b>Scrutiny Project/Report Completion Date</b> (Group to agree final report)	Sports Facilities Strategy – 25 Nov. 2014	
<b>Final Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Business Meeting on :</b>	Report on Sports Facilities Strategy – 4 Dec. 2014.	
<b>Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Committee on:</b> (allow for public notice period)	Report on Sports Facilities Strategy to Enterprise & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee – 11 Dec. 2014.	
<b>Cabinet Reporting Deadlines</b> (allow for WBR/Executive Member)		
<b>Scrutiny Report to Cabinet on:</b> (allow for Public notice period)	Report on Sports Facilities Strategy – Jan. 2015	
Executive Member(s) & Head(s) of Service Consulted on project brief and scope form :		Date : 26.11.14
Scrutiny Project Group agreed project brief / scope form:		Date : 25.11.14
Project brief / scope form signed off at Scrutiny Business Meeting :		Date :

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## Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Project Group (Scope / Brief) on PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PROJECT GROUP

<b>Group Members :</b>	Councillors Miles (Lead), Elliott, Avis Murphy, Mark Rayner, Simmons, Slack, David Stone, Blank
<b>Subject to be reviewed:</b> (the issue)	The development of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy .
<b>Reason for the Review/ Terms of Reference:</b> (why are we doing this)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategy is required to support the Council's Local Plan, Core Strategy adopted in July 2013.</li> <li>• To develop and contribute to the Council's overarching Health and Wellbeing strategic portfolio.</li> </ul>
<b>How the review aligns with the Council's priorities and vision:</b>	<u>Vision- Putting our Communities First</u>  <u>Priority - To improve the quality of life for local people</u>  <u>Aim - To encourage people to lead healthy and active lifestyles</u>
<b>Aims and Objectives of the Review:</b> (what do we want to achieve / what will success look like) - consider Equalities issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic plans for Chesterfield Borough based on robust needs and evidence</li> <li>• Sustainable value for money and quality services, future proofed for community need</li> <li>• Meet strategic needs identified to meet statutory Planning obligations.</li> </ul>
<b>Method of Review:</b> (how the work will be undertaken)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmed Scrutiny reporting and assessment through service lead officers mapped to individual strategy development timelines and project plans.</li> </ul>
<b>Research and Evidence:</b> (information that needs to be gathered)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community and stakeholder consultation on current provision and future need.</li> <li>• Understanding statutory compliance involved</li> <li>• Needs and Evidence data for future service retention and\ or investment \ reinvestment eg Population</li> <li>• Other Stakeholder strategies eg National Sports Governing Bodies and Health</li> <li>• Disability and cultural needs</li> </ul>

<b>Witnesses:</b> (who to invite, information and answers needed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Officers CBC</li> <li>• Stakeholder leads eg Sport England</li> <li>• Members of 'Friends of' groups as may be available</li> </ul>
<b>Review Group Meetings and Site Visits:</b>	Site visits to parks and green spaces in Dunston and Old Whittington and other sites as identified as areas of combined multiple deprivation, low quality and deficiency of open space
<b>Resource Requirements:</b> (what resources will be used)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Officer time</li> <li>• Admin support and document management</li> <li>• Occasional transport subject to method of review adopted</li> <li>• Room bookings and IT support</li> </ul>
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	16 October 2014
<b>Scrutiny Project/Report Completion Date</b> (Group to agree final report)	END OF Nov. 2014
<b>Final Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Business Meeting on :</b>	1 DEC. 2014.
<b>Scrutiny Report to Scrutiny Committee on:</b> (allow for public notice period)	11.12.14 (E&W SC)
<b>Cabinet Reporting Deadlines</b> (allow for WBR/Executive Member)	
<b>Scrutiny Report to Cabinet on:</b> (allow for Public notice period)	13 Jan. 2015
Executive Member(s) & Head(s) of Service Consulted on project brief and scope form :	Date : 17/10/2014
Scrutiny Project Group agreed project brief / scope form:	Date :24/10/2014
Project brief / scope form signed off at Scrutiny Business Meeting :	Date : 04/11/2014

## **ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 11 DECEMBER 2014**

### **Findings of the Scrutiny Project Group looking at the development of the Sports Facilities Strategy :**

As part of its overall brief the Scrutiny Project Group on Leisure, Sport & Culture Activities received a presentation on the development of the Sports Facilities Strategy at a meeting on 25 November, 2014.

The presentation included details of the supply of, and needs assessment for, indoor facilities (Sports Halls, swimming pools) and artificial grass pitches across the borough – at Council facilities, schools, community halls and other facilities.

It was noted that the Strategy would support the Sport England Strategic Facilities Funding for the new Leisure Centre and that it would need to be adopted by the Council by the end of January, 2015, in order to comply with Sport England funding requirements.

The Scrutiny Project Group emphasised the need for the Strategy to include:

- priorities re. facilities being community focused and aiming for positive health impacts, in particular for those with mental health issues and the elderly at risk of being isolated.
- reference to accessibility – physical access to comply with Sport England access standards and encouraging participation through community based delivery.

and recommends to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee that the Sports Facilities Strategy, incorporating the above points, be supported.

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## Draft Sports Facilities Strategy 2014 – 2028

Chesterfield Borough Council

December 2014



*Neil Allen Associates Registered Office:  
20 Brook Road, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 9AH*

*A limited company, registered in  
England and Wales no. 616528*



## Introduction and Context

- 1.1 In August 2014 Chesterfield Borough Council appointed naa to support the development of a Sports Facilities Strategy for the borough. The Strategy is a part of a suite of strategic documents for sport and recreation planning and follows the production of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), which was recommended for adoption by the council at a Cabinet meeting in October 2014.
- 1.2 These documents together, developed using the up-to-date Sport England methodologies, provide the Council and its partners with a robust evidence base and set of strategic priorities to direct future sports planning policy and funding including investment through use of S106 monies (Town and Country Planning Act) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Specifically the Sports Facility Strategy also underpins the needs and evidence case for the new Queen's Park Sports Centre development.
- 1.3 The scope of the facility strategy was established by the Council as:
- Swimming Pools
  - Sports Halls
  - Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
  - Informal Sport and Recreation
- 1.4 The Council is also in the process of completing a Parks and Open Space Strategy and plan to complete its strategic policy work with the development of a Community focused Sport and Physical Activity Strategy which will be delivered through the sport and leisure team and engaging key stakeholders including the Active Chesterfield Partnership.
- 1.5 The informal sport and recreation needs and evidence and priorities will be set out in these linked strategies with reference to cycling, walking, countryside and outdoor activities, and including the Village Games work and sport and physical activity programming, particularly in terms of disability activity and health related partnerships.
- 1.6 Facilities developed, recommended or supported, must be sustainable, community focused, and aiming for positive health impacts, in particular including people who are inactive, those with mental health issues, at risk of being isolated, or have similar challenges in their lives.
- 1.7 Physical access must comply with Sport England design and access standards and encouraging participation through community based delivery."
- 1.8 This strategy has been undertaken and the report structured to address the key drivers specified by the Council and must ensure compliance with National Planning Policy.
- 1.9 The needs assessment work has been produced in line with the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPF), which requires that (Paragraph 73, page 18):

*'.....planning policies are based upon robust and up-to-date assessments of needs for open space, sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision.....'*



- 1.10 Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) has been developed by Sport England and sets out an approach to undertaking needs assessment for sport and recreation facilities, in order to be compliant with the NPPF. The approach adopted to develop the facility strategy for Chesterfield has utilised the process set out in the ANOG guide.

- 1.11 The work has therefore considered the strategic context and sports participation profile across the borough, looked at supply and demand of facilities across Chesterfield in terms of *quantity, quality, access and availability*, built in consultation and utilised Sport England planning tools to develop the needs and evidence base and subsequent strategic recommendations.
- 1.12 The strategy sits within the context of Chesterfield Borough Councils Corporate Plan (2012-2015) and will support the stated vision of '*putting our communities first*' and the delivery of four specific priorities:
- A Sustainable Community- A clean, green and attractive Borough, where open spaces and built heritage are valued
  - An Accessible Community- An inclusive Borough, where everyone feels valued and has equal and fair access to local services
  - A Safer, Healthier and Active Community- A healthy and safe Borough, where the community is free from the fear of crime
  - A High Performing Council with productive partnerships - An efficient and effective Council.
- 1.13 Against this backdrop, the strategy will help to deliver on the broader agenda of increasing participation in sport and physical activity, which is key to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and which can also play an important role in the development of community cohesion and integration.

### **Participation Profile**

- 1.14 Participation in sport and physical activity in Chesterfield is increasing and is now generally in line with regional and national averages. The proposed growth in population and housing numbers will mean the demand for facilities will increase and the need to build in headroom in terms of future facility provision is evident, particularly in terms of swimming provision. Future proofing any developments will therefore be important, particularly in terms of Queen's Park Sports Centre.
- 1.15 Swimming is the most popular activity in Chesterfield as it is in the Region and throughout England. Gym is third and Fitness and Conditioning which can take place in a sports hall or an ancillary hall are also the most popular activities in Chesterfield. The Sports Facilities Strategy is therefore focusing on providing facilities for the most popular activities.
- 1.16 There is a close relationship with the areas of highest sports participation having the lower levels of obesity. This is in the South West of the borough. This is also where the cluster of sports provision is located, including Queen's Park Sports Centre. Sport and physical activity and facility provision is evidenced as impacting positively on the health agenda.
- 1.17 Five of the top seven segments in population identified using Sport England segmentation tool are above 46 years of age. Segments in these age groups have lower than national average rates of sports and physical activity participation and their reasons for participating are for recreational, social activity and with a strong personal health motivation. So whilst the population is rising it is also ageing, which will impact on scale and nature of participation.
- 1.18 There will be a need to match future facility provision and strategy to the future demographic and participation profile. Alongside formal sports provision, the need for flexible activity spaces to meet more informal activity and health related programmes will also need to be an important and sustainable element of future provision.

## Swimming Pools

- 1.19 The evidence base is developed and applies the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) which is the accepted industry methodology for developing an evidence base for indoor sports facilities. The sequence of the report is to set out the evidence base findings under the four ANOG headings of: *quantity, quality, access and availability*.
- 1.20 The evidence base draws on:
- the findings from the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) 2013 report on swimming pools provision in Chesterfield Borough and all the local authorities which border Chesterfield;
  - the FPM report has two parts to its assessment. The first is the assessment of need in 2013 and the second part is the assessment of need based on the impact of the projected increase in population and aging of the core resident population to 2028, this ensures the strategy is future proofed and builds in predicted growth. For context the findings for East Midlands Region and Derbyshire County are also included in the tables; and
  - site visits to the sports halls and swimming pools in Chesterfield and consultations with the Borough Council, schools, National Governing Bodies (NGB), further education college and other key providers or partners in sports facility provision in the Borough.

### **Quantity of swimming pool provision**

- 1.21 Chesterfield has a shortfall of swimming pool provision both in 2013 and in 2028. This equates to 145 sqm of water space in 2013 and by 2028, with planned population growth, this shortfall increases to – 270 sq m of water (For context a 25m x 4 lane swimming pool is 212 sq metres of water). However this assessment does not include the closure of the Brookfield Community Centre pool. With that site included the overall deficit increases to 310 sq metres of water in 2014 and to 435 sq metres of water in 2028.
- 1.22 The Sport England assessment is based on a proposed new but smaller Queen's Park Sports Centre of 325 sq metres of water a 25 m x 6 lane pool. Given the overall findings on quantity of swimming pool provision updated to 2014 and the projected deficit in waterspace in 2014 and 2028, then the Borough Council's proposed new Queen's Park Sports centre of a 25m x 8 lane pool (420 sq metres of water) and learner pool of 80 sq metres of water is very much justified. The proposed new Queen's Park Sports Centre pool will reduce the current and projected deficit in waterspace across the Borough and ensure *future proofing*.
- 1.23 Furthermore based on the comparative standard of waterspace per 1,000 population, Chesterfield Borough has the third lowest provision in Derbyshire County and is below the East Midlands and England wide provision in 2013. This is not to say Chesterfield should have what already exists elsewhere. It is saying that based on a consistent comparative measure Chesterfield does have a low level of waterspace. An 8-lane pool at the new Queen's Park Sports Centre will help to address this. Whether additional pools are required needs to be considered alongside other factors.

### **Quality of swimming pool provision**

- 1.24 Chesterfield has an old stock of pools. The Queen's Park Sports Centre opened in 1968 and the most recent pool is the Healthy Living Centre pool opened in 2008. So the stock spans 45 years in terms of age.
- 1.25 Replacement of the Queen's Park Sports Centre with a new pool is therefore justified in terms of the age and quality of the pool stock overall. Conditions survey work has confirmed the poor quality of the existing facility and the preference for a new build solution. The Staveley Healthy Living Centre (HLC) also has some challenges in terms of accessible swimming provision due to the lack of a learner pool in part mitigated by a moveable floor, which need to be addressed going forward through innovative programming and potential investment in technology or structure to facilitate increased participation and demand.
- 1.26 The New Queen's Park Sports Centre will be the only site in the Borough with more than one pool tank and which can provide for the full range of swimming activities: recreational swimming; lane and fitness swimming; learn to swim programmes and club use all at one venue. As such it does mean that all swimming customers are provided with the opportunity to participate in their activity and there is the full range of activities at one venue. This is an important quality aspect for customers as swimming is a family based activity.

### **Accessibility of swimming pool provision**

- 1.27 The location of the swimming pool sites in Chesterfield means they are all very accessible to the Chesterfield population. So much so that in 2013 the estimate is that for 84% of the Chesterfield demand the nearest pool to where residents live is a pool in Chesterfield. In short, over eight of ten visits to pools in Chesterfield are from people in the borough – the pools are very accessible in terms of their drive and walk to catchment areas and where residents live.
- 1.28 All of the swimming pool sites in Chesterfield (except HLC) are in the South West corner of the borough. However for the reasons set out, that for 84% of the Chesterfield demand the nearest pool to where residents live is in the borough, then the location of all the pools being in this one area is not a significant issue.
- 1.29 For all these location and access reasons, the site for the new Queen's Park Sports Centre is therefore a very sensible decision in terms of residents accessing pools based on where they live and their travel patterns to pools. There is no evidence that any alternative location would increase accessibility for Chesterfield residents. Queen's Park Sports Centre is in a shared catchment with Brookfield School, reducing the impact in accessibility terms of the Brookfield Pool closure. This is also the area of highest participation in the borough.
- 1.30 Exporting 16% of the Chesterfield demand for swimming in 2013 and 18% by 2028 is identified in the needs and evidence analysis. If the pool provision in neighbouring authorities was to reduce, and most importantly in North East Derbyshire which has 3 pool sites, it would displace around 6% of the Chesterfield demand for swimming estimated to be met in North East Derbyshire.
- 1.31 Unmet demand for swimming pools because of lack of pool access is insufficient to justify considering additional swimming pool provision in the borough. It equates to 84

sq metres of water in 2013 and 94 sq metres of water by 2018. Of this total some 82% is made up of residents who have no access to a car, i.e. would have to walk or get a bus to a pool, this falls to 70% by 2028. The highest area of unmet demand in 2013 is located around Newbold and Brimington, ward clusters which do not have a pool. However the amount of unmet demand is insufficient to justify provision of a new pool in either location at present.

### **Availability of swimming pool provision**

- 1.32 Availability of swimming pools is the second most important category of findings after quantity. Availability is on two counts: firstly the hours of community use which are available at each site and; secondly how full the pools are.
- 1.33 On the first count the Chesterfield public pools have very high availability and the variation is only 9 hours a week across the three public swimming pool sites. The lowest is 93 hours a week at Queen's Park Sports Centre and the highest 102 hours a week at Chesterfield Fitness and Well Being Centre.
- 1.34 On the second count the Chesterfield average pools capacity used is 86% in 2013 and projected to increase to 89% by 2026. This varies from the lowest at the Brampton Manor pool at 36% of capacity used – but this is by its membership not full public access - to 100% of capacity used at the Chesterfield Fitness and Well Being Centre. The Queen's Park Sports Centre is at 96% of capacity used at peak times. The Queen's Park Pool is also utilised for club use outside normal opening hours for specialist performance training needs.
- 1.35 These findings do suggest additional provision, which would offer more scope to share demand around more pools and reduce the used capacity of each pool. However the key finding in relation to this option is the level of unmet demand, as reported under the access heading. This is not sufficient in itself to justify additional pool provision. It is only 96 sq metres of water in 2013 and 128 sq metres of water by 2018. This assessment did however include the now closed Brookfield School Community pool.
- 1.36 So the option to consider in addressing this capacity issue is to co-ordinate pool programming across the public sites and in effect to try and make more use of the total pool time. In effect providing more pool time for the most popular activities and ensuring there is not a choice of pools for the same activity at the same time but at different pools and thereby duplicating the programme.
- 1.37 These availability findings do however suggest that the concerns raised in consultation about accommodating all the activities of public recreational swimming, learn to swim programmes, fitness swimming and club use at the new Queen's Park Sports Centre is going to be a management and programming challenge.
- 1.38 More so for the Queen's Park Sports Centre site because it is the only site with two pools and which can accommodate all swimming activities. However the size of each pool and the configuration is sufficient in terms of the overall demand for swimming across the borough projected by Sport England modelling up to 2028. The issue to address is about programming and management of pool time across the pool sites. It is not about additional swimming pool provision or an even larger main pool at the new Queen's Park Sports Centre. The innovative addition of a moveable floor to the leaner pool at the new Queen's Park Sports Centre site will support a more accessible and flexible programme of swimming opportunities being provided.
- 1.39 In the longer term the Council must keep a watching brief on the level of unmet demand for swimming estimated by Sport England as set out under the access heading. Should the unmet demand increase to a level of over 250 sq metres then

provision of additional swimming pool space equivalent of 25m x 4 lanes would meet this demand. The priority locations for unmet demand in the borough at present are in the Newbold and Brimington areas which do not have a pool.

- 1.40 It is also important that the Council considers future priorities and service outcomes in terms of commercial viability and the requirement for services to be self sustainable. Sport England recognise that investment should be closely aligned to needs and evidence for future provision but the facilities must also be clearly capable of delivering the required services in the most efficient and ideally, cost neutral manner.

### **Consultation**

- 1.41 Building on the baseline data analysis consultation was held with the following as part of the overall needs and evidence process and strategy development. The consultation focussed on supply and demand issues:

- Mick Blythe, Leisure Manager, Chesterfield Borough Council
- Alan Moray, Planning Manager, Chesterfield Council
- Darren Townsend, Healthy Living Centre Manager
- Paul Chambers, Derbyshire Sport
- Mark Tournier, School Sport Partnership
- Darren Norwood, Facilities for All
- Alex Fraser, Sporting Futures
- Alistair Meikle, Wheelyfun
- Kay Adkins, Chesterfield FC Community Trust
- Dave Simmonds Chesterfield College
- James Creaghan, Public Health Manager
- Sport England – Strategic Fund team.

- 1.42 Consultation was also undertaken with relevant National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and a consultation workshop was also held with Active Chesterfield.

- 1.43 Consultation outcomes in respect of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre were also considered.

- 1.44 Key issues raised in relation to swimming pool provision included the following:

- The proposed new pool at Queens' Park Sports Centre was supported by all consultees
- The scale of provision proposed will help to address the current and future waterspace requirements in Chesterfield
- The ASA and clubs support the new Queen's Park Sports Centre commenting that it will provide greater swimming space and a more versatile swimming area, which will enable the Chesterfield Swimming Club to expand and grow

- The closure of Brookfield School Community Pool will provide a challenge in ensuring all swimming can be accommodated across the borough pool stock
  - The growth of triathlon sport will place increased demands on the borough's water space
  - Swim Chesterfield which is the umbrella body for all swimming interests across the borough are committed to developing a co-ordinated approach to swimming across Chesterfield. At this point it is felt that the 8-lanes proposed at Queen's Park Sports Centre including the learner pool with movable floor should provide the flexibility to meet identified needs
  - Capacity could potentially be increased by addressing the challenges with water space and temperature at the Healthy Living Centre and seeking to develop a more versatile pool provision and environment. This should be pursued alongside the proposed growth in the Staveley area.
- 1.45 Bringing all the evidence together it is therefore evident that the new Queen's Park Sports Centre development is fully supported and the level of provision proposed will address the issues of quantity, particularly following the closure of Brookfield School Community Pool; and will raise the quality of the swimming offer in Chesterfield significantly. Local surveys undertaken as part of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre development and consultation with clubs and the ASA support this position.
- 1.46 It is clear the existing Queen's Park Sports Centre has reached the end of its lifecycle. In terms of accessibility the new Queen's Park Sports Centre site is well located and accessible to serve resident needs. There will clearly need to be a co-ordinated approach to programming to ensure the pool stock is available to meet the needs of a wide range of swimming requirements.
- 1.47 Based on the supply and demand analysis there is no case to develop new / additional pool provision over and above the new Queen's Park Sports Centre. However, capacity could be increased by developing a learner pool at the Staveley Healthy Living Centre (HLC) funded in part through the predicted growth in the area. The HLC may have capacity to be developed but the limited footprint and related design matters would need careful consideration. However, for any development to take place there would need to be a viable business case. Consultation with near neighbours would be prudent.
- 1.48 Set out overleaf are the key issues and priorities which flow from the needs and evidence for swimming pools. In all future developments there must be recognition of disability access, to ensure that provision is fully accessible to all Chesterfield residents.

Strategic Recommendation	Justification	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<p><b>SP1. Develop the Queens Park Centre as an 8-lane 25m pool and 16.5 x 7m learner pool with movable floor.</b></p>	<p>The new Queens Park development is fully supported and the level of provision proposed will address the issues of quantity, particularly following the closure of Brookfield School pool and will raise the quality of the swimming offer in Chesterfield significantly.</p> <p>It is clear the existing Queen's Park Sports centre has reached the end of its useful life. In terms of accessibility the new Queen's Park Sports Centre site is well located and accessible to serve resident needs.</p> <p>Local surveys undertaken as part of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre development and consultation with local clubs and the ASA support this view.</p>	<p>Continue to drive forward the build programme.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CBC</p>
<p><b>SP2. Adopt a co-ordinated approach to programming to ensure the pool stock is available to meet the needs of all swimming disciplines.</b></p>	<p>Capacity requires monitoring, there will be a need to adopt a co-ordinated approach to programming to ensure the pool stock is available to meet the needs of identified swimming requirements. Swimming participation is increasing and is the most popular sport in Chesterfield.</p>	<p>Through Swim Chesterfield seek to ensure a co-ordinated approach to programming, which meets the needs of all swimming disciplines across the borough. The Council are committed to this and the work is on-going.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>CBC with Swim Chesterfield</p>
<p><b>SP3. Protect all remaining swimming pool provision up to 2028.</b></p>	<p>There be a limited future pool deficit but not sufficient to warrant new pool provision. However any future closures will impact on this. Swimming participation is growing and is the most</p>	<p>Monitor and seek to resist any pool closure proposals as this will place significant pressure on the pool stock.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CBC and providers</p>



Strategic Recommendation	Justification	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<p><b>SP4. Seek to develop increased pool capacity at the Healthy Living Centre through more innovative use of the pool linked with technology and / or potential future investment adding to the flexibility offered by the moveable floor.</b></p>	<p>popular sport in Chesterfield.</p> <p>Even with the new Queen's Park Sports Centre there will still be a water deficit, whilst not significant to require additional / new pools in the short-term. Capacity could be increased by developing a learner pool type environment at the Healthy Living Centre. The predicted growth in Staveley further supports this and could provide in part funding. Any potential for adding a learner pool should be first explored through feasibility study and establishing a business case. Swimming participation is increasing and is the most popular sport in Chesterfield.</p>	<p>Seek to identify opportunities to improve or enhance provision linking with new investment projects in the borough and future s106 or CIL allocations.</p> <p>Undertake cost / benefit analysis and feasibility study and continue to monitor the need in line with other developments in the catchment.</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>CBC</p>
<p><b>SP5. Monitor the future needs up to 2028 to evaluate if the provision additional swimming pools are required over the life of the Strategy.</b></p>	<p>The area of highest unmet demand in 2013 is located around Newbold and Brimington, settlements which do not have a pool. The amount of unmet demand is insufficient to justify provision of a new pool in either location however Swimming participation is growing and is the most popular sport in Chesterfield.</p>	<p>Establish robust strategic reviews and monitor changes in supply and demand over the long-term life of the Strategy.</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>CBC</p>

## **Sports Halls**

- 1.49 The sports hall analysis follows the same approach as swimming pools and draws upon the same evidence base.

### **Quantity of sports hall provision**

- 1.50 The quantity of sports hall provision is that Chesterfield has a surplus of supply over demand of 14 badminton courts in 2013 and reducing to 11 courts in 2018. This is based on the sports hall supply being unchanged between the two years and demand increasing based on the population growth between the two years. The new Queen's Park Sports Centre sports hall will have 2 more courts than the current venue and so the supply surplus will increase by a further 2 badminton courts.
- 1.51 The most telling finding on the quantity of sports hall provision is that 8 of the total 9 venues which have some community use are on education – school or college sites. Maintaining this supply of sports halls is contingent on continuing access to the venues (considered under the access and availability headings) for community use. The surplus of supply over demand could be eliminated if 2 – 3 of these venues do not continue with community use, or if the rate of participation in hall sports increases and thereby increases demand.
- 1.52 Seven of the 9 venues are 4 badminton court size sports halls, so the quantity of provision is very good in providing the size of venue which can cater for all the indoor hall sports at community level. The Queens Park venue is the only venue that can provide for multi sports use and that will be enhanced by the new 8 court sports hall which includes event seating provision.
- 1.53 Based on the comparative standard of badminton courts per 10,000 population Chesterfield borough has 5.3 courts per 10,000 population in 2013, reducing to 4.6 courts in 2028. This is higher by around 1 court per 10,000 population than courts across Derbyshire County and East Midlands region.
- 1.54 The Community Hall network (village halls, church halls and community halls) is also an important part of the provision mix across Chesterfield. They provide opportunities for residents who do not want formal sporting opportunities in larger sports halls, but more activity based opportunities in small flexible spaces. This is very much in line with the more elderly sports participation profile across Chesterfield. Community based provision is also particularly important for delivering to the health agenda where local accessible opportunities in the community reflect the approach of getting the inactive more active. Loundsley Green Community Centre is an example of the type of provision, which is critical across the borough and provide a vital resource for local 'doorstep' activity. Community based provision will be further considered in the councils planned Sport and Physical Activity strategy.

### **Quality of sports hall provision**

- 1.55 The quality of sports hall provision in Chesterfield is very modern. All the stock, excepting the Chesterfield College sports hall opened between 2004 – 2013. There is a modern stock of 8 venues constructed in the last decade and 7 of these 8 sites are a 4 badminton court size sports hall. Furthermore the Chesterfield College sports hall which is the oldest venue and opened in 1993 was modernised in 2001 and again in 2013.
- 1.56 Replacement of the Queen's Park Sports Centre with a new sports hall of 8 badminton courts is justified on quality and size grounds because it will be the only venue in the borough which can provide for multi sports activities at the same time and have substantial supporting spectator provision. It will also be the sports events venue for the

borough. It will therefore complement the other borough venues which have a modern 4 badminton court size sports hall.

#### **Accessibility of sports hall provision**

- 1.57 A key finding is that 90% of Chesterfield's demand, rising to 91% in 2028, is retained at Chesterfield sports halls. Nine out of ten visits to Chesterfield's sports halls are by local residents. There are accessible sports hall locations and sports halls with sufficient supply to meet demand.
- 1.58 Car travel is the dominant travel mode to access sports halls, with 74% of all visits by car in both years. Between 1 – 10 sports halls are accessible from all areas of Chesterfield based on car travel. Residents in around 40% of the land area of the borough have access to between 10 – 20 sports halls based on car travel and the location of venues – very high accessibility.
- 1.59 Around 60% of the land area of Chesterfield is within the walk to catchment area of a sports hall. This is important given 17% of all visits to sports halls are by people walking.
- 1.60 Unmet demand from lack of access and demand located outside the walk to catchment area of a sports hall is not an issue. It equates to 2 badminton courts in both years. Given there are 42 badminton courts at 9 sites available for public use in Chesterfield this is not significant.
- 1.61 The location of the Queen's Park Sports Centre is well placed to serve as the borough wide centre. Any alternative location would not provide better accessibility for residents.
- 1.62 There are several school venues close to the Queens Park Sports Centre. Given the overall surplus of sports hall supply over demand and the high accessibility to venues, then there could be a question as to whether the current scale of community use is required at all these venues (see findings under **Availability**).
- 1.63 The new Queens Park Centre is going to be an 8 court sports hall and so it has 33% more capacity than the existing venue.
- 1.64 Only 9% of Chesterfield's demand for sports halls is exported. This is around 420 visits and primarily to Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. The quantity and pattern of exports shows little change from 2013 to 2028.

#### **Availability of sports hall provision**

- 1.65 Availability of sports halls is the second most important category of findings after quantity. Availability is on two counts: firstly the hours of community use which are available at each site and; secondly how full the sports halls are.
- 1.66 On the first count the Chesterfield sports halls have high availability, as all the 9 sites offer community use but this varies site by site and is dependent on the policy of each individual venue owner and operator; 8 of the 9 sports hall sites are on school or college sites and the policy/access for community use is determined by each individual school/college. An example of this is Springwell Community College is estimated to have 62% of its total sports hall capacity available and used for community use, whilst at St Mary's Catholic High School it is a much lower 32% of the venue's capacity available and used.
- 1.67 Overall the average estimated used capacity across all the venues in the borough is between 61% - 62% in the weekly peak period. This is well within the Sport England halls

utilisation level of 80% of capacity used and before sport halls become uncomfortably full. It is the variation in availability of sports halls which is the issue and creating highs and lows at individual venues not the total capacity of all the venues.

- 1.68 This becomes clearer when considering where sports halls appear fuller than the FPM analysis. School based sports halls that have community use appear to be at capacity include Brookfield, Netherthorpe and Springwell. There is however opportunity to look at opening up further St Mary's School and Hasland Hall School. It is important that provision is balanced and facilitates increased participation to support strong participation pathways and accessible activity as well as the critical impact on healthy lifestyles.
- 1.69 The Queen's Park Sports Centre is the only public sports centre in the borough and it has the highest level of availability and used capacity in both 2013 and 2028. This is because it has full availability for public access and clubs use (86% and 99% respectively). The decision to increase the size of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre by 2 badminton courts is both a justified and prudent one. The additional provision increases the overall supply and demand balance of sports halls in the borough, it is effectively protecting the only venue in the borough that can provide for full public access and availability.
- 1.70 The issue of variable availability of sports halls for community use across the borough is likely to increase as each one decides their own policy towards community use and the extent of the availability of the sports halls. Active Chesterfield and other stakeholders have a role to play in coordinating access and influencing charging policies including concessionary pricing.
- 1.71 The Council has a role to play with local partners to strategically lead and where possible seek to establish a consistent pattern of use and availability of education based sports halls for community use. The justification for this is if for example 2-3 venues did not make their venue available for community use then the healthy surplus of supply over demand of 14 badminton courts in 2014 and 11 in 2028 across the borough will be reduced or even eliminated, and the Queen's Park Sports Centre is already estimated to be completely full.
- 1.72 The emergence of commercial facility management at several school sites identifies the education site owners who are supportive of community use. Sites currently commercially operated include Netherthorpe School, Newbold Community College and Meadows Community School. Therefore there are three venues where a co-ordinated and consistent pattern of access, availability and programming of community use maybe agreed with one operator. It is however important that these facilities do not become exclusive and in doing so fail to deliver in the widest community sense.
- 1.73 The need for this selective co-ordinated approach is underlined by Chesterfield College having exclusive term time use of 4 of the badminton courts at the new 8 court Queens Park Leisure Centre during the day time (which is off peak) for 35 weeks of the year. The new Queen's Park Sports Centre will have 8 courts (as distinct from the 6 courts in the current centre) available for public/club use weekday evenings and weekends and a balance of 4 courts for public use at off peak times on week days only during the term times.
- 1.74 The decision to increase the new Queen's Park Sports Centre from 6 to 8 courts is strategically justifiable and a prudent one In terms of guaranteeing and protecting public and club use at the only public centre in the borough. It is also off-setting the impact of any change in availability of the 8 remaining education based sites that may occur.

- 1.75 The new Queen's Park Sports Centre is positioned as the borough wide public/club use venue. It is the only sports hall site which is not only a public sports hall but it is the only venue which is larger than 4 badminton courts. It therefore offers full public access/availability and flexibility of uses at the same time of different sports and activities.
- 1.76 These scale, access and availability benefits/positions the centre as the borough wide venue. There could also be a network of a few education based centres providing for community recreation and club use at particular venues. All but one of the venues has a 4 badminton court size sports hall.
- 1.77 As with the swimming pool provision the council is planning for cost neutral services being provided. This brings an element of commercial pricing and programming into the future approach to facility provision, pricing and delivery. Sport England acknowledges the need for sustainable business models being developed in strategic planning for the future.

### **Consultation**

- 1.78 The consultation followed the same approach as for swimming pools. Key issues raised in relation to sports hall provision included the following:
- The proposed new sports hall at Queens' Park Sports Centre was supported by all consultees. It will provide flexible block booking options and pay and play access to sit alongside the school network which provides more of an exclusive block booking approach
  - Indoor space is well provided for. After-school opportunities at Netherthorpe, Springwell and Newbold Schools are in place. Important community opportunities are provided at Inkersall Methodist Church and St Augustine's Church.
  - Schools provide a good service in opening up their facilities and working on a co-ordinated basis across the borough. The commercial management approach or similar outsource to a community organisation could be extended to those schools which do not currently maximise community use.
  - Health funding and programmes will be targeted at local community based activities. Whilst facilities are not the panacea they are an important part of the local participation opportunities. Gaining affordable access to facilities in local community settings will be a critical area of delivery.
  - Opening up the school and community network is an important future priority to deliver local targeted activities and programmes and drive the health agenda. Coordinated local stakeholders and policy will help this process
  - Daytime access to sports hall is challenging due to the reliance on school based provision. The importance of the community hall network alongside Queen's Park Sports Centre is therefore evident in order to deliver daytime access and opportunities, in particular for the mature Chesterfield resident population.
  - The Council are committed to maximising the potential of the sports hall network and smaller flexible community venues. Opportunities exist to create community hubs around pitches and indoor community provision linking with the Playing Pitch Strategy

- Chesterfield is a leader in the delivery of local active recreation opportunities linked with the Active Derbyshire plan and Derbyshire Plan for Sport. The sports hall at the new Queen's Park Sports Centre will not play any significant sub-regional role however it will provide opportunities for growth and club and school competition for sports hall sports such as basketball and badminton and sustained established activity such as martial arts and multisports provision.
- 1.79 Overall it is established that the new Queen's Park Sports Centre development is fully justified and the level of provision proposed will compliment and provide an exit route from the network of school and education sports halls, providing a quality 8-court facility. Queen's Park Sports Centre and the school based sports hall network provide sustainable access to sports hall for the community.
- 1.80 The school sport hall network is new and modern and of good quality. There is no case at present, based on the supply and demand analysis to develop new / additional sports hall provision over and above the new Queen's Park Sports Centre. The level of provision is good and there is generally good access although a number of schools are at full-capacity. There is therefore a need to protect all halls and seek to open up access to those schools which currently provide limited use. School commissioning of facility management provides a good opportunity for delivering coordinated community use and could be extended to support other schools.
- 1.81 Alongside the formal sports hall network there is a good network of community halls and accessible venues with useable activity space. These are vital to provide local opportunities, particularly in the daytime, in line with the health agenda and the participation profile of Chesterfield.
- 1.82 Set out overleaf are the key issues and priorities which flow from the needs and evidence for sports halls. In all future developments there must be recognition of disability access, which will ensure that provision is fully accessible to all users.

Strategic Recommendation	Justification	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<b>SH1. Develop the new Queen's Park Sports Centre as an 8 court sports hall facility.</b>	<p>The new Queen's Park Sports Centre development is fully supported and the level of provision proposed will compliment the network of school and education sports halls, providing a quality 8-court facility, with pay and play access. Queen's Park Sports Centre and the school based sports hall network provide good access to sports hall for the community.</p>	<p>Continue to drive forward the new build programme.</p>	<p>Complete 2016</p>	<p>CBC</p>
<b>SH2. Protect all sports hall provision up to 2028 and seek to open up those schools with current limited use.</b>	<p>Based on supply and demand analysis there is no requirement to develop new / additional sports hall provision over and above the new Queen's Park Sports Centre. The level of provision is good and there is generally good access however a number of schools are at full-capacity. There is therefore a need to protect all halls and seek to open up access to those schools which currently provide limited use.</p>	<p>Monitor and seek to resist any sports hall closure.</p> <p>Seek to develop and support improved access to the school sports hall network through a coordinated approach to management.</p> <p>Seek to support and influence investment through s106 or CIL allocations to work with stakeholders to enhance the school network.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>CBC and providers</p>
<b>SH3. Seek to maximise the opportunities for local sport and physical activity opportunities through the community centre network.</b>	<p>The Community Hall network (village halls, church halls and community halls) are an important part of the provision mix across Chesterfield. They provide opportunities for residents who do not want formal sporting opportunities in larger sports halls, but more activity based opportunities in small flexible spaces. This is very much in line with the more mature resident sports participation profile across the borough. Community based provision is also particularly important for delivering to the health agenda where</p>	<p>Undertake an audit of the existing community hall network and suitable community assets to understand the quality of provision and the sport and physical opportunities they offer.</p> <p>Seek to support and influence stakeholder investment through s106 or CIL allocations to enhance the community centre network based on the audit findings.</p>	<p>Short term</p> <p>Long term</p>	<p>CBC with Active Chesterfield</p> <p>CBC and stakeholders</p>

Strategic Recommendation	Justification	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
	local accessible opportunities in the community reflect the approach of getting the inactive more active.			



### Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

- 1.83 The AGP analysis follows the same approach as swimming pools and sports halls and draws upon the same evidence base.
- 1.84 In Chesterfield, there are three full sized pitches with approved surfaces for hockey and one full sized 3g pitch. In addition, there are three small sided facilities, specifically at Queen's Park Sports Centre and two at Hasland Hall Community School. The surface of the pitch at Queen's Park Sports Centre means that it is unsuitable for hockey use, however the pitches at Hasland Hall Community School would provide training opportunities for hockey.
- 1.85 In Chesterfield Borough, there is therefore one full sized pitch with a 3g surface (the preferred surface for football) located at Brookfield School. This pitch is on the FA register of 3g pitches, is approved for use in competitive fixtures and is a high quality facility with associated changing facilities. It was built during 2010 and several charter standard clubs are linked to the site. There is a further small sized 3g pitch at Queen's Park Sports Centre which can be used for training and small sided games. This was built in 2008 and is also of good quality.
- 1.86 The remaining pitches (3 full sized and 2 small sized) have sand based surfaces which can be used for football training but are not approved surfaces for competitive fixtures. While Springwell Community College is a new facility (built 2011), the pitch at St Marys High School is almost 15 years old and the surface is poor. The facility at Newbold Community School was built in 2006 and has a good surface but is not floodlit, restricting the overall use of the pitch outside of school hours.
- 1.87 Notably, only the pitch at Queen's Park Sports Centre is managed by Chesterfield Borough Council. All other facilities are at school sites and managed internally, or by *Facilities for All* (commercial management company).
- 1.88 Through consultation there is a perception that facilities are inadequate, this was almost wholly attributed to the perceived lack of AGPs in the borough (and in particular 3g AGPs) and resulting challenges in accessing these facilities. This suggests that facilities are at capacity. The cost of using AGPs was highlighted as a barrier by some, in particular adult teams who would need to hire the whole facility but would have fewer players to spread the cost.
- 1.89 The conclusions of the fpm modelling therefore suggest that:
- the existing stock of AGPs is at capacity;
  - there is a poor balance between the different types of surface given the shift to 3g surfaces by the FA; and
  - there is a need to consider supplementing the existing stock through either a small AGP, an additional 3g AGP and the replacement of the carpet at St Marys RC High School.
- 1.90 The additional consultation undertaken on top of the PPS work confirmed the need for additional 3g provision and the requirement to resurface St Mary's for hockey. Set out overleaf are the key issues and priorities which flow from the needs and evidence for AGPs.

Strategic Recommendation	Justification	Action	Timescales	Responsibilities
<b>AGP1 Seek to develop a new 3g pitch as a focus for football.</b>	<p>There is only one full sized 3g pitch in the borough and a second smaller facility although over 85% of use of all AGPs is football. Shortages of 3g AGPs was highlighted as a concern by 63% of responding clubs and some clubs are travelling outside of the borough to use facilities. Existing facilities are at capacity midweek. The lack of 3g pitches also means that there is minimal scope to use 3g pitches as an alternative to grass pitches for competitive fixtures, which is a key FA policy. Demand for additional AGPs (particularly 3g) was one of the key issues emerging through consultation.</p> <p>In terms of access a gap exists in the east. Netherthorpe School have expressed a desire of a 3g.</p>	<p>Work with the FA and Netherthorpe school to explore the feasibility of delivering a new 3g on the site.</p> <p>Explore the potential of developing a 3g pitch on the old Queen's Park Sports Centre site. Would enable more flexible programming of the sports hall at the new site and increase capacity by moving some football outside.</p> <p>Explore other location opportunities should delivery not be feasible.</p> <p>Ensure S106 and CIL funding considered to support any identified investment opportunities that arise.</p>	Medium	CBC and potential stakeholders
<b>AGP2. Resurface St Mary's AGP to provide a focus for hockey.</b>	<p>St Mary's is a key focus for hockey. The surface at St Marys RC High School is poor and is approaching 15 years old. The surface shows evidence of wear and tear and there are rips in the surface. It requires replacement to enable ongoing use of the facility.</p>	<p>Work with the school and club to support \ seek funding to deliver the re-surfacing</p>	Short term	CBC, school and hockey club
<b>AGP3. Protect all AGP provision up to 2028.</b>	<p>Even with the delivery of AGP 1 and AGP2 pitches will be at or near capacity.</p>	<p>Monitor and seek to resist any future AGP closure.</p> <p>Seek to deliver investment through s106 or CIL allocations to enhance the AGP network through re-surfacing</p>	Ongoing	CBC and stakeholders

## **Implementation and Delivery**

- 1.91 The Council managing its facilities in-house or through other options. Queen's Park Sports Centre is targeted to be delivered on a cost neutral basis and the Councils approach in directly managing the provision will maximise the ability to respond and react to changes in community needs in a timely and targeted manner; and continue to meet the borough's future vision and priorities.
- 1.92 Alongside management delivery the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet local needs.
- 1.93 Chesterfield Borough Council has an adopted Local Plan (2013). The Council are now developing sites and allocations, which may lead to a partial review of the Local Plan. The current plan has limited policies for open space and playing pitches and nothing in terms of indoor sport. There is an opportunity to develop policies for indoor sport based on the needs and evidence through this strategy and in turn use these to deliver investment for community sport and physical activity.
- 1.94 In the current and emerging economic environment it is also clear that facility provision should be focussing on achieving a cost neutral position for service sustainability. This introduces an element of commercial evaluation and assessment for the council to consider as part of deliberations in future provision. It is therefore important that the council considers increasing pressure regarding , need, demand , affordability and sustainability in relation to any future investment or re investment in existing or proposed projects.

## **National Planning Policy Framework**

- 1.95 The start point for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation is therefore the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and in particular paragraphs 73 and 74. These are set out below and the significant parts of these paragraphs are underlined.

### **Paragraph 73**

- 1.96 *'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.'*

### **Paragraph 74**

- 1.97 *'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.'*

1.98 The NPPF requires planning policy to be based on the establishment of an up to date needs assessment of provision now and in the future, with identified specific quantitative and qualitative deficits of surpluses and by different types of provision. It is setting out that existing provision should not be built on unless it meets one of the three requirements.

### **Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance**

1.99 In order to apply the direction set by the NPPF Sport England developed and published in 2014 the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) as the industry wide guidance and methodology for assessing needs and developing an evidence base for indoor and built sports and recreational facilities. The ANOG guidance has 4 headings in its assessment: *Quantity; Quality; Access and Availability.*

1.100 The evidence base for the Chesterfield Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy for swimming pools and sports halls has been developed applying the ANOG methodology.

1.101 The direction under ANOG is to then set out the evidence base findings for planning policy purposes under the three headings of: *Protect and Retain; Enhance; and Provide*

1.102 Applying the findings from the ANOG evidence base for Chesterfield some suggested planning policies are.

### **Protect and Retain**

*'The Council will seek to retain provision of the existing supply of sports halls, swimming pools and AGPs at the existing sites and the site for development of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre. This is based on the needs assessment identifying there is a present and continuing need for this scale of provision. Also the locations provide very good accessibility for the residents of the borough and any changes in provision/locations is unlikely to improve on the accessibility for residents.'*

### **Reasoned justification for sports halls**

1.103 The assessment on quantity of sports hall provision is that Chesterfield has a surplus of supply over demand of 14 badminton courts in 2013 and this reduces to 11 courts in 2028. This is based on the sports hall supply being unchanged between the two years and demand increasing based on the population growth between the two years.

1.104 There is however a need to retain this level of provision as 8 of the total 9 sports halls venues which have some community use are on education – school or college sites. Maintaining this supply of sports halls to meet demand is contingent on continuing availability of the venues and this is at the decision and discretion of the school and college sports hall owner and operator. The projected surplus of supply over demand could be eliminated if 2 – 3 of these venues do not continue with community use, or if the rate of participation in hall sports increases and thereby increases demand.

1.105 In terms of access the assessment of need has identified the location and catchment area of the sports halls correlates very well with the location of 90% of the Chesterfield demand for sports halls. 90% of the demand for a sports hall by Chesterfield residents is located within the catchment area of a Chesterfield sports hall. There is enough sports halls capacity to absorb this level of demand. Changing the location of sports halls in

the borough is very unlikely to improve on access to sports halls by Chesterfield residents.

### **Reasoned justification for swimming pools**

- 1.106 In terms of swimming pools the needs assessment has identified Chesterfield has a shortfall of swimming pool provision both in 2013 and in 2028. This equates to 145 sqm of water space in 2013 and by 2028, with planned population growth, this shortfall increases to 270 sq m of water.
- 1.107 The Council's new Queen's Park Sports centre of a 25m x 8 lane pool (420 sq metres of water) and learner pool of 80 sq metres of water is justified and is larger than the current Queen's Park Sports Centre provision. The proposed new Queen's Park Sports Centre pool will mitigate the current and projected shortfall in waterspace across the borough.
- 1.108 Given these findings the Council needs to protect the current quantity of swimming pool provision at the existing locations. The Council does not consider there is a need to provide additional waterspace/pools to meet the projected shortfall and will seek to increase the capacity of the existing pools by changes in programming to provide more pool time and increase supply/capacity by these programming change. The new Queen's Park Sports Centre pool moveable floor will offer greater flexibility in swimming programming to allow more activities to take place at the same time. This scope to increase capacity does not exist with the current site.
- 1.109 The location and catchment areas of the Chesterfield swimming pools makes them very accessible to residents in both 2013 and 2028. The nearest pool to where 84% of residents live is located in Chesterfield.

### **Reasoned justification for AGPS**

- 1.110 The capacity of AGPs is relatively constrained, particularly during midweek at peak times. Increases in participation are likely to result in higher demand for training facilities and there is currently little scope to accommodate this within the existing infrastructure. There is also an identified increase in demand for Junior play and training within the County generally.

### **Enhance**

- 1.111 *The Council will seek to support the enhancement of the quality of the Healthy Living Centre to address demand for improved capacity of the swimming pool accessibility through considering options to improve options for use of the pool including considering feasibility of additional provision. The Council will enhance provision of the pool by investment of section 106 monies or the CIL, based on a viable business case being established and the predicted growth in Staveley.*
- 1.112 *The Council will seek to support the enhancement of the quality of the existing sports halls stock. It is recognised the Council is not the owner or operator of the vast majority of sports halls in the borough. Therefore the Council will seek to work with the school and college owners and operators to enhance the existing provision and programme accessibility.*
- 1.113 *The Council will expect the existing owners to set out a reasoned business case for enhancement of its facilities in terms of financial viability and the type and programme of community use it will deliver. The Council will seek to make strategic interventions*

*and partnerships based on the borough wide assessment of need for sports halls over the plan period. The Council will consider enhancing provision of the stock by supporting \ influencing investment of section106 monies or the CIL, based on a business case developed by the provider or jointly which meets the Council's priorities for community use requirements identified in its assessment of need.*

- 1.114 *The Council will seek to support funding being accessed for the enhancement of Schools such as St Mary's through the re-surfacing of the pitch for hockey use.*
- 1.115 *Based on further audit and analysis the Council will seek to support investment in the community centre network to provide sustainable local active recreation opportunities'*

**Reasoned justification for swimming pools**

- 1.116 Even with the new Queen's Park Sports Centre there will still be a water deficit, whilst not significant to require additional / new pools in the short-term. Capacity could be increased by potentially developing a learner pool at the Healthy Living Centre linked with appropriate feasibility and business case development. The predicted growth in Staveley further supports this and could provide in part funding. Swimming participation is growing and is the most popular sport in Chesterfield.

**Reasoned justification for sports halls and community centre provision**

- 1.117 The needs assessment has identified that the Council does not own or manage all sports halls. 8 of the total 9 venues which have some community use are on education – school or college sites. Furthermore all the stock, excepting the Chesterfield College sports hall was opened between 2004 – 2013. So it is a very modern stock of 8 venues constructed in the last decade. Finally seven of these eight centres are a 4 badminton court size sports hall with the new QPLC an 8 badminton court size sports hall. The oldest sports hall at Chesterfield College opened in 1993 and was modernised in 2001.
- 1.118 It is a quality borough stock with very little immediate need for enhancement.
- 1.119 The evidence base and consultation work has identified that schools are committed to community use. However each school develops its own programme of the type and level of community use. It is effective but responsive to local needs identified, and provided by schools and sports clubs responding to their own needs and opportunities. There is an individual site by site approach to the provision and management of sports facilities by schools and a varying level of expertise in the planning, delivery and management of these facilities for public use.
- 1.120 The established approach needs to be enhanced, strategically developed and co-ordinated across the borough, so as to maximise the potential of school sites for community use. To do this effectively it requires a co-ordinated management programme of community use and delivery.
- 1.121 It is fully recognised the independence of schools and colleges to determine and manage their own arrangements for community use of sports facilities. It is also fully recognised that the schools lack sufficient capital funding to further improve and enhance facilities. Given the age and quality of the stock this is not an immediate issue. However as the stock ages it will need to be enhanced and modernised. Future growth in population and residents of new housing will make use of the school based sports facilities. It is most cost and sports effective to invest in what is already in place at existing sites to meet the continuing need for community use and access to sports halls over the plan period.

- 1.122 The Community Hall network (village halls, church halls and community halls) are an important part of the provision mix of community assets across Chesterfield. They provide opportunities for residents who do not want formal sporting opportunities in larger sports halls, but more activity based opportunities in small flexible spaces. This is very much in line with the mature resident sports participation profile across Chesterfield. Community based provision is also particularly important for delivering to the health agenda where local accessible opportunities in the community reflect the approach of getting the inactive more active.
- 1.123 Strategically planned application of Sec 106 funding or CIL funding from new housing development to support and influence modernisation of the community infrastructure of school sports halls and community centres over the plan period should be considered. In return for any CIL investment the Council would develop a formal joint use agreement and a contractual arrangement between the Council and the school/college based on a business case for investment and setting out the programme for the type, hours and philosophy of community use that will be delivered.

#### **Reasoned justification for AGPs**

- 1.124 St Mary's School is a key focus for hockey. The surface at St Marys RC High School is poor and is approaching 15 years old. The surface shows evidence of wear and tear and there are rips in the surface. It requires replacement to enable ongoing use of the facility.

#### **Provision**

- 1.125 *'The Council will seek to support prioritised provision of a new 3g pitch or hub in the borough to increase the capacity of the AGP stock for football. The Council will seek to enhance access to swimming by investment of section 106 monies or the CIL, based on the predicted growth in Staveley.'*
- 1.126 *Support proposals for delivery of additional community centre provision where any gaps are identified in the audit.'*

#### **Reasoned justification AGPs**

- 1.127 There is only one full sized 3g pitch in the borough and a second smaller facility although over 85% of use of all AGPs is football. Shortages of 3g AGPs was highlighted as a concern by 63% of responding clubs and some clubs are travelling outside of the borough to use facilities. Existing facilities are at capacity midweek. The lack of 3g pitches also means that there is minimal scope to use 3g pitches as an alternative to grass pitches for competitive fixtures, which is a key new 2014 FA policy. Demand for additional AGPs (particularly 3g) was one of the key issues emerging through consultation. In terms of access a geographic gap exists in the east of the borough although the size and layout of the borough does allow it to be considered as one area for FPM travel purposes. Netherthorpe School have expressed interest in developing a 3g pitch.

#### **Reasoned justification Community Halls**

- 1.128 If the audit and assessment work indicates gaps in provision consideration should be given to the development of new small community based halls to provide local community active recreation opportunities. These should form community hubs and can potentially link with playing pitch provision.

#### **Role of developer contributions in part financing indoor sports facilities**

## **Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy**

- 1.129 Local authorities have sought and secured developer contributions for local physical and social infrastructure through Section 106 (and other provisions) of the various Planning Acts. Strict regulations have controlled these contributions in order that they are reasonable and proportionate to the development, and in principle are necessary for the development to be acceptable in planning terms.
- 1.130 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) introduced in 2010 allows local authorities to charge a tariff, at a locally set rate, on many types of new development. The money can then be used to pay for a wide range of community infrastructure that is required as a result of development. This can include indoor sports facilities as an INTERGAL PART of community infrastructure. The council is finalising a policy for CIL and Sport England are a consultee in this process.
- 1.131 It is understood that CIL money does not need to be used for providing infrastructure on the geographical site it is collected from. The relationship between a site's infrastructure requirements and level of contributions made is broken although any infrastructure which is directly required as a result of a development can continue to be sought through Section 106. S106 obligations will therefore remain alongside CIL but will be restricted to that infrastructure required to directly mitigate the impact of a proposal. CIL is for strategic infrastructure, S106 will still apply to onsite provision (such as recreation and sport) and to offsite provision that is to meet the requirements of that development (i.e. non –strategic) subject to the pooling limitations.
- 1.132 The two elements of provision could be treated as follows:
- Provision of facilities necessary to meet the needs of the new housing, or enhancement of existing facilities nearby (which can be achieved by S106 commuted payments and possibly CIL for larger schemes)
  - Provision of significant enhanced facilities which serve major new housing developments or stand alone strategic schemes or both (CIL).
- 1.133 The Chesterfield assessment of need has not identified the need for new provision of swimming pools or sports halls. This is based on the assessed demand in 2013 and the projected demand up to 2028 based on population growth, aging of the core resident population and the committed new housing development.
- 1.134 The evidence base has identified the need to enhance existing sports halls over time and the most beneficial way to do this is to invest in the current stock over the plan period. This is based on the stock is modern (now) and the scale of provision and location does meet the needs of Chesterfield residents.
- 1.135 It is reasonable and proportionate to secure developers contributions to meet the cost of facility enhancements based on residents of new housing will make use of the existing indoor stock of facilities. Furthermore it is both sports and cost effective to invest in the existing facility locations given the needs assessment has identified that across the borough the existing sites provide excellent accessibility by the three travel modes of car (predominate) public transport and walking.
- 1.136 The evidence position is that developer's contributions can contribute to enhancement of the existing stock based on where the housing allocations and developments will take place and the catchment area of an existing facility including this new housing area. Any investment should also be based on a sound sustainable business case addressing both participation and health impact linked with balanced affordability.



### **Sports Facility Calculator**

- 1.137 It is possible to identify the scale of sports facility requirements and the costs from projected population growth by use of the Sport England Sports Facility Calculator (SFC). The SFC calculates the required provision from the population increase in terms of water area for swimming pools and number of badminton courts for sports halls. It can then calculate the cost of this scale of provision at 2014 prices.
- 1.138 Based on the Chesterfield Core Strategy setting out an estimated growth from the 101,200 population from the 2010 Office of National Statistics (ONS) projections to 110,300 by 2031, an increase of 9100. The requirement for swimming pools generated by this scale of population growth is for 35 sq metres of water at a capital cost of £1.3m at 2014 prices. For sports halls it is a requirement of 2.5 badminton courts at a capital cost of £1.5m at 2014 prices.
- 1.139 The scale and costs of providing for these facility types from population growth is therefore not extensive and does not equate to what is the effective size of provision. For a swimming pool this would be at least a 25m x 4 lane pool of 212 sq metres or a 4 badminton court size sports hall.
- 1.140 This only serves to underline that the focus for the expenditure should not be to provide new facilities but to contribute to the modernisation of the existing stock at locations accessible to the new population growth.
- 1.141 Three key points are acknowledged and reinforced:
- CIL will fund only a proportion of strategic infrastructure, and spending will have to balance a number of competing priorities. Other priorities may outweigh sport. CIL will be only one of the ways in which new infrastructure is paid for and other funding streams will need to be sought and considered, under the auspices of the delivery plan. The rate of CIL must be based on the evidence of viability.
  - CIL funding can only be sought for the committed housing development that does not already have consent. It is understood the Chesterfield Core Strategy has a new housing commitment of 7,600 housing units. Of this total some 1968 units already have consent and possibly have a developer contribution for indoor sports facilities either through CIL or as a Sec 106 agreement.
  - Whilst the strategy sets out there is already a good supply of indoor sports facilities, some of which will accommodate future demand, this does not mean that developer contributions should not be sought. New development and the associated population growth will place pressures on the existing facility stock and generate new participants in both indoor hall sports, fitness and activity classes and in swimming – across all ages. Increased use of these venues places greater importance on their quality and capacity and as a consequence, it is concluded that contributions towards indoor sports facilities should be required from all new developments. Contributions should therefore be made towards the delivery of the strategy objectives in line with the needs and evidence base. This should be tempered with appropriate consideration around sustainability delivery assessment.
- 1.142 The strategy sets out key projects and priorities based on the needs and evidence, to deliver now and in the future. Delivery through the planning system and future grant-aid, using the strategy recommendations, can help to deliver the priorities set out.

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# Draft CBC Sports Facilities Strategy

## *Sport and Leisure*

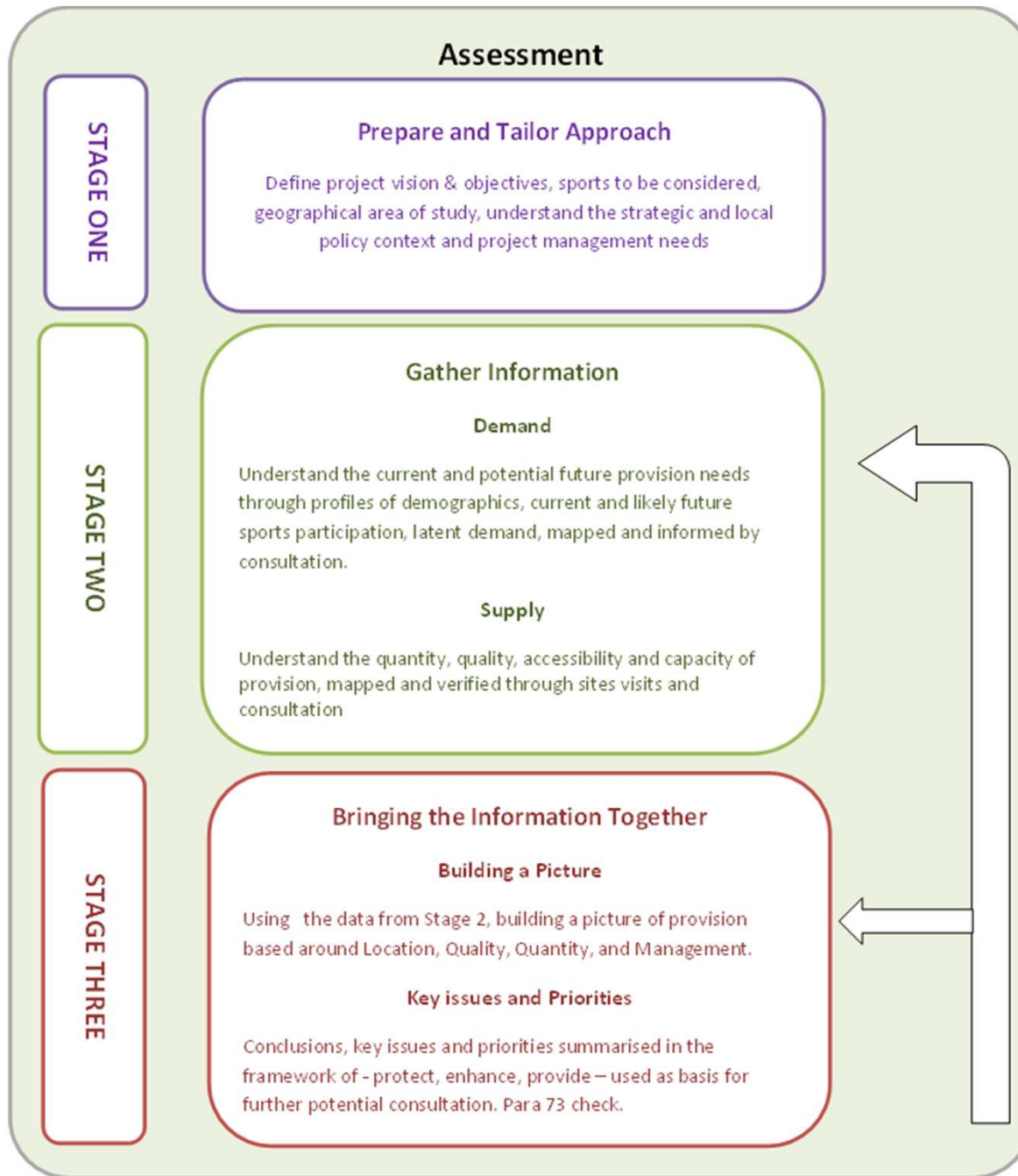
December 2014



# Context and Approach

- Scope – Indoor provision – *sports halls, swimming pools and outdoor Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP)*
- Will complement the Council's *Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS)*
- Supports Sport England (SE) *Strategic Facilities Funding* to Queens Park Sports Centre
- Building on and bringing together existing work
- Utilising Sport England *Facilities Planning Model (FPM)* and Consultation work
- Using the framework of SE *Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG)*
- Sport and Physical Activity Strategy the last piece of the jigsaw.....





# Strategic Context

- **Chesterfield Borough Core Strategy (2013)** –sets out the priorities for the future development of the Borough up to 2031. These include a targeted growth strategy proposing 7,600 additional dwellings in the borough.
- **Chesterfield Borough Council Corporate Plan - 2012-2015** –includes a vision of *'putting our communities first'*
- **Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy – 2012 – 2015** – the strategy seeks to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing across all stages of life by working in partnership with communities.
- **Active Derbyshire Plan – 2013 – 2016** – strategy has been developed through the Active Derbyshire Partnership which is the strategic lead for physical activity in Derbyshire. The vision is to make Derbyshire one of the most active counties in the country by 2020.
- **Beyond 2012: A Plan for Sport and Active Recreation in Derbyshire 2012 – 2015** – the plan provides the strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Derbyshire.



# Strategic Context

- **Derbyshire Built Facility Strategy 2012-2017** – the Strategy was developed by the County Sports Partnership. The intention to refurbish or re-build Queens Park Sports Centre was included and considered to meet future sports hall and swimming pool needs.
- Nationally Sport England Strategy advocates **‘a sporting habit for life’** the focus on increasing participation, links to Chesterfield Borough Councils vision of **“Putting our Communities First”** and our priorities.
- Ensure that a wide range of good quality and quantity of facilities are available to all members of the community, in particular aiming for positive health impacts by engaging people who require focussed support such as those who are inactive, suffering from mental health, are at risk of being isolated or have similar serious challenges in their lives.
- Physical access arrangements must comply with Sport England design and access standards and encouraging participation through community based delivery."
- The need to develop a fit for purpose sustainable network of facilities. To achieve this across the borough is therefore central to the strategy.



# Demographic and Participation Analysis



- Participation in sport and physical activity in Chesterfield borough is increasing and is now generally in line with regional and national averages.
- The proposed growth in population and housing numbers will mean the demand for facilities will increase and the need to build in headroom in terms of future facility provision is evident, particularly in terms of swimming provision.
- Swimming is the most popular activity in Chesterfield as it is in the Region and England wide. Future proofing any developments will therefore be important, particularly in terms of Queens Park Sports Centre.
- Whilst the population is rising it is also ageing, which will impact on scale and nature of participation.
- Gym, fitness and conditioning are also high in participation levels which can take place in a sports hall, community hall or ancillary hall and are amongst the most popular activities in Chesterfield.







# Demographic and Participation Analysis



- Five of the top seven SE market segments in population numbers are above 46 years of age. Segments in these age groups have lower than national average rates of sports and physical activity participation and their reasons for participating are for recreational, social activity and with a strong personal health motivation.
- There is a close relationship with the areas of highest sports participation having the lower levels of obesity. This is in the South West of the borough. This is also where the cluster of sports provision is located, including Queens Park Sports Centre. Sport and physical activity and facility provision would therefore appear to impact positively on the health agenda.
- There will be a need to match future facility provision and strategy to future demographic and participation profiles
- Alongside formal sports provision, the need for flexible activity spaces to meet more informal activity and health related programmes will need to be an important element of future provision






## Once a week sport participation (1x30), APS6 (2011/2012): LA Chesterfield District


 Display options  Export results

Catchment area:  
Chesterfield District

Participation estimates 2011-12  
Quartile classification\*

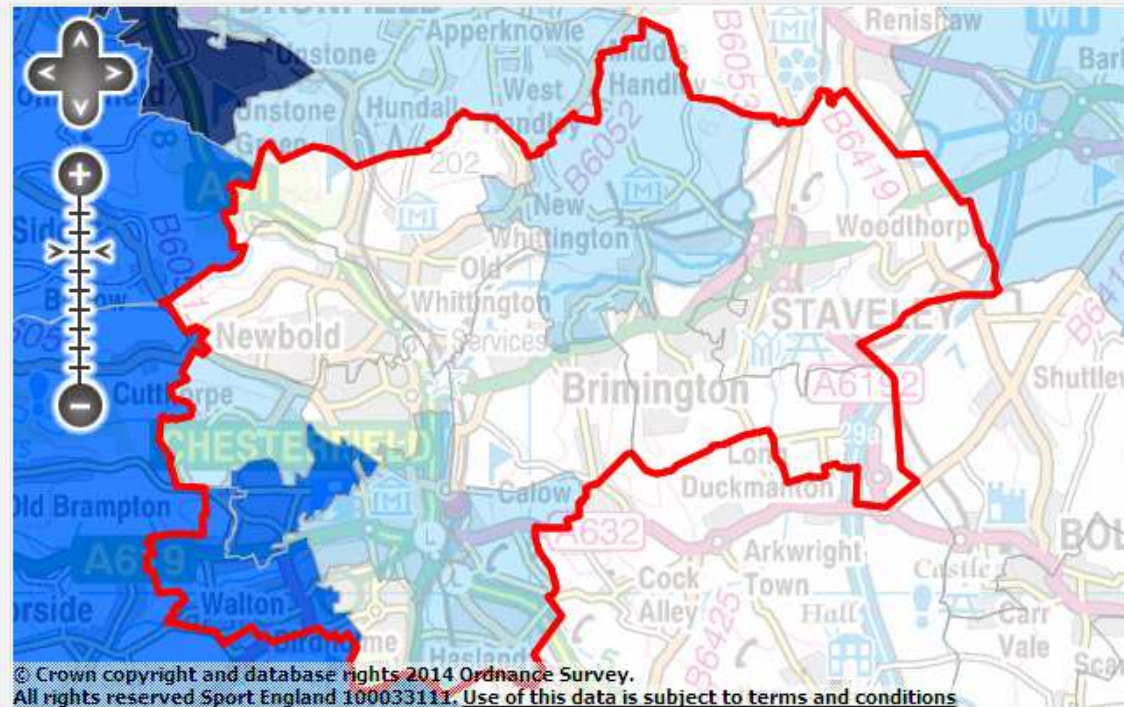
-  24.9% - 37.8% (low)
-  37.9% - 42.2% (low-middle)
-  42.3% - 46.7% (middle-high)
-  46.8% - 69.3% (high)

 Catchment area

 Middle Super Output Areas

The sports participation indicator measures the number of people participating in at least 30 minutes of sport at moderate intensity at least once a week.

It does not include recreational walking or infrequent recreational cycling but does include cycling if done at least once a week at moderate intensity and for at least 30 minutes. It also includes more intense/strenuous walking activities such as power walking, hill



 Map

 Tabular data



# Swimming Pools

- The new Queens Park Sports Centre development is fully supported by the FPM and the level of provision proposed will address the issues of quantity,
- The existing Queens Park Sports Centre has reached the end of its useful life.
- There will need to be a co-ordinated approach to programming to ensure the pool stock is accessible to meet the needs of a wide mix of swimming activities .
- Based on the FPM supply and demand analysis there is no immediate need to develop new / additional pool provision over and above the new Queens Park Sports Centre. Capacity could be increased by considering the feasibility of other options such as developing a learner pool type environment at the Healthy Living Centre.
- In the longer term the Council must maintain a watching brief on the level of unmet demand for swimming through a review framework linked with similar requirements identified in the PPS.



# Swimming Consultation

- Overall the proposed new pool at Queens' Park Annexe was widely supported.
- Local surveys undertaken as part of the new Queens Park Sports Centre development and consultation with clubs and the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) ( support this view.
- The scale of provision proposed will help to address the current and future waterspace needs in Chesterfield.
- The ASA and clubs support the new Queens Park Sports Centre commenting that it will provide greater swimming space and a more versatile swimming area, which will enable the club to expand and grow.
- The closure of Brookfield will provide a challenge in ensuring all waterspace users can be accommodated across the remaining borough pool stock.
- Swim Chesterfield which is being developed as the umbrella body for all swimming interests across the borough is committed to developing a co-ordinated approach to swimming in the borough.
- Capacity needs could be mitigated by addressing some challenges at the Healthy Living Centre and improving use of water space and the environment for teaching.



# Strategic Swim Priorities

- **SP1.** Develop the Queens Park Centre as an 8-lane 25m pool and 16.5 x 7m learner pool with movable floor
- **SP2.** Adopt a co-ordinated approach to programming to ensure the pool stock is available to meet the needs of all swimming disciplines
- **SP3.** Protect all remaining swimming pool provision up to 2028
- **SP4.** Seek to develop increased pool capacity at the Healthy Living Centre through innovative use of existing space and \or explore the feasibility of providing a learner pool
- **SP5.** Monitor the future needs up to 2028 to evaluate if the provision additional swimming pools are required over the life of the Strategy



# Sports Halls

- The new Queens Park Sports Centre development is fully supported by the FPM and the level of provision proposed will compliment the network of school and education sports halls, providing a quality 8-court facility.
- Queens Park Sports Centre and the school based sports hall network provide good access to sports halls for residents.
- The school sport hall network is new and modern and of good quality.
- There is no case at present, based on the FPM analysis to develop new / additional sports hall provision over and above the new Queens Park Sports Centre.
- The level of provision is good and there is generally good access however a number of schools are at full-capacity. There is therefore a need to protect all halls and seek to open up access to those schools which currently provide limited use. School commissioning arrangements provide a good model for delivering coordinated community use and could be extended to support other schools.
- Alongside the formal sports hall network there is a good network of community halls. These are vital to provide local opportunities, particularly in the daytime, in line with the health agenda and the participation profile of the borough.



# Consultation

- The proposed new sports hall at Queens' Park Sports Centre is supported by all consultees. It will provide high-quality, flexible *pay and play* access to sit alongside the schools.
- Commissioned services have opened up schools and are starting to work on a co-ordinated basis across the borough.
- Health funding and programmes will be targeted at local community based activities.
- Gaining affordable access to facilities in local community settings will be critical to delivery.
- Opening up the school and community network is an important priority to deliver locally targeted activities and programmes and help drive the health, sport and physical activity agenda.
- Daytime access to sports halls is limited due to some reliance on school provision. Accessible community halls and assets alongside Queens Park Sports Centre are important.
- Opportunities exist to create community hubs around pitches and indoor community provision



# Strategic Hall Priorities



- **SH1.** Develop the new Queens Park Sports Centre as an 8 court sports hall facility
- **SH2.** Protect all sustainable sports hall provision in the borough up to 2028 and seek to open up those schools with current limited use
- **SH3.** Seek to maximise the opportunities for local sport and physical activity opportunities through the existing community centres and other assets in the borough.
- **SH.4** Ensure planned development in the borough has regard to opportunities to support and influence future community hall and similar sustainable asset provision.





# Artificial Grass Pitches



- The existing stock of AGPs is at capacity
- There is a poor balance between the different types of surface given the shift to 3g usage.
- There is a need to consider supplementing the existing AGP stock through either a small AGP, an additional 3g AGP and the replacement of the carpet at St Marys RC High School

## Strategic AGP Priorities (PPS link).

- **AGP1** Seek to support a new 3g pitch as a focus for football. In terms of access a gap exists in the east. Netherthorpe School have expressed interest in developing a 3g
- **AGP2.** Support investment in existing or additional AGPs including refurbishment of St Mary's AGP.

**AGP3.** Protect all AGP provision up to 2028



# Strategic Factors for Success

- Delivering new QPSC meets needs and evidence for Sports Halls and Swimming Pools (FPM)
- Monitoring future needs for increased water space and maximising current stock access and use is critical
- Consider feasibility of creating additional or more accessible water space at HLC, or supporting other similar options that arise.
- Working with partners to improve access to School Sports Hall sites and protect them
- Consider and support options for management, coordination and delivery of School Sports Halls and Community Hall services consistently with partners across the borough
- Ensuring quality and quantity of indoor facilities is maintained
- Access needs must ensure disability is fully addressed
- Being proactive in supporting and influencing investment in sustainable community based infrastructure
- Developing a community based Sport and Physical Activity Strategy to drive both participation and health in the borough



# Draft Policy Recommendations

- To accept for formal adoption by Council, the proposed Strategy for protection, enhancement and future development of Swimming Pools, Sports Halls and AGP provision in the borough.
- To approve the proposed strategy Action Plan for the protection, enhancement and future development of Swimming Pools, Sports Halls and AGP provision in the borough.
- To agree the Strategy inclusion in the Playing Pitch Strategy framework steering group to undertake programmed reviews and make necessary minor changes to meet statutory and local Planning requirements. Additional resource may be required to support a robust review process.
- To agree that future reports be provided to Members where any requirement for significant changes that impact on corporate priorities, affordability, and Planning need may be identified.
- To approve that Sport England methodology is adopted in relation to both implementation and monitoring of the Strategy to ensure Planning matters are suitably compliant and officers effectively manage quality, affordability, and also manage associated risk to the lowest possible level.



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CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2015 TO 30 APRIL 2015

This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 of key decisions to be made on behalf of the Council. As far as possible and in the interests of transparency, the Council will seek to provide at least 28 clear days notice of new key decisions (and many new non-key decisions) that are listed on this document. Where this is not practicable, such key decisions will be taken under urgency procedures. Decisions which are expected to be taken in private (at a meeting of the Cabinet or by an individual Cabinet Member) are marked "private".

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the 'key' and other major decisions which the Council expects to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public 28 days before the beginning of each month.

A 'Key' Decision is defined as:

Any executive decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring significant expenditure or the making of savings where there is:

- a decision to spend £50,000 or more from an approved budget, or
- a decision to vire more than £10,000 from one budget to another, or
- a decision which would result in a saving of £10,000 or more to any budget head, or
- a decision to dispose or acquire any interest in land or buildings with a value of £50,000 or more, or
- a decision to propose the closure of, or reduction by more than ten (10) percent in the level of service (for example in terms of funding, staffing or hours of operation) provided from any facility from which Council services are supplied.

Any executive decision which will have a significant impact in environmental, physical, social or economic terms on communities living or working in one or more electoral wards. This includes any plans or strategies which are not within the meaning of the Council's Policy Framework set out in Article 4 of the Council's Constitution.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 15 (General Exception) and Rule 16 (Special Urgency) of the Access to information Procedure Rules.

The Forward Plan has been extended to now include details of any significant issues to be considered by the Executive Cabinet, full Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is hoped that this will better meet the needs of elected Members, Officers and the public. They are called "non key decisions". In addition the plan contains details of any reports which are to be taken in the private section of an Executive meeting.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters in the schedule below may do so by contacting the officer listed. Copies of the Council's Constitution and agenda and minutes for all meeting of the Council may be accessed on the Council's website: [www.chesterfield.gov.uk](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk).

## Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private

Whilst the majority of the business at Cabinet meetings will be open to the public and media to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information. This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that the Cabinet meetings shown on this Forward Plan will be held partly in private because some of the reports for the meeting will contain either confidential information or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

A list of the reports which are expected to be considered at this meeting in private are set out in a list on this Forward Plan. They are marked "private", including a number indicating the reason why the decision will be taken in private under the categories set out below:

- (1) information relating to any individual
- (2) information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
- (3) information relating the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
- (4) information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
- (5) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- (6) Information which reveals that the authority proposes (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
- (7) Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

If you would like to make representations about any particular decision to be conducted in private at this meeting then please email: [democratic.services@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@chesterfield.gov.uk). Such representations must be received in advance of 5 clear working days before the date Cabinet meeting itself, normally by the preceding Monday. The Council is required to consider any representations received as to why an item should not be taken in private and to publish its decision.

It is possible that other private reports may be added at shorter notice to the agenda for the Cabinet meeting or for a Cabinet Member decision.

Cabinet meetings are held at the Town Hall, Chesterfield, S40 1LP, usually starting at 10.30 am on Tuesdays, but subject to change in accordance with legal notice periods.

**Huw Bowen**  
**Chief Executive**



Decision No	Details of the Decision to be Taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Earliest Date Decision can be Taken	Proposed Consultees	Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated	Private
<b>Key Decisions</b>									
Key Decision 321	Review of Allocations Policy - Welfare Reform	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Service Manager - Housing Services	Julie McGrogan Tel: 01246 345135 julie.mcgrogan@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3 Information in relation to financial or business affairs
Key Decision 329	Local Plan: Sites and Boundaries Development Plan document - to agree preferred options for public consultation.	Cabinet	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	10 Feb 2015		Meetings	Report of Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager	Alan Morey Tel: 01246 345371 alan.morey@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 337	THI Scheme Project Evaluation - to receive a final evaluation of the THI project for Chesterfield Town Centre.	Cabinet	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	27 Jan 2015		Meetings	Report of Development Management and Conservation Manager	Paul Staniforth Tel: 01246 345781 paul.staniforth@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 339	Proposals for future use of the former garage site of Hady Lane	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings.	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 340	Caravan and Mobile Home Park Licensing	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings.	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Jane Thomas jane.thomas@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 389	Staveley Area Action Plan	Cabinet	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	13 Jan 2015		Meetings	Report of Strategic Planning and Key Sites Manager	Alan Morey Tel: 01246 345371 alan.morey@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 398	Sale of CBC Land/Property	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	31 Dec 2014		Meeting.	Report of Head of Kier	Matthew Sorby Tel: 01246 345800 matthew.sorby@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3 Contains financial information



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Key Decision 427	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy	Council	Executive Member - Leisure, Culture and Tourism	17 Dec 2014	Executive Member – Environment Assistant Executive Members	Meetings	Report of Sports and Leisure Manager	Mick Blythe Tel: 01246 345101 mick.blythe@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 434	Housing Services Fire Management Policy	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member for Housing	Meeting.	Report of the Business Planning and Strategy Manager- Housing Services	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 438	Six Month Review of PPP Performance	Cabinet	Executive Member - Governance and Organisational Development	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of GP:GS Programme Manager	John Moran Tel: 01246 345389 john.moran@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 442	To approve the Council's External Communications Strategy	Cabinet Council	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014	Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum	Meetings	Report of Communications and Marketing Manager	John Fern Tel: 01246 345245 john.fern@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 443	Update on properties affected by subsidence at Westwood Avenue, Middlecroft	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 444	Housing Revenue Account Business Plan	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 445	Annual Housing Revenue Account Rent and Service Charge Increase	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 446	Housing Capital Programme 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 448	Environmental Health Fees and Charges 2015/16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Environment	10 Mar 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings.	Report of Environmental Health Manager	Russell Sinclair Tel: 01246 345397 russell.sinclair@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 449	Trade Waste and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges 2015/16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Environment	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Waste and Street Cleaning Manager	Dave Bennett Tel: 01246 345122 dave.bennett@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3
Key Decision 450	Review of Cemeteries Fees and Charges 2015/16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Environment	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings.	Report of Bereavement Services Manager	Angela Dunn Bereavement Services Officer Tel: 01246 345881 angela.dunn@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 451	Fees and Charges for Outdoor Recreation Provision 2015-16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Environment	13 Jan 2015	Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Leisure and Amenities Manager	Andy Pashley Tel: 01246 345099 andy.pashley@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 452	Fees and charges for Sport and Leisure (Indoor Facilities) 2015/16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Leisure, Culture and Tourism	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Sports and Leisure Manager	Mick Blythe Tel: 01246 345101 mick.blythe@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 453	Chesterfield Open Market Fees and Charges 2015/16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Leisure, Culture and Tourism	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Town Centre Operations Manager	Andy Bond Tel: 01246 345991 andy.bond@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 454	Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring Report - Second Quarter of 2014/15.	Cabinet Council	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014		Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 455	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2015/16	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Customers and Communities	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 457	Overall First Draft Budget	Cabinet	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	16 Dec 2014		Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 458	Leader and Executive Member for Regeneration Revenue Budget 2014/15 - 2017/18	Cabinet	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	16 Dec 2014		Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 459	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Planning Revenue Budget 2014/15 - 2017/18	Cabinet	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	16 Dec 2014		Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 460	Executive Member for Customers and Communities Revenue Budget 2014/15 -2017/18	Cabinet	Executive Member - Customers and Communities	16 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 461	Executive Member for Environment Revenue Budget 2014/15 -2017/18	Cabinet	Executive Member - Environment	16 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 462	Executive Member for Housing General Fund Budget 2014/15 -2017/18	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	16 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 463	Executive Member for Governance and Organisational Development Revenue Budget 2014/15 -2017/18	Cabinet	Executive Member - Governance and Organisational Development	16 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 464	Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism Revenue Budget 2014/15 -2017/18	Cabinet	Executive Member - Leisure, Culture and Tourism	16 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 466	Accountancy Service Restructure	Joint Cabinet and Employment & General Committee	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	16 Dec 2014		Meeting	Report of Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 1, 3 Relating to individuals and financial and business affairs
Key Decision 467	Strategic Housing Acquisitions	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Strategy and Policy Officer	James Crouch Tel: 01246 345150 james.crouch@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 468	HRA Revenue Budget 2014/15 to 2019/20	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services and Head of Finance	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 469	Housing Repairs Budget 2015/16	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Operational Services Manager	Martyn Bollands Tel: 01246 345020 martyn.bollands@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 471	Consultancy Fees For Market Reconfiguration	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Leisure, Culture and Tourism	16 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Cultural And Visitor Services Manager	Bernadette Wainwright Tel: 01246 345779 bernadette.wainwright@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 472	Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Environment	27 Jan 2015 26 Feb 2015	Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism, Assistant Executive Members, Enterprise and Well-being Scrutiny Committee	Meetings	Report of Leisure and Amenities Manager	Andy Pashley Tel: 01246 345099 andy.pashley@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Key Decision 473	Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 Amendments to the previous 2003 Act	Cabinet	Executive Member - Customers and Communities	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Policy Manager	Donna Reddish Tel: 01246 345307 donna.reddish@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 474	Cemeteries Strategy	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Environment	27 Jan 2015 26 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Bereavement Services Manager	Angela Dunn Bereavement Services Officer Tel: 01246 345881 angela.dunn@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 475	Support Vulnerable Tenants - An Update	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Housing Services Manager - Customer Division	Julie McGrogan Tel: 01246 345135 julie.mcgrogan@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3 Information relating to financial or business affairs
Key Decision 476	Sports Facilities Strategy	Cabinet	Executive Member - Leisure, Culture and Tourism	27 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Sport and Leisure Manager	Mick Blythe Tel: 01246 345101 mick.blythe@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public



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Key Decision 477	Markham Vale Enterprise Zone – Proportion of the Business Rates Income to be Transferred to the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority	Cabinet Council	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014		Meetings	Report Head of Finance	Barry Dawson Tel: 01246 345451 barry.dawson@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 478	London Boroughs Estate – Barrow Hill Environmental Improvements To sign off programme of environmental improvements to the London Boroughs Estate	Cabinet	Executive Member - Housing	10 Feb 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Housing Services Manager - Business Planning and Strategy	Alison Craig Housing Tel: 01246 345156 alison.craig@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Key Decision 480	Business Transformation Restructure	Joint Cabinet and Employment & General Committee	Executive Member - Governance and Organisational Development	13 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Business Transformation Manager	Karen Brown Tel: 01246 345293 karen.brown@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 1, 2, 4 Information in relation to individuals and labour relations

Key Decision No	Details of the Decision to be Taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Earliest Date Decision can be Taken	Proposed Consultees	Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated	Private
Key Decision 481	To Enter into Agreement for Acquisition of Property - Acquisition of office accommodation for investment purposes	Cabinet Council	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	16 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014		Meetings	Report of Executive Director	Linda Martin Tel: 01246 345445 linda.martin@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3 Information in relation to financial and business affairs of the council

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**Private Items -Non Key/ Significant but non-Key**

Non-Key Decision 363	Application for Home Repairs Assistance	Executive Member - Housing	Executive Member Housing - Executive Member decisions	31 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Business Planning and Strategy Manager - Housing Services	Jane Thomas jane.thomas@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 1, 3 Information relating to an individual Information relating to financial affairs
Non-Key Decision 364	Application for Waiver of Private Sector Housing Discretionary Decisions (including Home Repair Assistance and Disabled Facilities Grants)	Executive Member - Housing	Executive Member - Housing	31 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member - Housing	Meeting	Report of Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager	Stephen Oliver Tel: 01246 345313 stephen.oliver@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 1 Contains information relating to an individual.

Key Decision No	Details of the Decision to be Taken	Decision to be taken by	Relevant Portfolio Holder	Earliest Date Decision can be Taken	Proposed Consultees	Method(s) of Consultation	Documents to be considered by Decision taker	Representations may be made to the following officer by the date stated	Private
Non-Key 365	Outstanding Debts for Write Off	Executive Member - Customers and Communities	Executive Member - Customers and Communities	31 Jan 2015	Assistant Executive Member – Customers and Communities	Meeting	Report of Customer Centre Services Manager	Maureen Madin Tel: 01246-345487 maureen.madin@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3 Information relating to financial or business affairs
Non-Key Decision 367	Lease of Commercial and Industrial Properties	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	31 Dec 2014			Report of Kier Asset Management	Christopher Oakes Tel: 01246 345346 christopher.oakes@chesterfield.gov.uk	Exempt 3 Information relating to financial or business affairs
Non-Key 371	Adoption of new corporate branding	Cabinet	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	2 Dec 2014		Meeting	Report of Communications and Marketing Manager	John Fern Tel: 01246 345245 john.fern@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Non -Key Decision 372	Creation of Digital Content Editor post	Joint Cabinet and Employment & General Committee	Leader & Executive Member for Regeneration	24 Feb 2015		Meetings	Report of Communications and Marketing Manager	John Fern Tel: 01246 345245 john.fern@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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<b>Non Key Decision</b>									
Non Key 24	List of Buildings of Local Interest - to consider the list of nominated buildings and agree an assessment panel and process	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	27 Jan 2015	Consultation with property owners	Meeting	Report of Development Management and Conservation Manager	Paul Staniforth Tel: 01246 345781 paul.staniforth@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Non-Key 25	Corporate Plan 2014/15 Six Month Update	Cabinet	Deputy Leader & Executive Member for Planning	13 Jan 2015		Meetings	Report of Policy Manager	Donna Reddish Tel: 01246 345307 donna.reddish@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Non-Key 26	The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 Arrangements for public access and reporting of decisions	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Governance and Organisational Development	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager	Gerard Rogers Tel: 01246 345310 gerard.rogers@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Non-Key 27	Civic Arrangements 2015/16	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Governance and Organisational Development	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meetings	Report of Democratic Services Manager	Sandra Essex Democratic Services Manager Tel: 01246 345227 sandra.essex@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public
Non-Key 28 Page 129	Council Constitution Review Amendments to Full Council Standing Orders and Contract Procedural Rules and other updates	Cabinet Council	Executive Member - Governance and Organisational Development	2 Dec 2014 17 Dec 2014	Assistant Executive Member	Meeting	Report of Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager	Gerard Rogers Tel: 01246 345310 gerard.rogers@chesterfield.gov.uk	Public

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Forward Plan Exception Notice: Urgent and Private

Notice is hereby given that Executive Member for Housing is to be asked to make an Executive decision in private on Friday 7 November 2014 in respect of the following:

TITLE: **Home Repairs Assistance**

(Non-Key Decision No. 363)

PURPOSE OF DECISION:

To approve additional Home Repairs Assistance funding for unforeseen work identified during property re-roof.

REASON DECISION TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE

**The report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 in that it provides information in relation to an individual and financial and business affairs.**

REASON WHY IT IS URGENT AND CANNOT REASONABLY BE DEFERRED TO GIVE 28 CLEAR DAYS NOTICE OF THE REASONS FOR MEETING BEING HELD IN PRIVATE.

Re-roof is already in progress. If the contractor has to stop work there is a risk that the property may not remain wind and weather-tight pending a decision on funding and the resumption of work.

*This notice is being given in accordance with regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 in that it is not possible to give 28 days notice and the further 5 days notice of the meeting to be held in private.*

05.11.2014

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012

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## SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING FORM

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee & Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> ( <i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i> )	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
EW5  Page 1 of 3	New Leisure Facilities (SPG)	<b>EW 05.06.14</b>  <b>Cabinet 23.09.14</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider Community Engagement Strategy principles throughout corporate projects.</li> <li>2. Pre consultation dialogue takes place with key stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Internal communications and engagement plan be developed for projects impacting on employees.</li> </ol>	6 month progress report		Monitoring due 23.04.15
OP4	Review into External Communications (SPG)	<b>OP 19.06.14</b>  <b>Cabinet 29.07.14</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt clear branding</li> <li>2. Review marketing / communication activities.</li> <li>3. Introduce use of analytics.</li> <li>4. Adopt a 'digital first' approach.</li> </ol>	6 month progress report		Monitoring due June 2015
EW4	Hackney Carriage Licence Limit (SPG)	<b>EW 16.01.14</b>  <b>Appeals &amp; Regulatory Ctte on 12.02.14</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Produce clear comparison survey by taxi rank.</li> <li>2. Produce written procedure for future reviews &amp; include in the Forward Plan.</li> <li>3. That Appeals &amp; Regulatory Ctte consider other options to reduce number of Hackney licences when new legislation permits.</li> </ol>	6 month progress report.		Monitoring due 08.09.14

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee & Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> ( <i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i> )	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
EW3	Parking Policy (SPG)	<b>14.02.13</b>  <b>Approved at Cabinet on 05.03.13</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The barrier system of parking control which gives change, be extended to other car parks.</li> <li>2. Improvements be implemented for the New Beetwell Street MSCP to bring the facility up to a standard equivalent to that at Vicar Lane.</li> <li>3. Improvements to signage across the town centre and at the entry points to off-street car parks be undertaken.</li> </ol>	6 month progress report	Progress provided EW on 05.09.13 and 05.06.14.	Progress report requested for 31.07.14.
EW2	Review of Water Rates Payment Policy (SPG)	<b>16.01.14 and 05.06.14</b>  <b>Cabinet 29.07.14.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide 6 month update on collection process and technology review.</li> <li>2. Provide update when contract signed and again after 1 year.</li> <li>3. Support review of Tenant's information.</li> <li>4. Provide 6 month update on number of evictions for water rates.</li> <li>5. Amend Policy wording.</li> </ol>	6 months	Progress received 27.06.13 SPG set up for further review. completed & approved by EW 16.01.14. Further recommendations approved on 05.06.14.	Monitoring due 05.02.15

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee & Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> ( <i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i> )	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
CCO1	Statutory Crime & Disorder Scrutiny					Special meeting scheduled for 04.12.14.
Page 135	“ “	<b>29/09/11</b> (No 0044)  (No 0045)	1. Progress report on sharing information re alcohol related health problems and hospital admissions. 2. Consult Committee on internal Review of Community Safety before submission to Cabinet.	6 months from 29/09/11.	1.Update provided 30.05.13. Statistics awaited. 2. Update received 05.12.13 to confirm internal review tied into report on Anti Social Behaviour.	Report received 05.12.13, and 10.04.14.
	“ “	<b>04/10/12</b>	3. Consult Committee on Redeeming our Communities Proposals when completed.		3. Awaiting.	
	“ “	<b>30/05/13</b> (No 0003)	4. Recommendation to Community Safety Partnership regarding introduction of Shopwatch scheme.	Letter sent 25.07.13	4. Awaiting response from Community Safety Partnership.	
	“ “	<b>10.04.14</b> (No 58)	5. Derbyshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee requested to obtain / share information regarding alcohol related hospital admissions.	Request made 13.05.14.	Awaiting response.	

Abbreviations Key : OP = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. EW = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee).

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**CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**WORK PROGRAMME : ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE on 11 DECEMBER 2014**

	<b>Scrutiny Committee Date:</b>	<b>Business Item :</b>	<b>Status :</b>	<b>Raised by :</b>	<b>Executive Responsibility</b>
1	11.12.14 Or special meeting TBC	Housing Accommodation and Support Budget, and Older Peoples Services	To look at impact of County Council funding reductions on housing services. Awaiting detail regarding timescales. Scheduled for Cabinet decision not before 04.11.14. Awaiting report.	<i>Link Officer (Housing) 10.02.14</i>	<i>Housing</i>
2	11.12.14 or special meeting TBC	Careline Consortium	Scheduled for Cabinet decision not before 04.11.14. Awaiting report.	<i>E&amp;W (31.07.14)</i>	<i>Housing</i>
3	11.12.14	Housing Allocations Policy	Received 14.02.13 and 07.11.13. Progress report requested. Scheduled for Cabinet decision not before 13.01.15.	<i>Link Officer (Housing) 12.11.12</i>	<i>Housing</i>
4	11.12.14	Scrutiny Project Group Report on Dog Fouling	See item 10 below. Final report due 11.12.14.	<i>E&amp;W</i>	<i>Environment</i>
5	05.02.15	Street Scene Improvement Plan	Progress report last received 16.01.14. Annual progress report due 05.02.15.	<i>E&amp;W</i>	<i>Environment</i>
6	05.02.15	Allotments Strategy	Annual progress report. Last received 16.01.14.	<i>Head Environment E&amp;W (19.04.12)</i>	<i>Environment</i>
7	TBC	Homeless Prevention Service Restructure	Removed from Forward Plan 03.14. KD 267.	<i>Executive Member Housing</i>	<i>Housing</i>

**CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL**

	<b>Scrutiny Committee Date:</b>	<b>Business Item :</b>	<b>Status :</b>	<b>Raised by :</b>	<b>Executive Responsibility</b>
<b>Scrutiny Project Groups (SPG) :</b>					
8	Every meeting.	New Sport and Leisure Facilities (remit amended to Leisure, Sport and Culture Activities).	First agreed 16.02.12. Refreshed 05.09.13. Interim report approved 10.09.14 & at Cabinet 23.09.14. Brief & Scope broadened 02.10.14 to include Playing Pitches Strategy & appoint 2 sub-groups as below :-	CCO / E&W / Officers via annual consultation	Leisure, Culture & Tourism / Environment
8a	“ “		1. Parks and Open Spaces Sub Group. Agreed 02.10.14 pending commencement.	E&W	Leisure, Culture & Tourism / Environment
8b	“ “		2. Community Sport and Physical Activity Sub Group. Agreed 02.10.14 pending commencement.	E&W	Leisure, Culture & Tourism / Environment
9	Every meeting	Taxi Subsidy Update	Agreed 16.01.14. Pending commencement.	E&W (16.01.14)	Environment
10	Every meeting	Dog Fouling Update	Agreed 31.07.14 following Community Assembly consultation.	E&W (31.07.14)	Environment
<b>Items Pending Reschedule or Removal</b>					
11a	TBC	1.Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Draft strategy received by E&W 02.10.14.	Head Environment – Link Officer meeting 10.06.13	Environment

## CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

	Scrutiny Committee Date:	Business Item :	Status :	Raised by :	Executive Responsibility
11b	TBC	2.Playing Pitches Strategy	Linked to Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. Draft strategy received by E&W 02.10.14. SPG recommendations agreed at extra E&W on 20.10.14. Reschedule for progress report in 12 months.	<i>Link Officer (Environment)</i>	<i>Environment</i>
11c	TBC	3.Sport and Leisure Strategy	Initial report received 07.11.13. Draft strategies being developed. Linked to strategies above.	<i>Head of Environment E&amp;W (21.06/12)</i>	<i>Leisure, Culture &amp; Tourism</i>
<b><i>New Business Items Proposed :</i></b>					
<i>/None.</i>					

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Note: Items for monitoring (from scrutiny reviews and/or recommendations) are not included above but are listed in the Scrutiny Monitoring Form a separate item on the agenda. Items from the Forward Plan and Scrutiny Monitoring Form can be included in the work programme. *[KEY to abbreviations : O&P = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. E&W = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. TBC = to be confirmed. KD = Forward Plan Key Decision]* (Next meeting date is 05 February 2015).

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## **ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, 2nd October, 2014**

Present:-

Councillor Slack (Chair)

Councillors	Bradford	Gibson
	Callan	Hawksworth
	Flood	Huckle +
		Serjeant +

Mick Blythe, Sports and Leisure Manager ++  
Anita Cunningham, Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
Martin Elliott, Committee and Scrutiny Coordinator  
Andy Pashley, Leisure and Amenities Manager ++

+ Attended for Minute No. 29

++ Attended for Minutes No. 29 and 31

26 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS  
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

27 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence had been received.

28 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING -UPDATE ON HOUSING  
ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT BUDGET, AND OLDER  
PEOPLES SERVICES (DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET  
CONSULTATION)**

No reports had been submitted.

**RESOLVED –**

That the items on Housing Accommodation and Support Budget, and Older Peoples Services (Derbyshire County Council Budget Consultation) be deferred to the December meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

29 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND TOURISM -  
REPORT ON DRAFT PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS  
STRATEGY**

The Sports and Facilities Manager and the Leisure and Amenities Manager presented the draft “Chesterfield Borough Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2015 – 2031” to the Committee.

The Sports and Facilities Manager advised that the production of the draft strategy had been delayed due to Sport England changing the methodology to develop the strategy. The strategy considered all green space in the borough whether it was in public or private ownership.

In preparing the strategy a wide consultation with stakeholders had been carried out including sports governing bodies and sports clubs. Responses to the consultation had been exceptionally high with some sports providing a 100% response rate.

The overarching aim of the strategy was to provide the best facilities possible for outdoor sports in the borough. The strategy aimed to provide greater efficiency in the provision of playing pitches by rationalising the number, and improving the accessibility and affordability of the pitches. By improving efficiency the quality of the pitches provided would be improved.

The strategy consultation, research and evidence undertaken concluded that the Queen’s Park Annexe was no longer needed as a playing pitch so that the new sports centre could be built on the site. The Sports and Facilities Manager advised that for Chesterfield Borough Council to be compliant with the terms of Sport England’s funding towards the new Queen’s Park Sports Centre, the Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Strategy must be approved and adopted by January 2015.

Members asked if there were sufficient football pitches in the borough to meet demand. The Leisure and Amenities Manager advised that there

were enough pitches but access to these could be problematic. The Sports and Facilities Manager advised that the focus on pitch availability was for junior and training facilities including development of hub venues so that participation in football could be better developed to senior levels through more coordinated facilities and pathways.

Members were pleased to note that the strategy focussed on involving the whole of the community.

Members congratulated the Officers on the quality of the report and asked how such a good response had been received from the consultation. The Sports and Facilities Manager advised that Neil Allen Associates who conducted the consultation with stakeholders had been persistent in chasing up responses to ensure high levels of returns.

Members also asked about the future provision of changing facilities in the borough. The Sports and Facilities Manager advised that this need would be addressed, but is a longer term objective and how this need would be addressed may be different to how it has been dealt with in the past. He also advised that the more pressing need was for toilet, rather than changing facilities.

The Committee thanked the Sports and Facilities Manager and the Leisure and Amenities Manager for presenting the strategy and answering the Committee's questions.

## 30 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan for the period 1 October, 2014 to 31 January, 2015.

Regarding Key Decision No 296, Careline Consortium – The Policy and Scrutiny Officer advised that she had had a request from the report author for this item to be deferred until the December meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Committee.

Regarding Key Decision No 321, Review of Allocations Policy – Welfare Reform. No update was available. Members requested that a written update be circulated to Committee members.

Regarding Key Decision No 436, Derbyshire County Council's Consultation on Proposed Budget Cuts – Potential Impact on Housing Service. No update was available. Members requested that a written update be circulated to Committee members.

Committee members expressed concern that some of these items were scheduled for Cabinet before the next meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and that members would not have had the chance to scrutinise the reports.

### **RESOLVED -**

1. That the forward plan be noted.
2. That the update on the Careline Consortium item be presented to the Committee when it is available and before it goes to Cabinet, and pending availability a written update is circulated to committee members.
3. That the Policy and Scrutiny Officer request that a written update on the Review of Allocations Policy – Welfare Reform item is circulated to Committee members.
4. That the Policy and Scrutiny Officer request that a written update on the Derbyshire County Council's Consultation on Proposed Budget Cuts item is circulated to Committee members.
5. That if needed the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee holds an extra meeting to consider the reports on the Careline Consortium and Derbyshire County Council's Consultation on Proposed Budget Cuts items so that these reports can be scrutinised before they go to Cabinet.

### **31 EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT - REPORT ON PARKS AND OPEN SPACES STRATEGY**

The Leisure and Amenities Manager presented the draft "Chesterfield Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2014 – 2024" to the Committee.

The Leisure and Amenities Manager advised that in the preparation of the strategy there had been wide consultation with stakeholders including

Members, Officers and Community Assemblies as well as utilisation of the Council's website to consult with the community.

The strategy sets out the strategic approach rather than looking at specific sites in the borough and aims to set guiding principles so that actions can be focussed on individual communities and their priorities for their Parks and Open Spaces.

Five main objectives underpin the strategy which are to:

- Improve the quality of existing open spaces
- Rationalise the quantity and accessibility of open space
- Promote our spaces and engage our communities to maximise use and benefits
- Improve biodiversity and sustainable landscapes
- Maximise the efficient use of resources to achieve our priorities

The Leisure and Amenities Manager advised that while focussing on all these objectives the overarching principle of the strategy was a focus on the quality of Parks and Open Spaces in the borough.

Members asked several questions relating to the strategy, its aims and objectives.

Members felt concern that facilities were being developed and money was being spent in areas of the borough which were not the most deprived and that this spending was not helping to reduce health inequalities in the most deprived areas of the borough.

The Leisure and Amenities Manager advised that since 2003 more than £8.25 million had been invested in Parks and Open Spaces but as 75% of this came from external sources the Council was unable to specify where much of this money could be spent. For example the restoration of Eastwood Park received significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Members also asked when specific areas of the borough would be identified for extra investment in and development of their parks and open spaces. The Leisure and Amenities Manager advised that there were areas with clear gaps in provision and that these need to be a focus. However it was also important not to have a definitive list of areas of focus as opportunities for windfalls of funding could be missed, such as

the Heritage Lottery funding received which enabled the restoration of Eastwood Park.

The Committee thanked the Leisure and Amenities Manager for presenting the report to the Committee and answering their questions.

## **RESOLVED –**

That the draft Parks and Open Spaces Strategy be noted.

## **32 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUPS. PROGRESS UPDATES**

The Committee considered progress with its Scrutiny Project Groups.

### Dog Fouling

The Scrutiny Project Group on Dog Fouling, chaired by Councillor Innes has had its first meeting and the Project Group Scope was considered for approval by the Committee.

### Taxi License Subsidy

Councillor Hawksworth advised that she is still interested in leading this project group. The Policy and Scrutiny Officer will email the updated procedures and documents for starting a project group to Councillor Hawksworth.

### Leisure Facilities

The lead member for the group, Councillor Flood gave an update on the group's progress. The initial focus of the group was to look at the new sport and leisure facilities project at Queen's Park but as the work progressed the group wanted to start looking at the broader strategies affecting leisure and leisure facilities. To enable this the group decided that broadening the remit of the main project group and having two sub groups which would feedback to the main project group would be the most effective way of progressing.

The Scrutiny Project Group scope for the main group, Leisure, Sport and Culture Activities had been re-drafted and was presented to the Committee for approval. This project group would have a focus on Playing Pitches, Facilities and the new Queen's Park Sports Centre.

The sub-groups proposed were, Parks and Open Spaces and Community Sport and Physical Activity. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Project Group scope documents for these would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer advised that as the Playing Pitch Strategy was scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 4 November, 2014 there would need to be an extra meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee before then if the group had any new recommendations it would like to make.

Councillor Flood also gave an update on the building work so far of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre after carrying out a site visit and reported that work was progressing well and that the organisation on site was very impressive.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Scrutiny Project Group's scope on Dog Fouling be approved.
2. That the Policy and Scrutiny Officer provides the updated procedures and documents for starting a project group to Councillor Hawksworth.
3. That the revised Scrutiny Project Group scope on Leisure, Sport and Culture Activities be approved.
4. That the appointment of Scrutiny Project Sub Groups for Parks and Open Spaces and Community Sport and Physical Activity, be approved subject to the scopes being presented at the next meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with set and agreed timescales.
5. That if needed the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee holds an extra meeting before 4 November, 2014 to consider any recommendations from the project group looking at the Playing Pitch Strategy to enable any recommendations to be presented to Cabinet.

**33**     **SCRUTINY MONITORING**

The Committee considered an update on the implementation of approved Scrutiny recommendations.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the update be noted.
2. That a written update on the Parking Policy item is requested to be circulated to the Committee members.

**34**     **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENTS**

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer advised that any requests for Learning and Development sessions be submitted to the Policy and Scrutiny Officer through the Chair.

**RESOLVED –**

That the update be noted.

**35**     **WORK PROGRAMME FOR ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a list of items raised to date for its Work Programme.

**RESOLVED –**

1. To reconfirm that items on the Work Programme be approved subject to agreed changes
2. To reconfirm that a written update on the Derbyshire County Council Consultation on Proposed Budget Cuts [Housing Accommodation and Support Budget and Older Peoples' Services] item is requested pending availability of the full report before it goes to Cabinet.
3. That a written update on the Careline Consortium item is requested pending availability of the full report before it goes to Cabinet.



4. That updates on the Street Scene Improvement Plan are requested annually rather than every 6 months.
5. That the Parkside Sheltered Housing Project item is removed from the Work Programme.
6. That the Housing Self Financing [Decent Homes Standards and Rents] item is removed from the Work Programme.

**36** **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 31 JULY AND 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 31 July and 10 September, 2014 were presented.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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**ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING****Monday, 20th October, 2014**

Present:-

Councillor Slack (Chair)

Councillors	Bradford	Huckle ++
	Flood	McManus +
		M Stone +

Anita Cunningham, Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
Martin Elliott, Committee and Scrutiny Coordinator  
Julie McGrogan, Housing Service Manager, Customer Division +

+ Attended for Minutes No. 40 and 41

++ Attended for Minute No. 43

**37 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS  
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations were made.

**38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Callan and Hawksworth.

**39 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC****RESOLVED –**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

40 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING - DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS**

The Executive and Assistant Executive Members for Housing and the Housing Service Manager, Customer Division presented the report on Derbyshire County Council's Consultation on Proposed Budget Cuts – Older People's Services

The report outlined how the proposed cuts would affect the Sheltered Housing and the Floating Support to Older People schemes which are currently provided under contract from Derbyshire County Council.

Members asked numerous questions regarding the current level of service provision as well as how the proposed budget cuts would affect the Sheltered Housing and the Floating Support to Older People schemes and also the people whose use them.

Members expressed concern about how changes to the schemes would affect the service users, their quality of life and their ability to maintain a level of independence. Members also noted that the way in which the cuts had been proposed did not take into account the individual circumstances of the different districts/boroughs in Derbyshire. The Executive and Assistant Executive Members and the Housing Service Manager advised that a meeting with the Derbyshire County Council Health and Wellbeing Board could be requested to raise these concerns.

The Committee thanked the Executive and Assistant Executive Members for Housing, and the Housing Service Manager, Customer Division for presenting the report and answering the Committee's questions.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That the proposals from Derbyshire County Council are noted.
2. That the proposed written response to Derbyshire County Council is supported.
3. That the Committee's concern on the proposals potential impact on the welfare of elderly residents be noted.

4. That the issues and questions raised by the Committee be followed up and taken into consideration.

#### **41 EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING - CARELINE CONSORTIUM**

The Executive and Assistant Executive Members for Housing, and the Housing Service Manager, Customer Division presented the report on the Update on the Careline Service – Proposed Joint Working Arrangements.

The report outlined the progress made since the report to Cabinet of 9 April 2013 regarding the joint working arrangements with Derbyshire County Council, Bolsover District Council and South Derbyshire District Council to provide Careline Services across Derbyshire and to seek approval to establish two jointly owned companies with these partners.

Members asked several questions regarding the report and how the proposals for Careline Services would affect Chesterfield Borough Council, the other partner authorities' as well as the users of the service. Members also asked questions regarding how the Careline Service would develop in the future if the proposals were to be implemented.

The Committee thanked the Executive and Assistant Executive Members for Housing, and the Housing Service Manager, Customer Division for presenting the report and answering the Committee's questions.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the recommendation for the formation of a Teckal and a separate trading company, subject to the appropriate specialist legal advice regarding the formation of the companies be supported.
2. That the recommendation that further reports are brought to Members at key stages of the project be supported.
3. That the recommendation to commence procurement of a new ICT platform to enable joint working with Bolsover District Council and South Derbyshire District Council be supported.
4. That the joint business case is supported.

**42 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - RE-ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC.****RESOLVED –**

That the public be readmitted to the meeting.

**43 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUP ON PLAYING PITCHES - UPDATE**

Councillor Flood, the lead member of the Scrutiny Project Group looking at the proposed Playing Pitch Strategy presented the group's findings to the Committee.

At the last meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee it was resolved to support the draft strategy and draft Cabinet report recommendations subject to any further findings of a Scrutiny Project Group. The Scrutiny Project Group has subsequently reviewed the draft strategy further, and made the following recommendations to the Committee:

1. That the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee reaffirms its support for the draft Playing Pitch Strategy and draft cabinet report recommendations, as considered and agreed on 2 October 2014
2. That a progress report is brought to the Enterprise and Wellbeing Committee in 12 months time to confirm the status of the strategy implementation and delivery; and also to confirm whether the strategy has started to reverse the shortfall of junior teams and interest in playing by young people, both boys and girls.

The Assistant Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Tourism thanked Councillor Flood for presenting the group's findings and recommendations; he also noted that the process of the strategy going through Scrutiny had been very worthwhile. The Assistant Executive Member also agreed that 12 months was a suitable time frame to review the implementation and delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy, but did feel that this strategy would not attract more young people into sport.

Members of the Committee asked several questions on what would encourage more young people to participate in sport and it was agreed that good coaches, working with schools as well as quality facilities were needed to increase participation. Members also noted the benefits of

participation in sport to reduce social exclusion and increase social and community wellbeing.

The Committee thanked Councillor Flood for presenting the Scrutiny Project Group's recommendations and the Assistant Executive Member for attending and answering the Committee's questions.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Scrutiny Project Group's recommendations on the proposed Playing Pitch Strategy be supported.

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