

Sefton Playing Pitch Strategy

Action Plan – Position Statement

The need for a Playing Pitch Strategy has been widely supported by both Sefton Council and partner organisations and subsequently an internal Steering Group and Partnership Development Group has been established in order to implement it.

A number of opportunities that have been identified that will eradicate the deficiencies outlined in the strategy which include the following:

- improving the maintenance of pitches
- increased community use of school sites
- the creation of hub sites, and
- the provision of 3G pitches to serve both current and future demand.

A realistic and achievable action plan has therefore been developed, focussing upon a number of strategic priorities and recommendations.

The benefits of implementing this strategy are significant, and a partnership, innovative and sustainable approach in addressing the shortfall has been adopted. The action plan produced will not only result in positive outcomes for grass pitch sport but across wider departments and Council priorities, which include;

- Economy (including efficient management of assets)
- Health and Wellbeing
- Reshaping the Council
- Resilient Communities
- Environment

It is intended that the strategy remains an active document. It will need to recognise all forms of change - supply, demand, trends and new developments and for this reason a review timeframe will be implemented by the Steering Group. A governance structure and appropriate reporting mechanisms are also proposed which will include relevant Cabinet Members and the Council's Strategic Leadership Board.

Sefton Playing Pitch Strategy steering group

17th December 2015

Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan

Sefton Council Priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economy 2. The Most Vulnerable 3. Health and Wellbeing 4. Reshaping the Council 5. Resilient Communities 6. Environment
PPS Strategic Objectives and Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future demand <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protect playing field sites through local planning policy b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements. c. Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so. d. To ensure a consistent approach to the management and pricing of Council playing pitch stock.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To enhance Outdoor Sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. Improve quality f. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites. g. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
	<p>To provide new outdoor sports facilities where this is current or future demand to do so</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock. i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Timescales	Achieved	Short term Action (3 months)	Med Term Action (6 – 12 months)	Long term Action (12+ months)
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Key Objective	Responsible Officers	PPS Strategic Objectives & Recommendations	SMBC Priorities	Key Actions & Timescales	Potential Risks
To develop a realistic and achievable plan to eradicate deficiency	CB	All	Economy	Identification of Lead Officer from SMBC	None identified
	SM		Health and Wellbeing		
	TP		Reshaping the Council	Establishment of Steering Group and quarterly review meetings	
			Resilient Communities	Ensure the process for the Strategy's formal approval is in place and adhered to including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Engagement & Consultation Panel Cabinet 	
			Environment	Production of Action Plan and agreed priorities /timescales	
				Agree Terms of Reference for Steering Group	

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Identify the use of school sites and enhance existing and new partnerships	MM TP	1b. 1c. 1d. 2e. 3h. 3i.	Economy	Identify and map out schools who have confirmed interest	Potential short term agreements. Access to changing/toilet facilities
			Health and Wellbeing	Follow up interested schools, identify pitch/facility availability.	
			Resilient Communities		
			Environment	Promote Sport England's "Use our School" toolkit	
				Incentivise through the identification of opportunities and efficiencies for schools including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint maintenance • Capital and revenue funding opportunities 	
				Coordinate facility hire/usage through the existing Management arrangement and prepare and agree formal Management Agreements	
				Bring facility hire charges for school pitches into line with those charged for other Council pitches	
	Identify alternative/relevant options for changing/toilet provision				

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				<div data-bbox="1240 248 1776 408" style="background-color: #f2c0c0; padding: 5px;">Explore additional school sites/community usage opportunities</div> <div data-bbox="1240 408 1776 561" style="background-color: #f9d5b3; padding: 5px;">Establish partnerships with local teams/schools via Sport England's Satellite Club Programme</div>	

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<p>To invest In Full size 3G pitches</p>	<p>RC SB</p>	<p>1b. 1c. 2g. 3i.</p>	<p>Economy</p>	<p>Identify strategic demand through The Sport England Facility Planning Model</p>	<p>Ability to Identify /access to funding</p>
			<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Identify current occupancy /capacity of existing 3G small sided pitches</p>	
			<p>Resilient Communities</p>	<p>Work in partnership with existing 3G providers (Public, Private and Voluntary sector) to increase usage for mini and youth football</p>	
			<p>Environment</p>	<p>Identify strategic sites for possible Full Size pitches</p>	
				<p>Identify funding streams/partners (including FA/RFU/CIL/Prudential Borrowing)</p>	

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<p>To plan for future demand and enhance an active Sefton through pitch sports</p>	SM	<p>1d. 1b. 2e. 3i.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Resilient Communities</p>	<p>Ensure Integrated wellness Service sign posts to physical activity, and the recommissioned Healthy Child Programme encourages physical activity as a means of preventing and managing unhealthy weights for children and families.</p>	<p>Reduction in Public Health Grant could impact ability to deliver</p>
	MJ			<p>Include actions in schools health plans</p>	
	NB			<p>Include in Active Sefton facility plans and initiatives</p>	
	<p>Engage private sports clubs/gyms</p>				
	<p>Promote national sports participation campaigns locally e.g. 'Change for life' & 'This Girl Can' etc.</p>				
	<p>The 15-24 age group is set to increase in the next 10-15 years. Target participation in sport via schools, clubs etc. now to build healthy habits through existing programmes such as Street Games, Sportivate and Doorstep Clubs.</p>				
	<p>Encourage parent participation in sport or as volunteers through the Everybody Active programme and other initiatives.</p>				

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				<p>Use pooled budgets to promote physical activity – benefits to physical and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Seek business sponsorship to develop local facilities/sports groups.</p> <p>Highlight link to Health & Wellbeing strategy, Shaping Sefton (CCG), Early Intervention & Prevention (Physical activity helps with social/emotional/physical wellbeing)</p> <p>Promote economic benefits – healthy individuals/workforce, healthier children/pupils</p> <p>Promote more attractive use of land – link to other facilities, e.g. shops. Cafes</p> <p>Investigate the possibility of a concessionary pricing policy</p>	

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<p>To maintain and sustain current stock of pitches</p>	<p>RC SB TP</p>	<p>1a. 1b. 2e. 2f.</p>	<p>Reshaping the Council Resilient Communities Environment</p>	<p>Continue to protect playing fields through Local Plan – Policy NH5 in emerging Local Plan</p>	<p>Review of/possible increased cost of maintenance contract</p>
				<p>Reintroduce and support the Sports Club Collaboration Working Group</p>	
				<p>Identify existing good practice and duplicate</p>	
				<p>Identify opportunities for Asset Transfer (drawing on the Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit)</p>	
				<p>Support Voluntary Sector Sports clubs with the application for Capital and Revenue Grants</p>	
				<p>Identify opportunities through the Voluntary Sector Sports Club Review and access possible funding through the Community Transitions Fund</p>	
				<p>Review existing maintenance of pitches and identify priorities for improving pitch quality</p>	

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To enhance the partnership approach	TP DS	1b. 1c. 2g.	Economy	Approach a range of key stakeholders to form a Partnership Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merseyside Sports Partnership • FA • Sefton Sports Council • School Representative • League Representative 	Implications of leasing sites for how overall stock is managed
			Reshaping the Council		
			Resilient Communities		
			Environment	Co-ordinate quarterly meetings, starting Jan 16	
				Explore opportunities for granting security of tenure and access to sites to development minded clubs	
	Explore good practice and identify county wide opportunities				
	Identify additional facilities via corporate employers/private providers				

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To address the shortfall	Steering Group	All	Economy	Identify additional/potential pitches on existing sites and/or on adjoining land	Ability to identify suitable, available sites
			Health and Wellbeing	Carry out a mapping exercise (in addition to school mapping) to demonstrate relevant/strategic geographical locations specifically to identify 'hub' sites to concentrate high quality facilities	
			Reshaping the Council	Discuss with partners the recommendations of the Action Plan in relation to specific sites and agree priorities for implementation	
			Resilient Communities Environment	Apply for Protecting Playing Pitch Grants to improve quality/increase playability	