

Local Plan Panel Meeting	
Meeting Date	27 November 2019
Report Title	Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities – Strategic Future Needs Report.
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Baldock, Cabinet Member for Planning
SMT Lead	Emma Wiggins
Head of Service	James Freeman
Lead Officer	Aaron Wilkinson, Planner
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	It is recommended that Members note the contents of the Strategic Future Needs Report and recommend to the Cabinet that it be published and used as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 As part of the Local Plan Review (the Review), a Strategic Future Needs Report has been prepared to demonstrate the likely need for open space, sport and recreation facilities as a result of a new dwellings per annum target that will need to be planned for.

2 Background

- 2.1 Paragraph 96 of the NPPF states that planning policies relating to open space and recreation should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. Information gained from these assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreation provision is needed which local plans should then seek to accommodate.”
- 2.2 The Council has an adopted Open Spaces & Play Strategy (the Strategy), covering the period 2018 – 2022, which sets out the approach to the protection, enhancement and maintenance of our open space assets. It provides a sound piece of evidence to support the relevant policy development within the Review. However, in section 1.9, the Strategy acknowledged that a high level update would be required as a result of the Review and the additional needs generated by newly required housing allocations.
- 2.3 As you will be aware, the Review will need to consider the standard method for assessing local housing need which is likely to increase the current dwellings per annum target. Consultants Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd, who provided the technical assessments behind the Strategy, have prepared a high level

assessment of the potential additional need for open space, sport and recreation facilities, with the above in mind.

- 2.4 The resulting Strategic Future Needs Report can be found at Appendix I. At the time the work was carried out, the study was progressed on the basis of the latest Government based standard method for assessing local housing need. As the Review progresses, the calculations can be amended to take account of the Council's consideration of what it believes should be the housing need met through the Review.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The proposal therefore, is that Members note the contents of the Strategic Future Needs Report and recommend to the Cabinet that it be published and used as part of the evidence base for the Review.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members could reject the publication and use of the report as part of the evidence base for the Review. However, to do so could delay the preparation of the Review as an alternative assessment of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities would be required. It cannot progress or be found 'sound' without the necessary evidence.
- 4.2 This assessment was completed using Sport England's guidance (as referenced in the Government's own planning practice guidance). The Council could therefore prepare and use its own method for assessing the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities, but this would need to be both robust and justified. It would also likely attract a consultation objection from Sport England at the relevant stage of the Review.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 None undertaken thus far, due to the high level and technical nature of the work. However, if any further detailed update to, or review of, the Council's Open Space & Play Strategy 2018-2022 is required, then consultation would be required.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The proposals would align with: Priority 1: Delivering regeneration; and Priority 2: Delivering improved quality of life.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage – the work has been carried out within the Local Plan Review budget.
Legal, Statutory	The Local Plan Review is prepared under the Planning and

and Procurement	Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 No.767) (as amended by SI 1244, Dec 2017).
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Environment and Sustainability	The Local Plan Review will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	The Local Plan Review will be subject to Community Impact Assessments at appropriate points.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities – Strategic Future Needs Report.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None.