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| Title of Report: Playing Pitches Strategy options | Officer Presenting: Director of Health & Community Author: Head of Community Development & Leisure |
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To provide Members with options for approval to deliver on the strategic recommendations from the Playing Pitches Strategy.
- 1.2 To seek Members' approval of the draft priority scoring matrix to be used for all projects under any preferred options.

2 Background

- 2.1 The purpose of the Playing Pitches Strategy is to provide an informed and coordinated approach to future facility development needs and to provide a framework for the prioritisation & development of playing pitch facilities in the Council area.
- 2.2 In January 2018, Council commissioned Otium Leisure Consultancy to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Council area, including a detailed facilities inspection of all sites.
- 2.3 In February 2019 (HC39/19), Officers were tasked with carrying out an addendum to the draft Playing Pitches Strategy focusing on the adequacy of provision for privately owned clubs, such as GAA Facilities, Cricket and Soccer Facilities.
- 2.4 The draft Playing Pitches Strategy, including addendum for provision of privately owned clubs, was approved by Council in February 2020 (HC42/20).
- 2.5 In October 2020, Officers provided Members with an update on the Playing Pitches Strategy & Condition Survey (HC183/20).
- 2.6 The Playing Pitches Strategy opened for 12-week public consultation in December 2020 with a final report to be presented to Members in due course.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Six key strategic recommendations have been identified in the Playing Pitches Strategy (Appendix 1 - section 4.1).
- 3.2 To ensure these recommendations are delivered, officers have presented Members with a list of options (Appendix 2) that have been categorised as **Protect, Enhance** or **Provide**.
- 3.3 The objective of the options under **Protect** is the need to protect all existing pitches and changing accommodation due to the pressures that currently exist on the Council's facility stock and privately owned Sporting Clubs.
- 3.4 The objective of the options under **Enhance** is to make the best use of existing provision ensuring better quality, access and management. This may help to meet both current and future demand instead of, or alongside, new additional provision.
- 3.5 The objective of the options under **Provide** is that alongside the enhancement of existing provision, new natural and/or artificial grass pitches are required to meet current and/or future demand.
- 3.6 For all options, the relevant strategic recommendation is listed with a score provided for the anticipated overall impact in addressing identified need from the Playing Pitches Strategy. The overall impact score ranges from 4 – Significant impact to 1 – Minimal to no impact.
- 3.7 All costs are indicative or based on standard construction costs. Costings that are more accurate would only be available at design scheme stage.
- 3.8 Due to the likely availability of resources, it is clear a framework to prioritise any project under any preferred option is required. A draft Priority scoring matrix (Appendix 3) is proposed to score all projected and be presented to Elected Members.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 There is currently no budget confirmed for any additional spend for the Playing Pitches Strategy.
- 4.2 Advice has been sought from the Equality Officer with regards to the specific Equality Impact Screening to be undertaken in relation to the Strategy and the requirements of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That Members approve preferred options to deliver on the strategic recommendations from the Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 5.2 That Members approve the draft Priority scoring matrix to be used for all projects under any preferred options.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Strategy Report

Appendix 2: Playing Pitches Strategy Options

Appendix 3: Draft Priority Scoring Matrix

Mins Refs: HC39/19; HC42/20; HC183/20