

West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group

Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury councils

West Suffolk
working together

Title of Report:	Executive Summary - West Suffolk Sports Facilities Assessment	
Report No:	JGG/JT/16/002	
Report to and date:	West Suffolk Joint Growth Steering Group	8 February 2016
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Purpose of report:	<p>To receive the Executive Summary of the West Suffolk Sports Facilities Assessment from 4Global, this document and the evidence base behind it will inform the delivery of a more strategic approach to sport and leisure facilities in the future.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Executive Summary and the supporting documentation is used as the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a West Suffolk Strategic Leisure Action Plan; and • The starting point for the evidence which will inform the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, updating and replacing the existing SPDs. <p>More generally the documents will enable the authority to work with partners and stakeholders, to prioritise investment in leisure facilities in a more transparent and needs driven basis to enable place shaping across West</p>	

	Suffolk.
Recommendation:	<p>It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the Councils note the Executive Summary of the West Suffolk Sports Facilities Assessment (Appendix A); 2) the Councils note that a project team be established to develop the delivery of the assessment findings, within a wider Action Plan for place shaping sport and recreation provision for West Suffolk; and 3) the Councils note receipt of the supporting draft documents prepared as part of this work (subject to minor amendments made in consultation with the Service Manager Leisure and Culture and 4 Global) to be utilised as part of an initial evidence base for the development of a joint West Suffolk Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities.
<p>Key Decision:</p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with significant numbers of partners and stakeholders was undertaken as part of the project by 4Global, as highlighted within the documents.
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's existing SPD for Open Space, Sport and Recreation was adopted in 2011 for Forest Heath and 2012 for St Edmundsbury. These documents should be refreshed and updated at regular intervals to ensure that they are fit for purpose. The alternative is to do nothing and risk challenge by developers and sporting bodies.
Implications:	
<p><i>Are there any financial implications?</i></p> <p><i>If yes, please give details</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the associated documentation provides an evaluation of existing sites and "needs assessment" based on national criteria there is no onus on the two authorities to commit expenditure as a direct result of this report.

<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • As above.	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> • The document will act as an evidence base which will form the starting point to inform the Local Plan and help in the development of a joint Supplementary Planning Document for Sports Provision in West Suffolk.	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • Equality implications will need to be evaluated as part of the development of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Suffolk.	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Development of new homes will create a shortfall in leisure provision across West Suffolk.	Medium	Having a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Sports/Leisure Provision in West Suffolk which is underpinned by a robust nationally recognised assessment process.	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All West Suffolk wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Full documents: • Draft West Suffolk PPS Action Plan and Strategy • Draft West Suffolk PPS Analysis • Draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy	
Documents attached:		<i>(Please list any appendices.)</i> Appendix A – Executive Summary West Suffolk Sports Facilities Assessment.	

Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)

Introduction

- 1.1 In October 2014 West Suffolk councils commissioned a joint Indoor Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy to be undertaken by 4Global. The study is a factual third-party assessment of current provision and perceived need for the area as a whole. It is not designed to commit the councils to direct delivery but instead provide direction for future implementation of leisure facilities, directly, indirectly or in partnership with clubs and other organisations, and there is also a part to play for the commercial leisure industry. It will also help shape negotiations with developers regarding the contributions they should make towards additional sports capacity.
- 1.2 The document has been prepared in accordance with Sport England's Guidelines. The preparation of this assessment coincides with the creation of similar assessment in the other Suffolk districts. Suffolk County Council are currently in the process of commissioning a pan-Suffolk assessment which will utilise the information gathered in the Districts and Boroughs to determine facility needs across the whole County. The assessment was commissioned for a number of reasons, as detailed below.
- 1.3 Firstly, there is a drive from both councils to draw together an overarching vision for the sports and leisure facilities within the two local authority areas. The Councils are looking to facilitate the creation of a network of community sport and leisure facilities with Abbeycroft Leisure acting as a strategic hub at the centre. This strategic approach will be basis of the new management agreement with Abbeycroft Leisure.
- 1.4 The community network of facilities and partnerships will provide local opportunities to participate in sport and leisure activities for the broadest range of customer groups. This assessment helps identify where opportunities exist in West Suffolk to develop this community network of facilities.
- 1.5 Secondly, there is significant growth planned in nearly all the main towns in West Suffolk and the Indoor Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy will help inform which particular sports or facilities would best complement the developments being considered to deliver sustainable communities. It will also help shape future investment by the councils to refurbish or replace existing facilities, such as is shortly planned in Mildenhall.
- 1.6 The Indoor Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy will help to ensure that the current and future demand for sports and recreation facilities are planned for holistically and that the needs of the current and growing population of West Suffolk can be fully met. It will also provide evidence to support funding bids to National Sports bodies like Sport England, and support requests for contributions from Section 106 Planning Obligations or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 1.7 Together this work will also help the Councils meet their three joint priorities:

- Priority 1: Increased opportunities for economic growth
Priority 2: Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active
Priority 3: Homes for our communities

Executive Summary - West Suffolk Sport Facilities Assessment

- 1.8 During 2015 4Global have undertaken a comprehensive survey of sports facilities and pitches across West Suffolk working with local clubs and teams to determine a picture of need in the area. Members are invited to note the Executive Summary of this assessment is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.9 A range of supplementary information was prepared in collation of this Executive Summary this can be found in the:
- Draft Playing Pitch Strategy, Recommendations and Action Plan
 - Draft Playing Pitch Strategy, Analysis
 - Draft Indoor Sports Facility Strategy
- 1.10 The supplementary documents will also be published (subject to minor amendments made in consultation with the Service Manager Leisure and Culture and 4 Global) as an evidence base for future development/planning applications and support further evidence which will underpin the development of a Supplementary Planning Document for Sports Provision in West Suffolk.

Next Steps

West Suffolk Strategic Leisure Action Plan

- 2.1 We will now take the assessed need and suggested actions to develop a strategic approach for open spaces, sport and recreation (leisure), working with our community partners that ensures participation opportunities for all, opportunities for growth and provision that is sustainable.
- 2.2 We will also incorporate key existing projects and developments which we are currently working with a range of community groups and partners on across West Suffolk such as:
- Mildenhall Hub (leisure offer);
 - Scaltback School, Newmarket;
 - new facilities in Morton Hall; and
 - developments around a 3G pitch in Haverhill.
- 2.3 The Action Plan will be sponsored by Jill Korwin, Director, West Suffolk.

New Leisure Management Agreement

- 2.4 As outlined in paragraph 1.3 this assessment will provide the evidence base that will help inform the development the new Leisure Management Agreement with Abbeycroft Leisure.

Review of the existing Borough & District Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to create a single West Suffolk SPD for Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities.

- 2.5 In order to ensure that West Suffolk is clear that the growth associated with new development needs to be balanced by facilities and supporting infrastructure for the community a revision of the existing SPDs is needed. SPDs require a robust evidence base and the work undertaken as part of this assessment helps support that evidence. This evidence alone would not support/underpin the preparation of an SPD, therefore further evidence will be completed to compliment the assessment and inform the preparation on an SPD.
- 2.6 The detailed document that have been prepared, including the West Suffolk Playing Pitch Strategy Analysis and the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy; achieve the first part of any SPD requirement, in that they supplies evidence of need, but crucially for any SPD to have an outcome that obligates new development in any way, the following are also needed:
- The proportion of need that is a direct cause of the proposed new development;
 - Costs of the provisions;
 - Strategic funding opportunities available to deliver the provisions;
 - Fair proportion of costs of provision to be requested from new development, meeting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 2010 R122 tests.
- 2.7 A work plan for the preparation of a single West Suffolk SPD for Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities will now be prepared.