



APPENDIX 3

Cityparks Open Spaces Strategy 2017

BRIGHTON AND HOVE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY December 2016

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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BRIGHTON AND HOVE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This is the Executive Summary of Brighton and Hove's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), and whilst Brighton and Hove Council has been the key driver in developing it, it is expected that plans and actions emanating from it can only be delivered in partnership with other key stakeholders such as the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Sport England.

While the Strategy is for the City rather than the Council, the Council has a pivotal role to play as the main provider of pitches. That said, the strategy has to be considered within the context of the reduction in funding to local authorities, with Brighton & Hove City Council specifically needing to find further savings in the region of £24 million in the financial year 2017/2018. Such savings include proposals that would mean a reduction in the resources available for the Council to maintain playing pitches and ancillary facilities.

The PPS identifies that **no playing pitches are currently deemed surplus to requirements** due to shortfalls identified both now and in the future. It is therefore recommended that all playing pitches are protected unless mitigation is provided or until all demand is being met. **However, in relation to football there is a shortfall of 3G pitches which if provided could meet the demand for such pitches and alleviate the use of grass pitches. In general, the quality of grass pitches is negatively impacting upon the number of matches that should be played on these pitches. With resources being limited to improve the quality of grass pitches, the provision of more 3G pitches could meet this demand. The council will work with the Football Association to consider the feasibility of a bid to the Parklife Football Hubs National Programme to assist in the improvement of 3G pitches in the city.**

In addition, a shortfall of non-turf cricket wickets is also identified. Non-turf wickets not only aid with training (with the aid of mobile nets) but they are also used for junior matches which in turn can help reduce excessive use of grass wickets. The ECB also highlights that pitches which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and can assist in the development of shorter formats of the game such as Last Man Stands (LMS).

Purpose

The Strategy document provides guidance and support in order to understand and assess the need for playing pitches. It provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2016 and 2037, in line with population projections. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Third generation turf (3G) pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Rugby league
- ◀ Hockey pitches (Sand/water-based AGPs)
- ◀ Other grass pitch sports (Ultimate Frisbee, American football, Australian Rules Football, Lacrosse, Baseball and Softball)

Vision

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Brighton & Hove Playing Pitch Strategy:

“To create a more active healthier city, a greater quality of opportunity, better facilities and a higher standard of sports performance delivered through strong partnerships between sport and health service providers.”

Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the Playing Pitch Assessment Report. **Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ¹
Football (grass pitches)	Central	Shortfall of one youth 11v11 and three youth 9v9 match sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 adult, 4.5 youth 11v11 and 6.5 youth 9v9 match sessions
	East	Shortfall of two adult, 2.5 youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 match sessions	Shortfall of five adult, 6.5 youth 11v11, 4.5 youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match sessions
	West	Shortfall of 7.5 adult and 1.5 youth 9v9 match sessions	Shortfall of 14 adult, six youth 11v11, eight youth 9v9, 2.5 mini 7v7 and 3.5 mini 5v5 match sessions
	Brighton & Hove	Shortfall of nine adult, three youth 11v11 and 5.5 youth 9v9 match sessions	Shortfall of 21.5 adult, 17 youth 11v11, nine youth 9v9, 1.5 mini 5v5 and 5.5 mini 5v5 match sessions
Football (3G pitches) ²	Central	Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches based on FA training model	Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	East	Current demand is being met	Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	West	Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches based on FA training model	Shortfall of two full size 3G pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Brighton & Hove	Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches based on FA training model	Shortfall of three full size 3G pitches; pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing

¹ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

² Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2030) ³
Cricket	Central	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	East	Shortfall of ten match sessions	Shortfall of ten match sessions
	West	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	Brighton & Hove	Current demand is being met although overplay is evident at Rottingdean Football & Cricket Club	Future demand is being met although overplay is evident at Rottingdean Football & Cricket Club
Rugby union	Central	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	East	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	West	Shortfall of two match sessions at Hove Recreation Ground	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions at Hove Recreation Ground
	Brighton & Hove	Current demand is being met although overplay is evident at Hove Recreation ground (subsequently there has been significant investment in pitch quality at this site and the impact will be assessed this season).	There is a future requirement for an increase in floodlit pitches.
Rugby league	Central	No demand is evident	No future demand is evident
	East	Shortfall of 1.25 match sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
	West	No demand is evident	No future demand is evident
	Brighton & Hove	Shortfall of 1.25 match sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Central	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	East	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	West	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	Brighton & Hove	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met

³ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

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Objectives and recommendations

The three main themes of the strategy reflect Brighton and Hove's priorities emanating from Sport England's planning objectives for sport; Protect, Enhance and Provide:

OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of 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.

OBJECTIVE 2

To **enhance** playing pitches through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding
- g. Secure developer contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new provision where there is current or future demand to do so.

Recommendations:

- h. Identify opportunities to increase add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- i. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock.

