

Appendix 1

Strategic Planning Recommendations

Strategic Planning – Recommendation 1	
Promote the overall value and benefits of playing pitch provision, and its contribution to open space in the local area. Ensure that the “dual” function of playing pitches and their value as part of the Borough's stock of greenspace is considered through a wider Greenspace Strategy for the Borough as part of the Council's response to Planning Policy Note 17 (PPG17). An overarching Greenspace Strategy is vital in assessing the role and value of all greenspace across the Borough. In some cases assessment of informal open space may identify potential sites for formal playing pitch development.	Green Space Strategy in early development . Recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy to be sub-summed within it.
Strategic Planning – Recommendation 2	
Seek to use the planning policy process to prioritise facility development and future provision in line with the identified priorities in this strategy. E.g. Use priorities for investment identified as a guide for Section 106 funding	On-going. Examples provided of use of S106 to fund facilities/improvements but not in context of investment priorities
Strategic Planning – Recommendation 3	
The Playing Pitch Assessment data should be updated on an annual basis and a repeat of the strategy development undertaken every 5 years. Annual updating should include repeating quality inspections to monitor changes to quality of pitches	Issue regarding capacity within the service to undertake the annual updating and repeat inspections
Strategic Planning – Recommendation 4	
Seek to develop the overall use of education pitches for community use, and in so doing, develop appropriate support to facilitate access and use especially for junior teams.	Requires co-operation from individual schools and being dealt with on a case by case basis. Issue regarding cost of accessing school facilities
Strategic Planning – Recommendation 5	
The Council should continue to use the Football Forum, and local sports development groups established for Rugby Union and Cricket to identify issues with facilities. In the case of football, the forum should be used to investigate limiting the use of some sites towards the end of a season to enable renovation works to be undertaken.	On-going
Strategic Planning – Recommendation 6	
Liaise with neighbouring authorities regarding new pitch developments in areas close to the Dudley Borough border to assess the likely impact in supply and demand	No progress made.
Strategic Planning – Recommendation 7	
Liaise with neighbouring authorities regarding pitch hire charges to ensure that fees and charges are comparable.	Used as comparative information during process of setting fees and charges

Strategic Planning – Recommendation 8	
Investigate, in consultation with the Football Forum the introduction of pitch hire charges that reflect the quality of pitches, charging less for provision rated lower.	Current charges reflect whether or not provision includes changing rooms but not pitch quality

Facility Development

Facility Development – Recommendation 1	
Seek to improve the overall quality and quantity of existing and new ancillary accommodation with particular emphasis on the need to provide adequately for juniors and women, girls and disabled users. This needs to be done in accordance with the identification of priorities for investment and improvement. (At end of report)	Limited progress made – Green Park Changing Rooms

Facility Development – Recommendation 2	
Prioritise investment in ancillary facilities on key multi pitch sites as a more economical use of resources, particularly in relation to ancillary facilities	No progress

Facility Development - Recommendation 3	
Ensure that where provided, informal kick about areas are maintained and adequately provide for informal play – this is to ensure that informal use of formal pitches is kept to a minimum in order to sustain quality	Significant developments undertaken as identified in the report.

Facility Development – Recommendation 4	
Linked to the review of leisure facilities, ensure that there is adequate access to floodlit training facilities to support the overall development of pitch sports at local level	Significant developments undertaken as identified in the report.

Facility Development – Recommendation 5	
The Council should increase the current level of investment in pitch renovation and improvements to ancillary facilities	

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Sports Development – Recommendation 1	
Team Generation Rates (TGR's) should be used as a benchmark for future measurement and monitoring of sports participation within the borough, and within the 5 committee areas. They should be used to prioritise sports development focus	

Sports Development - Recommendation 2	
Team Generation Rates (TGR's) in the Dudley borough should be compared with those surrounding boroughs to provide an indication of levels of participation which can be used to develop county wide priorities for future sports development initiatives and external investment	