

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 13 JANUARY 2022

### LIVE LIFE ABERDEENSHIRE PITCH AND OUTDOOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SPACE STRATEGY

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This Strategy, following engagement with area committees and three policy committees, is being brought to Full Council for final agreement.

1.1.1 The report highlights both the additional anticipated revenue costs (£109,993); capital costs (£2,870,000) and subsequent additional revenue borrowing costs of £201,000 of adopting the strategy. Benefits of the strategy are expected to be an improvement in the quality of pitch provision and increased capacity to meet demand, greater community ownership of pitches and an improved and future integrated booking system.

1.1.2 Success will be achieved by designating existing pitches as either competitive pitches, community pitches or simply public spaces, with maintenance and pricing established accordingly. There will be an investment and improvement plan for a number of networks in Aberdeenshire that will be delivered on the basis of priority – with 'Pitch User Groups' contributing to the management and development of pitches in Aberdeenshire.

#### 1.2. Full Council is recommended to:

##### 1.2.1 Agree the key principles of the Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1, being

- The approach of using network pitch plans, and the specific strategies that have been submitted to the respective area committees.
- The approach to prioritising enhanced capacity where it is required - using the information contained with Appendix 3 of this report as a contemporaneous means of establishing priority needs.
- That there will be one process for the community booking of pitches, while recognising that Education should control school pitch use during the delivery of the school curriculum and be able to input to processes to ensure that they are not overused outwith the curriculum.

##### 1.2.2 Acknowledge the financial implications of implementing the Strategy as outlined in this report; and

##### 1.2.3 Consider whether to allocate additional Capital funding for the Strategy of £2,870,000 over the period 2021 – 2028; subsequent additional annual borrowing costs of £201,000 and initial additional revenue costs of £109,993 (22/23); £75,214 (23/24) and £50,143 thereafter.

## 2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The principles and recommendations of the Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy have been considered and endorsed by the Communities Committee (03/06/2021); the Infrastructure Services Committee (17/06/2021) and the Education and Children's Services Committee (26/08/21). Prior to policy committee consideration the strategy and individual area plans had been considered by area committees. Comments and subsequent actions taken from policy committees are enclosed as appendix 2.

2.2 The key points of the strategy remain:

- the creation of 'network pitch forums', known as 'Pitch User Groups' (PUGs) in 18 networks to lead on aspects of programming and managing, including maintenance, of outdoor spaces.
- Designating each 'Pitch' area as either a:
  - Competitive Sports Pitch – managed directly by LLA. These pitches would be maintained to a competition match standard.
  - Community Sports Pitch – which would be pitches maintained to an acceptable match standard - with the option for these to be directly managed by local groups as an alternative to direct management by LLA.
  - Public Spaces – which would be designed and maintained for informal users and maintained by landscape services.
- Each network should have its own development plan with identified priorities.
- The Pitch and Outdoor physical activity space strategy needs to ensure the promotion and provision of a range of sports, ensuring that our communities have a range of choices in local provision.

A copy of the Draft Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and referred to for its terms.

## 3 Discussion

### Ongoing Development of Pitch User Groups (PUGs)

3.1 Officers continue to engage with pitch users and are currently working with 7 networks that have now established PUGs (or similar) and there is ongoing partnership working with Community Sports Hubs to integrate these where appropriate. It was noted that in many cases the introduction or resurrection of community sports hubs call for a commitment from the same community representatives as would be engaged in a PUG and Officers are mindful of not duplicating efforts of all involved. It is anticipated that officers will continue to develop appropriate community infrastructures to oversee work in all identified pitch networks (18 in total).

### Capital Funding for Strategy Development

- 3.2 The financial implications of the network plans are detailed in appendix 4. Whilst these are significant in terms of capital costs, Officers continue to work with community groups to explore ways of delivering these projects in a cost-efficient manner using, for example, local sponsorship where appropriate; encouraging communities to lead on projects; use of developer obligations; and local fundraising. However, the success of a future strategy will be dependent on being able to raise these funds as well as secure funds through the council's capital plan.
- 3.3 The total Capital requirements of the plan are £9,180,000. However, £1,400,000 is currently included in the LLA Capital Plan (through Infrastructure 1 funds), with a further £4,910,000 anticipated through external fundraising, Developer Obligations, and existing project specific allocations in the LLA Capital Plan. Therefore, to fully realise the Strategy a further £2,870,000 would be required.
- 3.4 Infrastructure services have highlighted that they may need to purchase additional machinery to meet an enhanced future specification, which in turn may have a separate capital implication. If this is the case it is anticipated that any capital will be met through additional borrowing costs which in turn may be covered through additional contract income.

### Revenue Funding for the Strategy

- 3.5 Officers from Landscape Services and LLA have identified the estimated total current expenditure on the treatment of existing areas commonly used for sports and physical recreation purposes, inclusive of school pitches at £767,095. Officers have then estimated the potential future costs of maintaining pitches at the levels identified in the area plans at £877,088. The anticipated additional revenue costs of this strategy are therefore £109,993. It should be noted that these prices are based on existing practices and prices, which have the potential to be subject to change as a result of external factors and influences (for example fuel prices).
- 3.6 It is anticipated that £59,850 of these costs will eventually be met through additional charges leaving a net estimated additional revenue cost of £50,143. However, currently a high number of existing pitches are not charged for – and an eventual pitch pricing framework will be implemented following a mandatory pricing review of LLA and Education services which is due for implementation in 2023. Therefore, it is not envisaged that the additional revenue from charges will be generated in 2022/23 but will be realised partially in 23/24 and fully in 24/25. Projected revenue requirements would therefore be:

22/23 - £109,993  
23/24 - £75,214  
24/25 - £50,143

### Incorporation of Education Pitches into the strategy

3.7 School Pitches are currently used by community groups, and conversely a number of community pitches are used by schools. In addition, a number of synthetic pitches at school sites are run directly through LLA and cater for combined community and curriculum use. School pitches will, therefore, be incorporated within this strategy, however there are a number of caveats to the inclusion of school pitches which are:

- Recognition that school pitches must deliver a high-quality external PE curriculum, and the number of external lets allocated requires to be controlled to ensure this continues to be the case.
- Any partnership arrangement relating to the shared use of school pitches needs to demonstrate that these arrangements will have an improved impact on school PE.
- There is a presumption that all school pitches and pavilions will remain in the ownership and control of Education and Children's services (including LLA) unless exceptional circumstances apply.

### Booking system for Pitches

3.8 In undertaking the consultation work for this Strategy, it has been acknowledged that the range of council services and booking systems involved in booking facilities is complex for users and can be off-putting to potential users. It is therefore proposed that going forward there should be one process for the community booking of pitches. Officers from both LLA and Education and Children's services are currently commencing the process of evaluating both the existing pricing structure and the wider processes for lets of ECS and LLA premises. It is anticipated that this work will result in a single process and point of contact for the booking of all ECS and LLA premises.

### Feedback from Infrastructure Services

3.9 Infrastructure services have been engaged in the development of this strategy and on this report. LLA will be reliant on their technical knowledge and expertise for the delivery of individual projects. Feedback from Landscape officers has been supportive with many comments incorporated in area and policy reports. Specific points that are worth highlighting are:

- In some individual cases, project costs are estimates -and there may be ancillary issues that need addressing – for example improvements to access roads.
- There is no 'one size fits all' approach and price to individual pitches, as there are a range of factors (for example soil types) which can influence what is required for any individual pitch.
- There are some concerns about the potential for Capital investment in landscape services machinery necessary to ensure enhanced playing services.

- There are several issues which cannot be easily resolved when dealing with organic surfaces -for example the issue of wildlife damage to pitches and expectations that this can be resolved 'just prior to usage'.
- Significantly increasing the ask of landscape services may necessitate the usage of external contractors and hire of external machinery, as there may not be the internal capacity to manage this work. Pricing of services by external contractors may subsequently be different to that projected in this report.
- Between LLA and Landscape services, there will not be the resources to inspect pitches prior to every usage – and the organic nature of most surfaces dictates that a surface can change within a day – meaning there will always be an onus on the user to inspect a pitch for safety prior to use.
- An issue that is not specific to this strategy, but very pertinent, is the use of community volunteers undertaking maintenance to public land. Infrastructure Services have highlighted those agreements with such groups need to be both robust and enforceable to ensure public safety.

#### Feedback from Capital Plan Group

3.10 The Capital Plan met on December 9 and considered this item. The group were supportive of proposals but highlighted that there were no additional funds in the capital plan, and given the current financial circumstances there should be measures assessed to avoid the need to be funded by additional borrowing; with borrowing costs to be met from or a combination of

- Finding funds from other LLA budgets.
- Prioritising expenditure to ensure that capital investment remains within the existing budget figure.

The group also requested that this item be considered by Senior Leadership Team (SLT), who have considered this report and endorsed the approach taken.

## **4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

4.1 This report will impact on the following council pillars and priorities:

<b><i>Pillar</i></b>	<b><i>Priority</i></b>
<i>Our People</i>	<i>Education Health &amp; Wellbeing</i>
<p>This report will significantly impact on our people, many of whom are reliant on LLA outdoor spaces for physical and mental wellbeing. This also includes young people in education – where the provision and management of open-air spaces can impact on the quality of Physical Education.</p> <p>We also recognise the importance of our processes in terms of supporting clubs and organisations to maximise their opportunities to access and influence the development of outdoor spaces for the benefit of communities.</p>	

<i>Our Environment</i>	<i>Infrastructure Resilient Communities</i>
<p>The Pitch and Open Spaces strategy allows us to protect open air spaces and develop informal and ad-hoc use of these spaces reflecting the general need to ensure access to greenspace. Part of the engagement process for this strategy has been engagement with the green spaces team to ensure that the strategy is not narrowly focused on sport use.</p>	

<i>Our Economy</i>	<i>Economy &amp; Enterprise Estate Modernisation</i>
<p>Our open spaces provide spaces for commercial organisations to deliver services which in turn can positively impact on local economies and employment.</p> <p>The ability to allocate criteria to set open spaces does allow an improved ability for Aberdeenshire Council to focus investment on the green spaces where it is particularly required</p>	

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial	<b>X</b>		
Staffing	<b>X</b>		
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	<b>X</b>		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	<b>X</b>		
Climate Change and Sustainability	<b>X</b>		
Health and Wellbeing	<b>X</b>		
Town Centre First		<b>X</b>	

4.3 The table above highlights risks and implications relating to financing and sustainability of the proposal, based on recognition that the successful delivery of the open space strategy is reliant on a significant capital spend, a proportion of which is anticipated to come from the existing Live Life Aberdeenshire Capital Plan. It is also expected that this strategy will also drive the allocation and justification of future Developer Obligation contributions as well as facilitate applications for external funding.

#### Financial Implications

4.4 The phasing of capital projects should be considered in terms of the overall borrowing requirements in accordance with the Prudential Code and the Council's Borrowing Strategy to ensure prudence affordability and sustainability over the term of the Capital Plan.

- 4.5 The revised Capital Plan, updated for projects approved by Full Council on 18 November 2021, reflects several reprofiled budgets all of which will impact on borrowing requirements across the next 4 financial years. There is particular pressure in years 2023/24 and 2024/25, if the full spend is achieved in those years. The table below shows estimated borrowing for the next ten years reflecting an increase of £86m in borrowing requirement since the original budget was approved on 17 March 2021.

<b>Capital Plan Estimated Borrowing</b>	<b>21/22</b> £000	<b>22/23</b> £000	<b>23/24</b> £000	<b>24/25</b> £'000	<b>25/26</b> £000	<b>2026-2031</b> £000	<b>Total</b> £000
<b>March 2021 (original)</b>	82,162	111,188	65,900	38,805	106,209	180,764	585,028
<b>Nov 2021</b>	98,565	95,689	106,029	113,361	62,321	194,651	671,116

- 4.6 New projects added to the Capital Plan will require further borrowing to be undertaken. The spend profile for this additional £2.87m is indicated in the table below.

	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>	<b>24/25</b>	<b>25/26</b>	<b>26/27</b>	<b>27/28</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pitches	-	460	1,035	875	500	-	2,870

- 4.7 Borrowing costs are incurred in the year following actual expenditure. The additional annual borrowing costs are estimated in the table below and are based on current loans fund interest rates.

	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>	<b>24/25</b>	<b>25/26</b>	<b>26/27</b>	<b>27/28</b>	<b>28/29 on</b>
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Pitches	-	-	32	106	166	201	201

- 4.8 If agreed, the additional borrowing costs for these projects will require to be included in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2022/23 onwards.
- 4.9 Once the new pitches strategy becomes operational, there will also be an annual revenue pressure within the Live Life Aberdeenshire Service budget. This impact is outlined in the table below:

Year	Additional revenue costs
22/23	£109,993
23/24	£75,214
24/25	£50,143

- 4.10 Officers have identified that there will be a need for both additional administrative resources to oversee both the management of pitch booking and contribution toward booking software systems. Currently there is no dedicated pitch administrative resource with bookings largely managed by paper systems.

Officers have allowed £40,000 for a full-time administrative resource as well as contribution toward an appropriate booking software and/or system – this figure is incorporated in the table above.

- 4.11 The additional revenue implications have not been reflected as part of the medium-term financial strategy for 22/23. Should Full Council agree to the additional revenue implications these will require to be included.
- 4.12 An integrated equality impact assessment has been created and is enclosed as Appendix 5 to this document. This did not identify any negative impacts as a result of this strategy, as the direction of travel is toward more investment in pitches and outdoor spaces. However, Full Council should be aware that the issue of pitch charges and charging will be considered as a separate issue as part of the mandatory LLA / ECS charges review which will take place in 2022 – which has the capacity to increase charges which may then impact on user groups.
- 4.13 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:
- ACORP001- Budget pressures, in that accepting the recommendations will lead to additional Revenue and Capital spend in the future.

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on an ECS Directorate Level:

- ECSSR004 – Support Inclusive, Vibrant and Healthy Communities, in that failure to develop our outdoor service offer will limit our ability to ensure an appropriate infrastructure for the promotion of health and wellbeing in an equitable fashion.

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer have been consulted on this report and their comments have been incorporated in this report.
- 5.2 Full Council is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section A.8.2 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to approval of any capital or revenue expenditure not provided for in the Capital Plan or Revenue Budget

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1 December 2021

**List of Appendices –**

**Appendix 1 - Draft Strategy**

**Appendix 2 – Comments and actions from policy committees**

**Appendix 3 - Network Capacity Table**

**Appendix 4 – Capital financial Implications of network plans.**

**Appendix 5 – Integrated Impact Assessment.**

## Appendix 1 - Live Life Aberdeenshire

### Draft Pitch and Outdoor Physical Activity Space Strategy.

#### Introduction

This strategy has been developed in recognition of the need to improve access to formal playing pitches and open spaces, both for organised sport and for informal use, as well as realise the potential for the development of open space for outdoor adventure activities.

It has been developed following engagement with user groups, national governing bodies of sport and a range of internal stakeholders including Landscape Services, Area Offices, and Economic Development. Area Committees have also been engaged on this strategy with a particular focus on area network plans.

The strategy will be a key document in terms of contributing to the delivery of the 'Live Life Aberdeenshire Business Plan', as well as the wider Education and Children's Services Business plan.

#### Strategy Outcomes

##### Our People.

The Strategy will improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our residents through the improved ability to informally access green space and to engage in organised activities.

Improved access to pitches and open spaces will also strengthen community clubs and organisations, leading to an enhanced capacity within the community to improve mental health and wellbeing of all.

Our young people will benefit from enhanced education opportunities through improved access to formal and informal areas of green space.

##### Our Environment

The strategy will allow us to develop and protect pitches and open spaces, leading to a sustainable approach to land development and positive impact on our natural environment.

The strategy will also allow for the symbiotic development of pitches, open spaces and 'green space' with the subsequent outcome of improved biodiversity.

##### Our Economy.

Our strategy promotes the development and usage of our open spaces both for commercial events which in turn can contribute to local economies and economic wellbeing, and in particular for the ongoing development of an 'outdoor adventure' offer which will enhance the status of Aberdeenshire as a 'destination' for visitors looking for an escape from their normal lifestyle – a priority of the Council's Tourism Strategy which has the subsequent outcome of developing the visitor attraction market.

### Strategy Principles

- Improvements should be delivered on a 'network' basis, based on local 'pitch plans'. This will typically (though not exclusively) be based around current education networks.
- Pitch Plans should be based on an assessment of need, both current and for the future, and prioritised based on that need.
- Investment into pitches and open spaces should be prioritised based on identified existing shortfalls in provision. Investment should not be limited purely to council owned spaces, but to facilities that meet actual needs and will assist in realising anticipated outcomes.
- Pitches should be developed to both improve access by competitive clubs and to ensure access by 'grassroots' organisations and informal users.
- Developments and Improvements will be led by communities, through Pitch User Groups or similar, to ensure wide stakeholder representation.
- There should be agreed procedures for booking and accessing pitches and open spaces, with a single system for let of council pitches.
- Schools will retain the right to protect and control pitches on school land for the delivery of the PE curriculum during the school day.

### Strategy Outputs.

Outputs expected are:

- Improved local ownership and control of spaces.
- Improved quality of competitive sports pitches.
- Improved ability of pitches to cater for a wide range of pitch sports, ensuring that sports such as Rugby and Hockey develop whilst respecting the popularity of football.
- Improved performance of clubs and performers competing at area and regional level
- Improved user satisfaction levels
- Improved usage rates of open spaces, both in terms of individual users and repeat users
- Improved access to pitches, both by existing users and groups that currently do not enjoy access to the facilities they would like.
- Significantly enhanced ability of Aberdeenshire to attract external investment, both directly and indirectly (through community groups) as well as through the optimised attraction of Developer Obligations.
- Ability to improve and deliver an outdoor adventure offer using our natural environment.
- Improved capacity and sustainability of our pitches and open spaces.
- Improved ability to maintain and develop our greenspaces and promote biodiversity.

### Appendix 2 – Policy Committee Feedback

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action taken</b>	<b>Further action taken/required</b>
Communities	Frustration from communities regarding timescales and looking for reassurance that things will progress	Assurances given that officers will continue with community engagement on an ongoing basis.	
Communities	Consider working with Area Manager's Teams to ensure all officer expertise is utilised	Officers will ensure that local Project Officer and Community Sports Hub officers are included in meetings	
Communities and ECS	Clarity on some smaller communities (Balmedie, Blackburn, Kemnay, Kintore).  Concern that Blackburn still sitting within Westhill plan	Balmedie has been mentioned in Ellon plan, but officers will ensure that it is considered separately. A separate plan for Blackburn/Kemnay/Kintore has now been created but each location will be considered separately	
Communities	Reassurance sought on pitch forums and what outdoor provisions are included e.g., cricket club at Banchory use Burnett Park	Reassurance given that all known contacts will be included/invited	officers will continue to check and if made aware of any other interested club they'll be invited to participate in PUGs
Communities	Query on which small All Weather Pitches (AWPs) are included in Banchory Plan	Hill of Banchory school pitch and small AWP at Banchory Academy	
Communities	Concerns that some pitches included in plans are not owned by the council.	Reassurance given that wider strategy includes the provision of all usable pitches, irrespective of managing organisation – though its recognised that in	The wider plan will emphasise the need to continue working in partnership with external organisations for the wider benefit of users

		many cases LLA cannot control these pitches	
Infrastructure	Consideration required on local/rural pitches where local clubs may need to reserve a chargeable pitch as a back up	Officers will be working with PUGs to avoid this scenario. However, operationally LLA wishes to discourage this	
Infrastructure	Dog fouling raised as an ongoing issue	Officers will continue to investigate options in all areas to find the best local solutions	Officers to consider feasibility of banning dogs from category A pitches – whilst recognising this is a sensitive issue.
Infrastructure	Highlighting imminent sale of Canal Park and the implications (if any) of this loss	Separate engagement has been undertaken and officers are cognisant of local situation and working with relevant officers to manage any resultant impact.	
Infrastructure	Caution required where developer obligations are used to develop pitches but nothing in place for ongoing maintenance	Officers will ensure that revenue implications of creating new pitches will be built into the forward planning.	
Infrastructure	Clarity required on exactly which pitches are included in the “one stop- booking system”, with representation made that where communities are already managing Council Pitches effectively, this should not automatically change.	Officers will ensure that this is clarified in subsequent documents as there is no intention to take over management/booking of already community managed pitches	The new strategy creates the potential to expand the number of pitches overseen by communities.
ECS	Importance of protecting non – football field sports (e.g., hockey)	LLA are aware of this issue and have stressed in engagement that the needs of such sports will be taken into account, and ‘force of numbers’ will not be used as the only way to develop certain pitch types.	

ECS	Some caution requested on the extended use of rubber crumb for environmental reasons	Officers will consider the best available options on a case by case basis taking advantage of modern technology.	
ECS	Support given to the needs-based approach and advocacy of continuing engagement with communities	n/a	
ECS	Concern over the inclusion of Aberdeen FC Community trust facilities as those pitches would unfairly assess the provision in Westhill	Confirmation that those facilities would be considered, as they do provide for some groups that may otherwise look to Council and partner controlled facilities. However - they have not been factored in the current Westhill and District assessment.	

### Appendix 3 – Pitch Capacity in each town network.

Capacity measurements include all pitches accessible by community groups, not just pitches owned and managed by Aberdeenshire Council.

Shaded towns are where ranking has been artificially adapted to take account of factors such as; artificial pitches being predominantly for Hockey (2G); where in practice populations tend to travel significantly to other networks; known developments confirmed that will improve capacity.

Town	Population (academy catchment)	Total Pitch Units	Units per population	Pitch units peak season (Nov – Feb)	Peak season units per population	Rank (in terms of provision)
Banff/ Macduff	19794	15096	0.763	3908	0.197	1
Turriff	13277	8109	0.611	2176	0.164	2
Alford	11478	7330	0.639	1824	0.159	3
Westhill	12716	7038	0.553	1925	0.151	4
Laurencekirk	14569	6902	0.474	1885	0.129	5
Inverurie	22600	8942	0.396	2050	0.091	6
<i>Inverurie has been moved to 6<sup>th</sup> based on recognition of synthetic provision currently being built that will be available in 2022.</i>						
Kemnay / Kintore	14068	6222	0.442	1662	0.118	7
Mintlaw	14623	6902	0.472	1699	0.116	8
Aboyne	13833	6086	0.44	1592	0.115	9
Oldmeldrum	15386	5678	0.369	1516	0.099	10
<i>Oldmeldrum has been moved to 10<sup>th</sup> as many of its resident clubs substantively use pitches in other networks (Ellon and Inverurie).</i>						
Stonehaven	19364	8942	0.462	2169	0.112	11
Peterhead	26973	10762	0.4	2648	0.098	12
Ellon	17681	8438	0.477	2157	0.122	13
<i>Ellon has been moved to 13<sup>th</sup> on the basis that it has no 3G synthetic provision, leaving football reliant on sand dressed surfaces.</i>						
Fraserburgh	22764	8934	0.392	2145	0.094	14
Portlethen (inc Newtonhill)	14061	6834	0.486	1641	0.117	15
<i>Portlethen has been moved to 15<sup>th</sup> on the basis of two floodlit synthetic surfaces being sand dressed, reducing useability for football.</i>						
Banchory	12559	3706	0.295	948	0.075	16
Huntly	16825	3931	0.233	725	0.043	17



Buchan	Establish 5 Grass Pitches as a 'competition sports pitches' (1 Mintlaw, 4 Peterhead)	25	5	Developer Obligations contribution	20	2023 -2026
	Invest in 2 existing sports pitches in Peterhead to turn them from poor quality clay pitches to high quality sports pitches	160	160	Project budget for new Campus	0	2025/26
	Purchase portable 'dugouts' for the All Weather Pitch at Pitfour Park, Mintlaw	10	10	Developer Obligations	0	completed
	Modernise the existing floodlighting at the Pitfour Park All Weather pitch.	10			10	2025/26
	Undertake additional infrastructure and maintenance work to two grass pitches in Mintlaw and surrounding area	5	5	Developer Obligations	0	2025/26
	Investment into the development of the Victoria Road site, Peterhead, in partnership with local group (PACT)	410	410	Developer obligations / Contributions from local sources	0	Under development
	Invest in a basic changing facility at the current tennis club	50			50	2025/26

Formartine	Creation of a floodlit synthetic facility able to cater for football and rugby in the Ellon area (requires investigation of suitable land)	885	200	Developer Obligations / external grant	685	2024/25
	Invest in changing facilities at the current tennis club to assist both tennis, football & cricket at Gordon Park, Ellon	300			300	2026/27
	Invest in storage solutions at Gordon Park (football, cricket, tennis)	50			50	2024/25
	Establish 4 grass pitches as a 'competition sports pitches' (2 Ellon, 1 Meldrum, 1 Turriff)	20	10	Developer Obligations	10	2024 - 2026
	Upgrade pitch provision in Methlick to promote further development of the Methlick pleasure park.	120	120	Local Fundraising / Developer Obligations	0	Underway
	Reconfiguration work and removal of permanent goals at Lower Haughs to allow rotation of goalmouths.	5	5	Developer Obligations	0	2023/24
	Replacement of whole pavilion at Lower Haughs	750	300	Developer Obligations / Local Education Trust Fund / External Fundraising	450	2023/24
	Install 2 x tennis courts at Turriff sports centre	Not known			200	2026/27

Garioch	Upgrades into Lawsondale & Denman park pavilions	300	100	Developer Obligations	200	2027/28
	Invest in pitch facilities at Blackburn.	25	10	Local Contributions/ Developer Obligations	15	2026/27
	Develop pitch and pavilion facilities at Kellands Park, in partnership with rugby and cricket clubs.	500	200	Local Contributions/ Developer Obligations / Existing Campus budget	300	2024/25
	Improve parking, changing and improve existing grass pitches in Inch, potentially in partnership with Bennachie Leisure Centre	30	5	Developer Obligations	25	2025/26
	Develop new grass pitch and pavilion facilities in Kintore, subject to planning permission.	320	320	Direct Developer Contribution (subject to planning permission)	0	2025/26
	Establish 1 grass pitches as a competitive sports pitch at Kemnay	5	0		5	2025/26
	Develop facilities at Bogbeth Park	10	0		10	2025/26
Kincardine & Mearns	Establish 5 grass pitches as a 'competitive sports pitches' (1 Laurencekirk, 2 Portlethen, 2 Stonehaven)	25	10	Developer Obligations	15	2024- 2026
	Develop 'old' Mearns academy pitches and some supporting infrastructures, in partnership with local groups	20	5	Developer Obligations	15	2024 -2026

	Upgrade space next to bowling green to create 7 a-side pitch at Memorial Park, Laurencekirk	unknown				
	Convert the existing Hillside synthetic pitch into a football compliant surface.  It would also be possible to develop a full-size floodlit facility at Hillside (extending the existing facility). However, such a facility would require a pavilion as existing facilities would be inadequate to support a full size facility.	100  1,100 – 1,200	30	Developer Obligations	70	2024 - 2026
	Investment into private area of land and pavilion to create a pitch facility in Portlethen area.	20			20	2024/25
	Additional development of pitches in Newtonhill with a developer.	400	200	Possible direct developer allocation	200	2025/26
	Investigate options for upgrading changing facilities and pitches at Mineralwell Park, including possibility of CAT of John McRobert Pavilion.	200			200	2026/27
	Investment of at least two rugby pitches, in partnership with Mackie Rugby Club	10	10	Developer Obligations	0	2025/26

Marr	Establish 4 grass pitches as a 'competitive sports pitches' (1 Aboyne, 1 Alford, 1 Banchory, 1 Huntly) includes drainage works required at Banchory	25	10	Developer Obligations	15	2024 - 2026
	Improve existing grass pitches at new campus (Alford)	20	5	Developer Obligations	15	2025/26
	Capital improvements to the Sir Arthur Grant Centre	1200	1,200	Already in LLA Capital Plan	0	2023/24
	Upgrade the pavilion at Tarland including possibility of CAT to local community group	unknown				
	Upgrade the changing pavilion at Aboyne including possibility of CAT to local community group	unknown				
	Develop a wheeled sport facility. (Aboyne)	285	285	External funding / developer obligation	0	2024/25
	Creation of all weather pitch provision including changing pavilion in the Banchory area	1200	400	External Grant / Direct Developer contribution	800	2026/27
	Adapting the surface of existing small surface (at Hill of Banchory School) to a football compliant one (requires agreement from PPP contractor).	30	30	Already in LLA Capital Plan	0	Work scheduled for summer 2022.
	Improve and develop the Banchory Recreation Ground area.	unknown				

	Continue working with community groups to support a replacement all weather pitch at Christie Park, Huntly.	330	330	86 external funding, 150 Capital plan & 94 developer obligations	0	Work due to commence Nov 2021
	Investment in Huntly Nordic Outdoor Centre to broaden its range of service delivery and improve links with similar facilities.	400	400	Eternal contributions / already in LLA Capital Plan	0	2024/25
Totals		8980 (not including full size facility at Hillside)	4910		4270	
Existing allocation (in infrastructure 1 funds					1400	
Estimated Capital Plan requirements					2870	

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### Integrated Impact Assessment - Pitch and Open Space Strategy

Assessment ID	IIA-000011
Lead Author	Tim Stephen
Additional Authors	Glynis Buchan, Lynne Gravener
Service Reviewers	John Cornfield
Subject Matter Experts	Susan Forbes, Joel Evans, Lynne Gravener, Christine McLennan
Approved By	Avril Nicol
Approved On	Thursday May 20, 2021
Publication Date	Thursday May 20, 2021

# 1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

Assessment of impact of the Aberdeenshire wide Pitch and Open Space strategy.

During screening 7 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 4 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change

In total there are 16 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 2 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by [avril.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:avril.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

## 2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

## 3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	No Negative Impacts Identified
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	No Negative Impacts Identified
Town Centre's First	Not Required

## 4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

### 4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe	Yes			
Healthy	Yes			
Achieving		Yes		
Nurtured		Yes		
Active	Yes			
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included		Yes		

### 4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 12 - Respect for the views of the child Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture
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### 4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Active	Improved access to sports pitches, encouraging informal use of community pitches & public parks
Healthy	Improved access to pitch spaces, encouraging informal use of community pitches
Safe	Pitch spaces will be categorised and sports pitches appropriately maintained

### 4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Community Learning & Development	Awaiting feedback	Will continue to engage with CLD to, in turn, engage with young people

### 4.5. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

Contact made with Dougie Findlay to ensure that young people are engaged with the process

### 4.6. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

This proposal will see improved access to grass spaces so this will help support and promote children/young people's wellbeing. It should also see an improvement in the quality of grass spaces so will help to safeguard children/young people

## 4.7. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Pitch strategy focusses on improving (and investing) in existing areas and promoting more local ownership. It is expected, therefore, to significantly improve access to pitches and outdoor spaces by all sections of the community. It is not expected that there will be any detriment as a result.

## 5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

### 5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex	Yes			
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

### 5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth	Yes			
Material deprivation	Yes			
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

### 5.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Younger)	Development of Pitch strategy will facilitate improved access to both outdoor competitive sport and general access to outdoor sport for young people and children , either through organised groups (via enhanced booking and ownership) or informally through areas identified as predominantly for informal use.
Sex	The enhanced availability of pitches and outdoors space, as well as the focus on a wide range of sports will enhance and protect access by girls and womens group - either within individual sports (i.e football) or by protecting some minority sports (Hockey).
Low income	Development of categories of pitches and open spaces will ensure there is always available 'free ' space for groups to access

Impact Area	Impact
Low wealth	The focus on 'ownership' of pitches and open spaces by community clubs (through Pitch User Groups) does allow local groups to tailor use of pitches to local needs. In low wealth areas - there is the ability of PUGs to work with Live Life Aberdeenshire to give additional support where required.
Material deprivation	Development of Pitch strategy will facilitate improved access to both outdoor competitive sport and general access to outdoor sport for young people and children , either through organised groups (via enhanced booking and ownership) or informally through areas identified as predominantly for informal use. It is envisaged that there will be improvements to open spaces and community grass pitches which will see no charges levied

## 5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Research by Project Officers	Show the comparative supply of pitches by network area, and requirements of local user groups	Allows officers to prioritise development of areas by most need.

## 5.5. Engagement with affected groups

Carried put a range of network meetings combined with a telephone interview of all existing pitch users to gauge needs and identify issues. Every club or main user group given the opportunity to input into this.

In addition carried out network meetings prior to engagement with officers from Landscape services, area offices, and economic development.

## 5.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Tried to ensure we spoke to every user group, and from there every team manager.

Network meetings involved discussion of area plans with a particular emphasis on taking learning identified from planning processes in relation to requirements of groups with protected characteristics.

## 5.7. Evidence of engagement

Evidence is available in recorded minutes of each of the referenced meetings and documented phone calls with groups.

## 5.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Pitch strategy focusses on improving (and investing) in existing areas and promoting more local ownership. It is expected , therefore , to significantly improve access to pitches and outdoor spaces by all sections of the community. It is not expected that there will be any detriment as a result.

## **5.9. Improving Relations**

A cornerstone of the policy is the development of Pitch User Groups, who would represent (fairly) local user groups, and take a significantly increased element of ownership of local Pitch management. Officers will continue to focus support to the development of these Pitch User Groups as a way of bringing user groups together.

## **5.10. Opportunities of Equality**

It allows each network to have a forum which can consider the best way of providing opportunities with the resources available in a group - taking input from other groups as well as advice from professional officers and governing bodies -rather than curret system of groups competing with each other for space.

## 6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

### 6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating	Yes			
Exercise and physical activity	Yes			
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health	Yes			

### 6.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Exercise and physical activity	Improvements to pitch spaces will increase access for both informal and formal use
Healthy eating	Improved access to sport may as a by product develop in interests in diet and lifestyle as a means of improving sports performance.
Mental health	Improvements to pitch spaces and subsequently increase in access and increase in physical activity will in turn have a positive impact on mental health

### 6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Range of National Evidence carried out by Scottish Govt, sportscotland and NGBs of sport	Positive links between active lifestyles and improved indices of physical and mental positive health are well documented.	Encouraging more people to be increasingly physically active has positive overall health benefits. Impact of this can be improved wellbeing and reduced spending on health issues.

### 6.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Pitch and Open Spaces strategy is looking to invest and improve our pitches and open spaces to improve rates of physical activity in our population.

## 7. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

### 7.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition		Yes		

### 7.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment	Yes			
Quantity of environment	Yes			
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience	Yes			
Council resilience	Yes			
Community resilience	Yes			
Adaptation		Yes		

### 7.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Council resilience	Involvement of local Pitch User Groups will ensure that communities are not solely dependant on the council for the care and maintenance of pitches and open spaces, increasing community resilience and reducing reliance on the council.
Infrastructure resilience	The establishment of Pitch User Groups and therefore community groups and relevant council staff working collaboratively will ensure that the infrastructure can deal with climate change moving forward
Quality of environment	It is anticipated that the strategy will result in improved greenspaces, improved protection for greenspaces and better co-ordinatin between 'planned' greenspace and 'wild' greenspace.
Quantity of environment	It is envisaged that, through Pitch User Groups and working with Greenspace team, that spaces not required for sports use will be identified and can be re-categorised & identified for additional biodiversity

Impact Area	Impact
Community resilience	Establishment of local Pitch User Groups will encourage community groups to work together, not independently for the greater good

## 7.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Aberdeenshire Council Policy - Pollinator action plan	Emphasis on making ground available for wildflowers	Ensuring some green space is protected for wildflowers which then promote biodiversity.

## 7.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

Pitch strategy seeks to increase the amount of greenspace available and is not expected, therefore, to impact on sustainability and climate change.

## 8. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Speak to Dougie Findlay about sharing of information with youth forums	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Glynis Buchan</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> No</p> <p><b>Planned Start</b> Monday May 17, 2021</p> <p><b>Planned Finish</b> Monday May 24, 2021</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> Relevant information shared</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> n/a</p>
Continue developing Pitch User Groups in each area	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Glynis Buchan</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> No</p> <p><b>Planned Start</b> Sunday May 16, 2021</p> <p><b>Planned Finish</b> Sunday April 03, 2022</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> Continued community ownership of strategy.</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Officer time (approx 10 hrs per week) though much of this will be carried out by officers in the customer care team.</p>