

Cabinet

7th November 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing – Councillor K Caan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Business, Investment & Culture

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)

Is this a key decision?

Yes - the proposals are likely to have a significant impact on residents or businesses in two or more electoral wards in the city.

Executive summary:

The PPOSS serves as a strategic framework that guides the future development of the city's outdoor sports pitches and facilities. Last produced in 2014, this Strategy, recommended for regular reviews, gauges the city's outdoor sports facility demands.

The PPOSS evaluates Coventry's current pitch and outdoor sport stock – as well as supply and demand, pinpointing deficiencies and areas needing quality upgrades for sports like football and cricket. It sets objectives for pitch development, maintenance, and management, potentially suggesting facility enhancements, new pitch installations, maintenance standards, and collaborations with sports entities for effective delivery.

The PPOSS enables the council to utilise Section 106 funding for new and existing projects while ensuring that any related development undergoes financial evaluation to maximise cost-effectiveness and minimise risks.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended:

- 1) To approve and adopt the Coventry Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Business Investment and Culture, following ongoing consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport, to take all necessary, incidental or ancillary actions deemed appropriate to implement the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS).

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Document and Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy Site Assessment Report

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Title of Report: Approval of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)

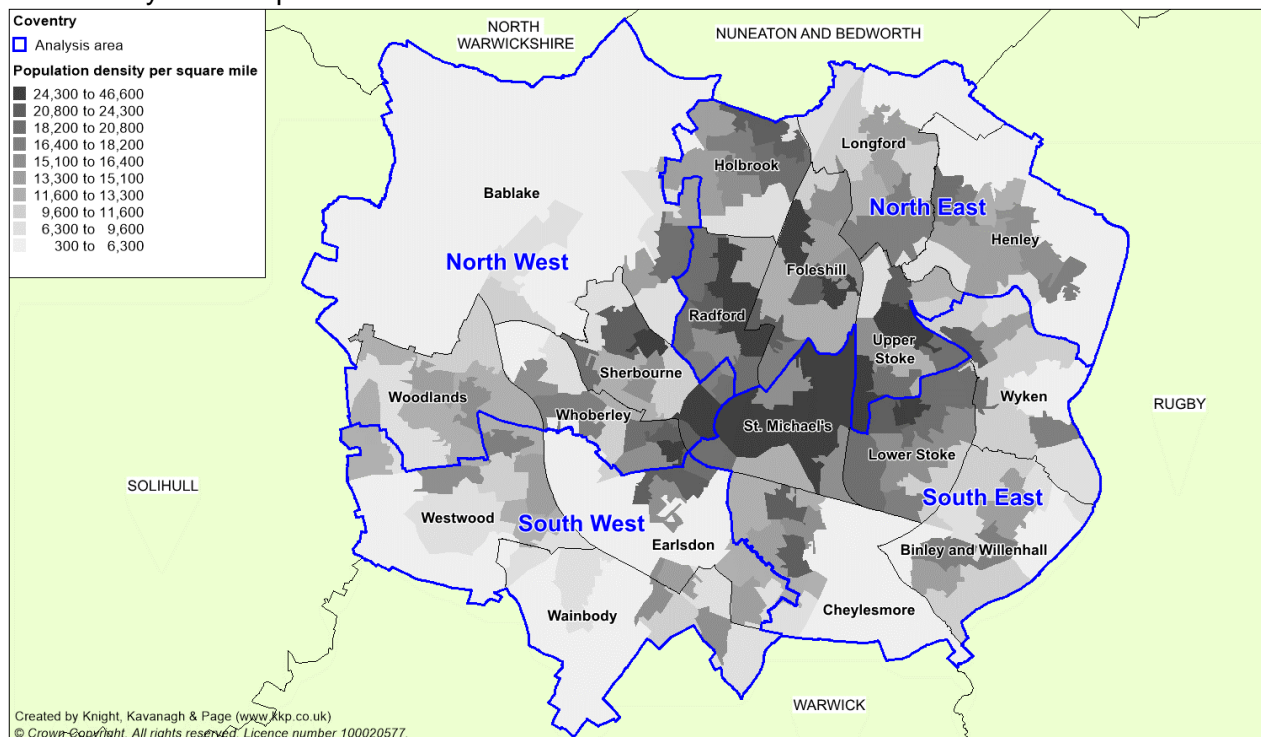
1. Context (or background)

- 1.1** The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Coventry is an evidence-based technical document that outlines the city's approach to promoting and enhancing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities. The Strategy's primary objective is to ensure the provision of high-quality, accessible, and sustainable playing pitches for various sports throughout the city.
- 1.2** Coventry last adopted the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy in October 2014 as part of the first city wide sports strategy in over a decade.
- 1.3** The PPOSS was adopted and is recommended to be refreshed by local authorities as part of national PPOSS guidance, and the refreshed strategy is an essential document to help understand the demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports across the local authority boundary.
- 1.4** The previous PPOSS has been a useful document to help the Council, and its partners such as local community clubs, and education establishments. It has also helped to address the deficit of 3G artificial pitches in the North East of the City with new facilities being installed as part of the Strategy.
- 1.5** In addition, the impact on Cricket locally has seen investment in artificial wickets across the city and in cricket nets in Edgwick Park. The drive towards increasing physical activity across the city has also helped with securing investment in fitness equipment and accessible walking/running routes, alongside sporting provision, within local parks.
- 1.6** The Strategy has also helped to secure Section 106 contributions linked to housing developments, to protect against the loss of playing fields, and has helped to guide the investment from national funders such as the Football Association, Football Foundation and England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).
- 1.7** The Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Coventry has been developed with specialist sports consultants Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) after extensive research and consultation with relevant local, regional, and national stakeholders. This comprehensive Strategy aims to address the current and future needs of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities across Coventry.
- 1.8** The PPOSS assesses the existing supply and demand for different types of pitches, such as football, rugby, cricket, and hockey. The assessment identifies any deficiencies or areas of quality improvement required to enhance, secure, and develop the pitches and ancillary facilities. The Strategy outlines the key objectives and priorities for the development, maintenance, and management of playing pitches in Coventry. It includes recommendations for facility upgrades, construction of new pitches, maintenance standards, and partnerships with sports clubs and organisations to enable this to be delivered.
- 1.9** The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's National Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:
 - ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
 - ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
 - ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
 - ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy
 - ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date

1.10 The study area comprises the whole of the Coventry City Council administrative area. Moreover, for the purposes of this project, Coventry has been divided into four analysis areas – which were agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport and which link to the provisions of the Coventry Green Space Strategy 2019-2024.

1.11 This is based on grouping wards together and reflects how sport is played in the city as well as the travel patterns of users, as agreed by the Steering Group. This allows for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surplus and deficiencies at a local level and allows for local circumstances and issues to be considered.

1.12 Study area map:



1.13 The first phase of the PPOSS development was to create an Assessment Report (Appendix 2), followed by the PPOSS Strategy document (Appendix 1) which provides a clear, strategic framework in relation to the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities.

1.14 The new, proposed PPOSS will work towards delivering strategic objectives for the city including:

- ◀ A vision for the future protection, improvement and development of provision
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations and scenarios
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area and site-by-site action plan that prioritises and can address key issues.

1.15 The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be for three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly reviewed and kept up to date through local, regional and national partnerships.

1.16 Where not already implemented, the recommendations that come out of this Strategy should be translated into local planning policy so that there is a mechanism in place to protect existing provision and to secure investment where the opportunity arises.

1.17 The sports team in Coventry City Council (along with Sport England as a statutory consultee) are consulted on planning applications to ensure that adequate sporting provision is provided with any new housing development. To calculate the contribution required, the Council has adopted the use of Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) to provide an accurate request for funding contributions to the specific priorities laid out in the PPOSS Action Plan.

2. Results of consultation undertaken:

2.1 In line with national guidance for the development of the PPOSS presented by Sport England, it is essential that consultation is undertaken with a series of stakeholders, with a steering group established comprising of national partners from all the appropriate National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's).

2.2 Coventry's PPOSS Steering Group included membership from the following organisations:

- ◀ Sport England
- ◀ Birmingham County FA
- ◀ Football Foundation
- ◀ Rugby Football Union (RFU)
- ◀ The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)
- ◀ England Netball
- ◀ England Hockey
- ◀ Bowls England
- ◀ British Crown Green Bowling Association
- ◀ Lawn Tennis Association
- ◀ England Golf
- ◀ England Athletics
- ◀ Coventry City Council – Sports Development, Parks & Open spaces, Planning, Public Health, and Education.

2.3 All the National Governing Bodies helped to correlate and review the data that was sourced by KKP on their assessment of playing pitches and ancillary facilities, thereby providing a check and challenge to the accuracy of the data provided. This included up to date team data, membership information, pitch configuration and club status.

2.4 The next phase was the PPOSS consultation with local clubs, groups, and organisations, which is one of the most important parts of PPOSS development, to ensure the local voice of key organisations contributes to the development of the strategy.

2.5 The consultation was extensive and the number of teams and organisations that contributed are highlighted below.

- ◀ 46 Football clubs representing 320 individual teams
- ◀ 13 Cricket clubs
- ◀ 12 Rugby Union clubs
- ◀ 4 Hockey clubs
- ◀ 13 Bowls clubs
- ◀ 2 Tennis clubs
- ◀ 6 Netball clubs
- ◀ 5 Athletics/running clubs
- ◀ 5 Golf clubs

2.6 Due to the high percentage of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities located within school sites, the focus for schools to be part of the consultation was also essential.

2.7 The number of local schools that took part in the consultation was 17 Secondary schools, 62 primary schools (+ Higher Education and Further Education establishments).

2.8 For example, as the most participated-in sport in the city, Football was a key focus area for consultation. The table below outlines the numbers of players that were consulted with, with the support of Birmingham County Football Association via the main point of contact at the club, representing and providing important local knowledge and future priorities into the process.

Adult Female	104
Adult Male	2624
Male Disability	26
Mini Soccer	1253
Walking Football	41
Youth Female	425
Youth Male	2681
Grand Total	7154

2.9 Other grass pitch sports, like Lacrosse and American Football are also included, where there is a presence within the city. Where no activity has been identified, the sports are not included. This is not to say that these sports are not played informally in the city, but structured consultation for a PPOSS takes place with organisations that are affiliated to each respective National Governing Body (NGB).

3. Headline Findings and Recommendations:

3.1.1 The existing position from the PPOSS assessment for all sports is either (i) that demand is being met or (ii) there is a shortfall. However, the future PPOSS position (reflecting future projected demand and supply) shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of additional shortfalls for some pitch/facility types and in some areas where demand is currently being met.

3.1.2 The reason for future shortfalls links heavily to the population growth that has been linked to the Local Plan projections.

3.1.3 In summary, the below bullet points demonstrate the headline findings for all the major sporting activities.

- ◀ Current shortfalls evidenced for youth 11v11 Football pitches and future shortfalls for youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.
- ◀ A current shortfall of 2 full size 3G pitches and a future shortfall of 3.5.
- ◀ A large current and future shortfall for Rugby Union pitches.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity for Cricket, but a future shortfall.
- ◀ Sufficient provision for Hockey, Bowls, Athletics and Golf.
- ◀ Shortfall of Tennis provision to meet recreational demand.
- ◀ Shortfall of Netball capacity for clubs and leagues.

Strategy Overarching Recommendations

3.1.4 The overarching recommendations for the PPOSS priorities across all sports are detailed below.

- ◀ Protect existing provision.
- ◀ Improve quality, with priority placed on larger sites that are poor quality and/or overplayed.
- ◀ Seek to gain access to sites that are currently unavailable for community use (i.e. schools).
- ◀ Provide security of tenure to clubs, where appropriate.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a need to do so.
- ◀ Establish additional 3G pitches in strategic areas and at strategic sites.

- ◀ Explore the creation of additional pitches for Rugby Union and Cricket in areas of need.
- ◀ Explore the creation of additional sports lighting where it can aid participation (particularly for Rugby Union, Tennis and Netball).
- ◀ Secure developer contributions from planned housing growth to improve provision and ensure partnership work locally (e.g. with NGBs).

3.2 Findings by Sports – Demand Balance:

3.2.1 The following tables provide a comprehensive overview of the current supply and demand balance for various sports pitches and facilities in Coventry.

3.2.2 The tables detail the current status for each sport and facility type and offer projections for the expected supply and demand balance by the year 2040. This analysis will assist in understanding the immediate and future needs of the sporting community in Coventry.

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Football – grass pitches			
Coventry	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 13.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 4 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.75 match sessions	Shortfall of 11.75 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 8 match sessions	Actual spare capacity 8 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 5 match sessions
Football – 3G pitches			
Coventry	Full size	Shortfall of 2 pitches	Shortfall of 3.5 pitches

3.2.3 For Football, a key focus is on the current shortfall of two 3G pitches – which are both in the North West analysis area. The other analysis areas currently meet demand. Sites such as Woodlands Sports Complex, Coundon Court School and Cardinal Newman Catholic School are all sites which would be recommended as potential for further work to explore business plans and ascertain funding options.

3.2.4 A key priority for Football is addressing the significant 9v9 pitch shortfall projected for 2040. Measures should be taken to mitigate this gap and reduce its impact on users, whilst looking to bring education land into community use. In addition, protection against playing pitch loss will be an important factor in terms of planning consultation against any loss.

3.2.5 The below table showcases the current and projected 2040 supply-demand dynamics for senior cricket pitches in Coventry. Presently, there's a surplus of 48 match sessions, but by 2040, a deficit of 24 sessions is anticipated. The protection of existing pitches will be essential to meeting future demand.

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Cricket			
Coventry	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 48 match sessions	Shortfall of 24 match sessions

3.2.6 'Match sessions' are different to the amount of Cricket pitches required and should therefore be treated with this consideration. For example, for a 24-match session shortfall, then 5 good quality wickets or 6 standard quality wickets would be required.

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Rugby union			
Coventry	Senior	Shortfall of 34 match sessions	Shortfall of 41.25 match sessions

3.2.7 Rugby Union facilities in Coventry face current and anticipated shortfalls. Addressing these gaps should be prioritised and working with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), local facilities and local clubs will be essential to bridge the gap through the PPOSS Action Plan.

3.2.8 This can be achieved through improvements in current pitch stock – mainly at private club sites. These improvements will allow for increased capacity for matches as well as allowing for development of the sport within the community.

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Hockey			
Coventry	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

3.2.9 There are no immediate or future concerns for any shortfalls in outdoor Hockey facilities.

3.2.10 Focus should remain however, on protecting and improving the quality of these facilities.

3.3 The table below highlights the quantitative shortfalls for each pitch sport included within the PPOSS across the four analysis areas (North West, South West, South East and North East).

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
Football – grass pitches			
North East	Adult	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1 match session
North West	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 8 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 6.5 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Actual spare capacity of 4.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2 match sessions	Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 3 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions
South East	Adult	Actual spare capacity 1 match session	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 5.25 match sessions	Shortfall of 9.75 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Actual spare capacity 2.5 match sessions	Demand is being met
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 0.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity 0.5 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Actual spare capacity 2 match sessions	Actual spare capacity 1 match session
South West	Adult	Actual spare capacity of 4.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 2 match sessions

Analysis area	Pitch/facility type	Current supply/ demand balance	Future supply/demand balance (2040)
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 1 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 1.5 match sessions	Actual spare capacity 1.5 match sessions
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions
Football – 3G pitches			
North East	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
North West	Full size	Shortfall of 1.5 pitches	Shortfall of 2 pitches
South East	Full size	Shortfall of 0.25 pitches	Shortfall of 1 pitch
South West	Full size	Shortfall of 0.25 pitches	Shortfall of 0.5 pitches
Cricket			
North East	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
North West	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 48 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 24 match sessions
South East	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 24 match sessions
South West	Senior (Saturday)	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 24 match sessions
Rugby union			
North East	Senior	Shortfall of 11.75 match sessions	Shortfall of 14.5 match sessions
North West	Senior	Shortfall of 4.75 match sessions	Shortfall of 4.75 match sessions
South East	Senior	Shortfall of 9 match sessions	Shortfall of 9.5 match sessions
South West	Senior	Shortfall of 8.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 12.5 match sessions
Hockey			
North East	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
North West	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
South East	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
South West	Full size	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

3.4 Football – Grass Pitches:

- 3.4.1 North East: Current demands are mostly met. However, by 2040, there will be shortfalls in adult, youth (11v11, 9v9), and mini (5v5) categories.
- 3.4.2 North West: Currently, there's a significant spare capacity for adult and youth games, but some shortfalls in youth 9v9. By 2040, shortfalls increase notably in youth and mini categories.
- 3.4.3 South East: Current spare capacity for most categories, but there's a noticeable shortfall for youth 11v11. By 2040, shortfalls increase, especially in the adult and youth categories.
- 3.4.4 South West: Some spare capacity and minor shortfalls at present. By 2040, shortfalls in adult, youth, and mini categories increase slightly.

3.5 Football – 3G Pitches:

- 3.5.1 North East: Demand is currently met and will continue to be met by 2040.
- 3.5.2 North West: There's a current shortfall, which will slightly increase by 2040.
- 3.5.3 South East & South West: Minor current shortfalls that will increase by 2040.
- 3.5.4 In relation to Football, there is also a current and future shortfall of 3G pitches that can only be met through increased provision. To fully alleviate these shortfalls, new provision would be required in the North-West, South East and South West analysis areas.
- 3.5.5 In the North-West, sites such as the Woodlands Sports Complex (planning application submitted), Cardinal Newman Catholic School and Coundon Court School would be considered as key priority locations for development and investment of 3G pitches.

3.5.6 With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

3.5.7 When considering future shortfalls, two 3G pitches would be warranted in the North-West Analysis Area and one in the South East Analysis Area.

3.5.8 Grass football will see increasing demands in all regions by 2040. For 3G pitches, all regions except North-East will face shortfalls by 2040. Cricket sees increasing demands in South regions. Rugby union will continue to face challenges in meeting demands across all regions. Hockey has a stable demand and supply across all regions.

3.6 Cricket:

3.6.1 North East: Demand is met currently and will remain so by 2040.

3.6.2 North West: Significant spare capacity now, but it will reduce by 2040.

3.6.3 South East & South West: Current demands are met, but by 2040 there will be significant shortfalls.

3.7 Rugby Union:

3.7.1 All analysis areas: Currently experiencing shortfalls. By 2040, these shortfalls are expected to either remain constant or increase slightly across all regions.

3.8 Hockey:

3.8.1 All regions: Demand is currently being met and will continue to be met by 2040.

3.9 For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal activity.

3.10 In summary, therefore, the current and future picture for each sport is as follows:

Sport	Headline findings
Bowls	Supply is broadly sufficient to meet demand although there is a shortfall of capacity for two clubs. However, neither report any issue with this and therefore supply is considered sufficient.
Tennis	Club demand is being adequately met; however, there is a requirement to focus on informal activity at non-club courts and improving the recreational tennis offer (e.g., at local authority sites and schools).
Netball	There is a shortfall of capacity for clubs and league-based netball across the City. Focus should be placed on improving court quality and access to Xcel Leisure Centre as well as improved access to educational sites such as Ernesford Grange Community Academy and Coventry Blue Coat School.
Athletics	Supply is adequate to meet demand although quality improvements at Lyng Hall School Sports Centre are needed.
Golf	There is a good range of provision; however, each facility is meeting a clear need and further pressure is to be created following the impending loss of Windmill Village Hotel & Golf Club. Contributions from this development should be sought to improve golf provision elsewhere in Coventry, for example at Brandon Wood Golf Course where provision could be re-established / considered although investment is required to ensure the operation on site is viable.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal:

4.1 Option 1 – Approve and adopt the Coventry Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy. (Recommended)

- 4.1.1 Based on the thorough research, stakeholder consultation, and alignment with the City's strategic goals, Cabinet is recommended to approve the Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) for Coventry City Council.
 - 4.1.2 Its implementation will contribute to a healthier, more active population, enhanced community engagement, and a sustainable sports infrastructure.
 - 4.1.3 This strategy will serve as a blueprint for the development and maintenance of playing pitches and outdoor sport facilities in Coventry, meeting the needs of current and future generations. It will then inform the subsequent refresh of the Coventry Sports and Physical Activity Strategy.
 - 4.1.4 This is a policy development that has been supported across various Council departments and has been supported by Sport England, with the development of a PPOSS recognised as good practice for local authorities across England - to adopt in accordance with Sport England National Guidelines.
 - 4.1.5 Local clubs and their NGB's will utilise the adopted PPOSS for guidance on future development of their pitches and/or ancillary facilities and as a key reference point for any strategic external investment.
 - 4.1.6 The adoption of the PPOSS will align the Council to the framework set out by the Football Foundation and the FA - for example the Football Foundation's Artificial Grass Pitch Framework which supports with funding and planning for the installation of 3G pitches.
 - 4.1.7 The PPOSS will identify sites which require improvements to enhance existing sport and physical activity provision, as well as supporting new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity to meet identified needs.
 - 4.1.8 The adoption of the PPOSS will also support planning decisions to protect playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities and to inform future S106 investments in the city to maintain and develop facilities that enable people to lead active lifestyles in their local communities.
- 4.2 Option 2 – To not adopt the Coventry Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (Not Recommended).**
- 4.2.1 If the Council chooses not to adopt the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, it would go against national guidance and would not enable Coventry to plan strategically for playing pitches and outdoor sports.
 - 4.2.2 If the PPOSS is not adopted, it would prevent opportunities to request and make the case for Section 106 funding from any future developments, thus reducing the benefit and opportunity for local people to access the best playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities, and ancillary facilities. This in turn will affect the health and wellbeing of local residents by reducing participation opportunities.
 - 4.2.3 Not adopting the PPOSS would further reduce the opportunity for potential funding from national partners (i.e. National Governing Bodies (NGB's)) as their investment would need to align to a city wide strategy. Overall, it would reduce the impact of any future investment into local playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities.
 - 4.2.4 The PPOSS allows for the future development of a refreshed Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, as the development of facilities including playing pitches, outdoor sport facilities and indoor facilities will be essential to support the development of the overarching strategy.

4.2.5 If the PPOSS was not adopted, it would further affect Sport England as a statutory consultee for planning, as they use the PPOSS document to help to protect playing fields across the city.

5. Timetable for implementing this decision

5.1 Subject to approval of the recommendations contained within this report, the Strategy will be adopted as a policy of the City Council with immediate effect.

5.2 The subsequent implementation of the Strategy will be managed and reviewed by the PPOSS Steering Group – with regular updates to the relevant Cabinet Member(s).

6. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Chief Legal Officer

6.1 Financial implications

6.1.1 There are no financial implications from the PPOSS as it creates a strategic framework under which to help protect, enhance and provide the right combination of playing pitches and outdoor sports areas with ancillary facilities in order to meet the current and future demand of the city, to maximise the effect of existing budget, to attract investment and funding from a wide range of sources.

6.1.2 The PPOSS will allow for the Council to request Section 106 funding to support future developments, existing improvements, or maintenance contributions to support the delivery of the PPOSS.

6.1.3 Any developments (that the Council were responsible for) within the associated action plan would go through a business planning process to ensure projects would be financially viable and delivered in the most cost effective and efficient way with minimal financial risk to the council.

6.2 Legal implications

6.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework ("NPPF") provides that planning policies should be based upon robust and up to date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreational facilities. Information gained from these assessments should be used to determine what recreational provision is needed.

6.2.2 The PPOSS is one of the strategies which will assist the City Council in meeting the requirements of the NPPF and ensure that there is a robust evidence base to support the delivery of playing pitch provision. Furthermore, it will inform individual development control decisions.

6.2.3 Not to adopt the PPOSS would leave the City Council at risk in respect of future decision making on planning applications which will impact on the provision of playing fields and related facilities.

6.2.4 The City Council also has general duties in respect of the promotion of health and wellbeing and this strategy will support the City Council's ability to satisfy this duty.

6.3 Other implications

6.3.1 The implications on local clubs and their NGB's will mean that they will be able to refer to the adopted PPOSS for guidance on future development of their pitches and/or ancillary facilities.

- 6.3.2** There will be a requirement for the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport and Council officers to regularly review the PPOSS to ensure that it is kept up to date and the associated Action Plan is being followed.

How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

- ❖ **Increasing the economic prosperity of the city and region** – strengthening the position of the Council and partners with funders such as Football Foundation and Sport England, to invest into the City’s playing pitch stock. Such investments and improvements, will position the Council and partners to better be able to develop, improve and maintain facilities, thus resulting in increased revenue generated from hire charges and/lease fees.
- ❖ **Improving outcomes and tackling inequalities within our communities** – The PPOSS will help to improve local pitches to allow for wider and greater participation in formal and informal sport and physical activity. It will allow any investment into priority communities where need is greatest and where access to quality facilities can be limited. This was demonstrated in course of the last PPOSS, through use of the Strategy recommendations and findings helping to provide more 3G artificial pitches into the North East area.
- ❖ **Tackling the causes and consequences of climate change** – allowing opportunities for the upgrading of ancillary facilities such as changing rooms will enable them to become more environmentally friendly. Such upgrades will accommodate improved utilities in many situations. This would be in support of citywide climate interventions and strategies – including the Coventry Climate Change Strategy 2023 – 2030.
- ❖ **Continued financial sustainability of the Council** – The PPOSS will increase options for grant funding that can be accessed with a fully adopted Strategy, and will provide a clear vision to most effectively utilise and prioritise provision. The PPOSS will enable the strategic direction of Section 106 contributions to be made with an evidence base that will benefit local community facilities.
- ❖ **Council’s role as a partner, enabler, and leader** – The Council is a leader and enabler for the City’s PPOSS on improvements to playing pitches across the city. It allows for funding bids to be led and disseminated to the most appropriate organisations. The Council’s sports department are consulted on all planning applications that are affected by the PPOSS including new housing developments. Leading in this role, the Council in partnership with National Governing Bodies of sport will empower grassroots sports clubs, education settings and community organisations to support the development of playing pitches, outdoor sports and ancillary facilities where this links to the strategy or action plan.

7. How is risk being managed?

- 7.1** Coventry City Council, with support from the PPOSS Steering Group, will continue to work with national partners, local clubs and groups to keep the PPOSS up-to-date and in line with relevant Sport England guidelines. This will include recognising changes to demand, facilities and any potential loss/gain of pitches for the community that are associated with the Strategy.
- 7.2** Regular briefings with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport will allow for updates and progress reports to assist with managing any risk.
- 7.3** The focus for any development, both capital and revenue, will be on those sites in the associated Action Plan (Appendix 1) in priority order – i.e. Low, Medium and High priorities. This will help to prioritise resources but will also help to mitigate any identified risks via management of a risk register, supporting officers to appropriately prioritise capacity.
- 7.4** These rankings of priorities were determined after site assessments, as well as through the demand balance exercise which is outlined in *2.6 Headline findings and recommendations*.

7.5 All developments will need to be fully investigated to ensure that they are financially viable and are in the best locations to deliver local needs. This is where the Council will act as enabler to ensure that partners are brought together to achieve the outcomes within the PPOSS Action Plan.

8. What is the impact on the organisation?

8.1 The PPOSS is an essential planning document for the City Council, but it also provides the framework for all organisations across this city linked to the protection, maintenance and development of playing pitch, outdoor sports and ancillary facilities across the city.

8.2 There is no financial commitment specified in the PPOSS for the City Council, however it does provide a strategic context for the Council to secure funding linked to housing developments and from national funders to help to meet the demand requirements of the Strategy.

8.3 Strengthening the position of the Council with funders such as the Football Foundation and Sport England, to invest into the City’s playing pitch stock, will continue to be essential for the Steering Group.

8.4 The PPOSS should also lead to the improvement of playing pitch stock for City residents, allowing for increased opportunities for formal and informal sport/physical activity.

8.5 Alignments with relevant City strategies and wider objectives include with the One Coventry Plan, the Local Plan, Coventry Sports Strategy 2014-2024, Coventry Green Space Strategy, the Education Capital Strategy and Climate Change Strategy.

8.6 The PPOSS will also help with the development of the refreshed Sport and Physical Activity Strategy in the coming months, but providing a clear evidence base and set of priorities.

9. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

9.1 Consultation (as highlighted in 2.5 above) was undertaken by KKP on behalf of the Council, with consultation taking place with National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB’s), local clubs and groups. The number of people that were represented is highlighted by the football example below with the number of members from the 320 football teams.

9.2 The Table below outlines the numbers of players that were consulted with support from Birmingham County Football Association via the main point of contact at each club, representing and providing important local knowledge and future priorities into the process.

Adult Female	104
Adult Male	2624
Male Disability	26
Mini Soccer	1253
Walking Football	41
Youth Female	425
Youth Male	2681
Grand Total	7154

9.3 The consultation included responses from a number of disability sports clubs such as Coundon Court Football Club, Coventry University and Sky Blues in the Community.

9.4 As the Council progresses projects and/or schemes within the Action Plan, where appropriate EIAs will be developed for each individual proposal, alongside any associated business planning.

- 9.5 Council officers will continue to engage with partners, stakeholders, and users from protected characteristic groups to support the delivery of the Action Plan in the areas of most need.
- 9.6 The PPOSS Steering Group, which will be continued, will support the delivery of any EIAs as part of any planned developments.

10. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment.

- 10.1 The PPOSS does not give specific recommendations for climate change and environment but allows for opportunities to prioritise and support the upgrade of ancillary facilities such as changing rooms, to accommodate improved utilities services and improved efficiency within any new or upgraded development.

11. Implications for partner organisations?

- 11.1 In partnership with the Council - National Governing Bodies, sports clubs and organisations will be guided by the City's PPOSS to inform their focus of development – both in planning for participation and in capital investments, maintenance and the protection of sites.
- 11.2 The PPOSS will allow local organisations to apply for funding for projects that are of strategic priority or are referenced in the PPOSS Action Plan.

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