REPORT TO CABINET

Open/~~Exempt~~		Would any decisions proposed:	
Any especially affected Wards N/A	Operational	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	NO
		Need to be recommendations to Council	YES
		Is it a Key Decision	NO
Lead Member: Cllr. Simon Ring E-mail: *simon.ring@west-norfolk.gov.uk*		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr. Simon Ring	
		Other Members consulted: Environment & Community Panel.	
Lead Officer: Richard Allan E-mail: Richard.allan@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:07710760852		Other Officers consulted: Corporate Leadership Team. Tommy Goode, Siobhan Cleeve.	

Financial Implications	Policy/ Personnel Implications	Statutory Implications	Equality Impact Assessment YES/~~NO~~	Risk Management Implications	Environmental Considerations
NO	Yes – Town Plan implications	NO	If YES: Pre-screening~~/ Full Assessment~~	NO	NO

Date of meeting: Cabinet 23 September 2025

TITLE: PLAYING PITCH AND SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY ADOPTION

Summary

Local Authorities must adopt a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) based upon Sport England models to access funding towards capital developments and ensure ongoing support from Sport England. The strategies look at demand through to 2040 in line with the Local Plan with population and housing developments, quality of facilities, accessibility, inclusivity and take account of West Norfolk's natural uniqueness and environmental features.

PPS and SFS should be renewed every 3 years and adoption of these strategies by King's Lynn and West Norfolk would enable access to Sport England capital funding for facility developments.

The PPS identifies a need to protect existing facilities, gain community access agreements for school facilities, and attract developer contributions for facility developments. Key projects include:

- Development of additional 3G pitches
- Development of Padel courts,
- Development of non-turf cricket pitches
- Feasibility of netball specific facilities.

The SFS looks at population projections based on ONS and housing development targets which could lead to a population increase of 16% by 2040. Based on this, any future decisions of BCKLWN and any alternative authority set up, would be based on

the data contained within the strategies and Sport England/National governing body frameworks.

Implementing AND USING the Strategy

- We should look to adopt a policy of protecting existing facilities unless it can be proven that there is sufficient spare capacity to accommodate any displaced demand at other existing facilities in the borough or the facilities are replaced with new facilities.
- Work with clubs, landowners, parish councils, national governing bodies of sport, the private sector and other organisations to bring this strategy to fruition.
- The Strategies can be used to support:
  - Sports development planning
  - Planning Policy review
  - Planning applications reviews
  - CIL application priorities
  - Funding bids
  - Facility and asset management
  - Public health and tackling health inequalities
  - Coordinating resources and investment
  - Capital programmes

Recommendation

Recommendations to Full Council:

That Council agree to adopt the playing pitch and sports facilities strategies.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that any decisions around the provision of sport and leisure facilities within the borough are in line with the overall strategy.

1 Background

1.1 Ploszajski Lynch Consulting LTD (PLC) consultants were originally commissioned to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) which concluded in 2023.

1.2 With the current work being undertaken for the leisure investment plan and the need to finance any future projects we commissioned PLC to undertake a “Stage E” refresh of the strategies and bring them up to date. The strategies will now have a 3-year life span before they must be updated again.

1.3 The strategy reviews have included analysis of demand based on Sport England models, use of Sport England Facility Planning Models for Sports Halls and Swimming Pools and consultation with a range of National Governing Bodies, Active Partnership, Sport England and a range of consultants currently undertaking work for us.

2 Options Considered

2.1 The option to not adopt the policies would not be proposed at this time, as this limits both the financial and non-financial support that can be obtained through Sport England for

the current Leisure Development and future joint working projects. There are a number of other benefits of strategy adoption including: Sports Development planning; planning policy review; CIL application priorities; funding bid support; facility and asset management priorities; tackling public health inequalities (Marmot Place work), and coordination of future capital and revenue spend.

3 Policy Implications

3.1 The strategies have been produced in line with the objectives/policies of the currently adopted Local Plan to 2040. They will also form part of the preparation of the evidence base for a new Local Plan in the future.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 The adoption of policies would allow BCKLWN to apply for funding through Sport England, which could reduce the capital cost of current and future capital projects.

4.2 There are no direct costs associated with the adoption of the strategies, although future provision, capital developments, and revenue spend would be shaped by the contents of the strategies.

5 Personnel Implications

5.1 There will be no direct personnel implications from the adoption of the policy.

6 Environmental Considerations

6.1 Any future developments based on recommendations from the strategies will be in line with BCKLWN and Sport England Environmental policies to ensure best practice is achieved.

7 Statutory Considerations

7.1 There are no statutory considerations.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 Pre-screening report completed and attached

9 Risk Management Implications

9.1 There are no risk Management Implications from direct adoption of the policy. however, failure to adopt the policy could affect future funding streams from Sport England.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1 None

11 Background Papers

11.1 – Sports facilities Strategy document
11.2 – Playing Pitch Strategy document

Stage 1 - Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

For equalities profile information please visit Norfolk Insight - Demographics and Statistics - Data Observatory

Name of policy/service/function	Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports facilities Strategy			
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function? *(tick as appropriate)*	New	✓	Existing	
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations, and identify relevant legislation.	Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities strategies. The adoption of the policies by BCKLWN will allow more opportunities to achieve external funding from Sport England, along with shaping the strategic priorities for Leisure and Sports Provision within the Borough.			
Who has been consulted as part of the development of the policy/service/function? – new only *(identify stakeholders consulted with)*	Corporate Leadership Team, Tommy Goode, Siobhan Cleeve.			

Question	**Answer**				
1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service? Please tick the relevant box for each group. NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group. ***If potential adverse impacts are identified, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (Stage 2) will be required.*** **For more information on health inequalities please visit The King's Fund*		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			✓	
	Disability			✓	
	Sex			✓	
	Gender Re-assignment			✓	
	Marriage/civil partnership			✓	
	Pregnancy & maternity			✓	
	Race			✓	
	Religion or belief			✓	
	Sexual orientation			✓	
	Armed forces community			✓	
	Care leavers			✓	
	Health inequalities*			✓	
	Other (eg low income, caring responsibilities)			✓	

Please provide a brief explanation of the answers above: the strategies to be adopted look at the provision of playing pitches and sports facilities and doesn't go into detail on the layout, functionality, or

use of the facilities. Any impacts would be derived from these factors rather than the adoption of the policies.

Question	Answer	Comments
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	No	
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	No	
4. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	Yes / No	**Actions:** **Actions agreed by EWG member:** **…….**
If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary: **Decision agreed by EWG member: ……..**		
5. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	No	**Please provide brief summary:**

Assessment completed by: **Name**	**Richard Allan**
Job title	**Assistant Director – Leisure & Culture**

Date completed	**31st July 2025**		
Reviewed by EWG member		**Date**	

☐ **Please tick to confirm completed EIA Pre-screening Form has been shared with Corporate Policy** (corporate.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk)