

# Redditch Borough Council

## Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

An Executive Summary

December 2023



## 1 Introduction and Context

- 1.1. As set out in the Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy 2022-2032, Redditch Borough Council's Vision for future provision of leisure and culture in Redditch is:

***Healthier and happier communities actively engaged in leisure and culture.***

- 1.2. The Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy is an over-arching document, aligned to the Corporate Plan, comprising strategies for Parks and Open Spaces (including 4 Management Plans), Built Sports Facilities, Arts and Culture, and Playing Pitches. It recognises the contribution that leisure and culture can make to the achievement of our corporate and community priorities, and specifically community health and wellbeing.

### Purpose of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)

- 1.3. The PPOSS informs the Redditch Leisure and Culture Strategy and will guide future provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities to serve existing and new communities in Redditch.

### Methodology for developing the PPOSS

- 1.4. The PPOSS has been developed using the 2013 Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance ([https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport?section=assessing\\_needs\\_and\\_playing\\_pitch\\_strategy\\_guidance](https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance)), and for non-pitch sports the Sport England 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG)'.
- 1.5. Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing fields used in the last 5 years, and a consultee on other applications: it looks to improve the quality, access, and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand.
- 1.6. The key drivers for the production of the PPOSS as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities, as follows:
1. **Protect:** To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support site allocations and development management policies which will protect sports facilities and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership;
  2. **Provide:** To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that the best uses are made of existing resources – whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance the existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets; and

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3. **Enhance:** To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements (if on the infrastructure list) and Section 106 agreements. Sport England and the local authority can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding facility developments in the area.

### Appendices not included as part of Stage D

- 1.7. Stage D of the PPOSS, provides a summary of key findings, explores specific scenarios and makes recommendations for individual sports informed by work undertaken at Stages B and C.

### Stage E

- 1.8. Stage E of the PPOSS involves establishment of a Steering Group to oversee implementation of the recommendations, update the PPOSS when needed, and ensure ongoing dialogue with both Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) about pitch and outdoor facility provision.

### Recommendations

| Pitch Type/Facility         | Recommendations   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 3G Artificial Grass Pitches | <p>1.1 Protect the existing stock of 3G pitches, ensuring community use is kept.</p> <p>1.2 Development of at least 1 full size 3G pitch. The most appropriate location to be established by RBC, clubs, and community partners through further analysis at Stage E. If the chosen site for development is under educational ownership, a secure community use agreement is imperative to ensure community use at peak times (see Stage B for potential development locations).</p>   |
| Grass Football Pitches      | <p>2.1 Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided), in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.</p> <p>2.2 Work to reinstate currently disused Council owned football pitches into circulation to support current and future community usage. RBC should aim to bring all sites back into use however, priority should be given to reinstating adult and youth 11v11 pitches.</p> <p>2.3 Where pitches are disused, overplayed and/or assessed as 'Poor' or 'Standard' quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to a 'good' standard. Again, due to the current deficit, priority should be given to adult and youth 11v11 pitches, and the most significant impact could be made at Arrow Valley Park and Greenland's Playing Fields.</p> <p>2.4 Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer, particularly for women and girls. Priority should improve Greenland's Playing Fields facilities and delivering new ancillary facilities at Terry's</p> |

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| Pitch Type/Facility | Recommendations   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | Memorial Playing Field.   |
| Hockey              | <p>3.1 Protect hockey sites to ensure clubs have adequate access to good quality facilities</p> <p>3.2 Ensure there are enough pitches to meet demand in the future i.e. there must be at least one full size pitch available to the community in Redditch.</p>   |
| Rugby Union         | <p>4.1 Improve the drainage infrastructure at Redditch Cricket Hockey and Rugby Club and prioritise GMA inspections and reports at all community club sites in the study area.</p> <p>4.2 The development of a WR22 3G pitch, and its use to meet rugby training demand should be considered. Although any 3G pitch would be developed to meet the needs of football clubs in the first instance, if it was an appropriate specification for rugby union, some of Redditch RFC's training demand could be met.</p> <p>4.3 The development of an additional senior grass pitch at Redditch Cricket Hockey and Rugby Club, utilising the existing rugby union pitch at Terry's Memorial Field.</p> <p>4.4 Additional pitches in Redditch, but preferably at Redditch Cricket Hockey and Rugby Club, to be floodlit.</p>   |
| Cricket             | <p>5.1 Protect the existing supply of cricket provision, in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy.</p> <p>5.2 Improve pitch quality at Feckenham CC from standard to good.</p> <p>5.3 Refurbish or rebuild the existing ancillary provision at Feckenham CC.</p> <p>5.4 Improve existing or develop new non-turf wickets (NTP) to help meet junior cricket demand, therefore creating extra capacity on grass wickets for adult provision. The development of community use agreements would again be imperative for this. A priority site for NTP development is Astwood Bank CC.</p> <p>5.5 Addition of a 2nd square at Astwood Bank to help meet the club's current shortfall of provision</p>  |
| Tennis              | <p>6.1 Protect existing quantity of tennis courts and improve community access to them. This is particularly important at Redditch Borough Sports and Social Club, where it is important that the courts are reopened for community use. Responsibility of RBC, Sports Club, Facility Owners.</p> <p>6.2 Support grounds staff to review quality issues on courts to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good. Priority sites for quality reviews are Arrow Vale Sports Centre. Responsibility of LTA, RBC, and schools where appropriate.</p> <p>6.3 Ensure club future demand can be accommodated on existing supply of courts. Responsibility of LTA, RBC and Sports Clubs where appropriate.</p> <p>6.4 Ensure that any large housing developments provide for tennis and need is assessed by use of Sport England's ANOG Guidance.</p> |
| Netball             | <p>7.1 Protect existing quantity of netball courts. Responsibility of RBC, Sports Club, Facility Owners.</p> <p>7.2 Ensure club future demand can be accommodated on through existing indoor provision and supplemented through existing supply of outdoor courts, working with facility owners/managers to provide both indoor and outdoor netball. Responsibility of</p>  |

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| Pitch Type/Facility | Recommendations   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <p>England Netball, RBC and Sports Clubs where appropriate.</p> <p>7.3 Ensure that any large housing developments provide for netball, need should be assessed by use of Sport England's ANOG Guidance.</p> <p>7.4 Where developments would benefit from floodlights on site to provide additional evening capacity, work with facility owners to determine the viability of these investments.</p>   |
| Bowls               | <p>8.1 Protect existing quantity of all facilities. Responsibility of RBC, Sports Club, Facility Owners.</p> <p>8.2 Support grounds staff to review quality issues on greens to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good. Responsibility of Bowls bodies, RBC and Sports Clubs where appropriate.</p> <p>8.3 Ensure club future demand can be accommodated on existing supply of greens. Responsibility of Bowls bodies, RBC and Sports Clubs where appropriate.</p> <p>8.4 Work with clubs, RBC, and bowls bodies to further assess the need for improved ancillary facilities at White Hart Crown Green.</p> <p>8.5 Work with clubs to support development and growth of the sport.</p> |