

4 JULY 2019

COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

4 July 2019

- * Councillor John Redpath (Chairman)
- * Councillor Steven Lee (Vice-Chairman)

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| * Councillor Paul Abbey | Councillor Ann McShee |
| Councillor Andrew Gomm | * Councillor Ramsey Nagaty |
| * Councillor Gillian Harwood | * Councillor George Potter |
| * Councillor Diana Jones | * Councillor Jo Randall |
| * Councillor Ted Mayne | * Councillor Deborah Seabrook |

* Present

Councillor Pauline Searle was also in attendance.

C1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Gomm and Ann McShee. Councillor Chris Blow attended as a substitute for Councillor Ann McShee.

C2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Steven Lee was nominated as Vice-Chairman of the EAB for the 2019/20 municipal year.

C3 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

C4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the EAB held on 4 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

C5 PITCH STRATEGY PRESENTATION

Following introductions, the Parks and Landscape Manager gave a presentation in respect of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The presentation gave definitions of PPSs and outlined the proposed outcomes of the PPS, Sport England guidance, the scope of the PPS, facilities in the scope, sports in the scope, benchmarking of local pitch strategies, proposed governance, and resources and delivery. There would be links between the PPS and the Sports Development Strategy which was in its fourth year.

The proposed outcomes of the PPS were an assessment of the current quantity and quality of pitch provision and changing facilities, demand, and current and future capacity and need. These would enable provision of an evidence base to support decision-making, develop local standards of provision, justify developer contributions, help determine planning applications, prioritise resources and projects, identify opportunities for improving access to facilities, support delivery of other Council Strategies and services, and support National and Regional Governing body objectives.

The Sport England Guidance featured a ten step approach to developing and delivering a PPS.

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Within the scope of the PPS were Guildford Borough Council, parish council and club/sports organisation owned/managed facilities and private and non-private educational provision. Military provision fell outside the scope. Facilities within the scope were public and private grass facilities, artificial pitches, tennis courts, athletics tracks and changing facilities. The sports included in the scope were athletics, bowls, cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse, netball, rugby and tennis.

Local pitch strategies in Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking Boroughs were benchmarked for comparison purposes. The benchmarking related to the period of the strategies, the scope and learning, the contractor and the costs.

The proposed governance consisted of a Project Board to project manage delivery of the strategy and agree its scope, outcomes and objectives. Membership would be a director, relevant officers and Lead and other Councillors. There would also be a Steering Group to drive the Strategy's development and delivery of its actions and recommendations over the plan period. The suggested composition of the Group would be Parks and Countryside, Leisure Development, Planning Policy, National and Regional Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport England, Active Surrey County Sport Partnership, Surrey Sports Park/University and Guildford Education Partnership. Consultees would be local sports clubs, schools, sporting organisations and parish councils.

Resources and delivery featured use of external consultants to develop the PPS and undertake audits and assessments to ensure delivery in a timely fashion and to support the revision of the Council's Sports Strategy in 2020. The benefits included having neighbouring authority data / national data readily to hand, expertise to aid rapid delivery of the PPS and experience of Sport England methodology. The estimated delivery timescale was 18 months and the stages were reporting to the EAB, arranging a funding virement, establishing the Project Board, procuring consultants, setting up the Steering Group, and developing and adopting the PPS.

The following points arose from related questions and discussion:

- Although there were some good military facilities at Pirbright Camp, there was limited community use of them owing to security restrictions and they did not meet the criteria of the PPS;
- In terms of representation of small sports clubs on the Steering Group, member organisations such as the local Sports Council and Active Surrey would represent all sports and sports clubs irrespective of their size and consultation exercises would seek the views of all clubs;
- The PPS would provide evidence and justification for Section 106 funding and sponsorship.
- Although there was only one permanent athletics track in the Borough, located at the Spectrum, some schools had temporary tracks painted onto grass during the summer months.
- The PPS sought to cater for all ages.
- The health benefits of alternative sports such as Tai Chi, which was growing in popularity in the Borough, particularly for older people, were highlighted.
- Artificial grass was preferred to Astro Turf as it was generally more suitable for sports pitches unless the temperature fell below 5 degrees centigrade.
- Changing facilities should include provision of fresh drinking water and this would be taken into account when they were quality assessed. As Sport England standards were high and costly to meet, slightly lower standards were considered to be acceptable by some National Governing Bodies.

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- A mental health outreach project was seeking to promote the health and wellbeing aspects of sport as an incentive for people to participate.
- External consultants would be procured to deliver the Strategy and engaged using funding provided by a virement on a one-off basis to produce the PPS, which would then be implemented by the Council. The Strategy would assist with determining and justifying associated costs and increased running costs were not envisaged unless new provision was made. Community hire would provide a revenue stream.
- Improvement to existing pitches to prevent flooding etc was welcomed.

The Lead Councillor thanked the EAB for its positive engagement and input and sought nominations for four Councillors representing the different political groups to join the Project Board in order to progress the development and delivery of the PPS without delay. Councillors Paul Abbey, Steven Lee, Ramsey Nagaty and Jo Randall were nominated.

C6 EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

The EAB noted the Executive Forward Plan dated 18 June 2019.

C7 EAB WORK PROGRAMME

In response to the Chairman's invitation, Councillors submitted the following suggestions for future work programme topics:

- **Stoke Park**
It was suggested that thought could be given to considering the Stoke Park Masterplan in a holistic way with reference to other strategies and provision and need. However, the Masterplan had been considered by the Place-making and Innovation EAB on 15 October 2018 and the Lead Councillor stated that it may be more appropriate for Overview and Scrutiny to review this matter going forward.
- **Review of the Chantry View Campsite**
The review of Chantry View Campsite was raised as a possibility before the matter was determined by the Executive on 26 November 2019.
- **Homelessness**
As the number of homeless people in the Borough appeared to be increasing and their levels of need intensifying, it was suggested that consideration could be given to identifying an alternative means of assisting homeless people by tackling or preventing this problem. However, it was felt that this topic may align more closely with the remit of the Place-making and Innovation EAB.

The issue of holding landlords to account and checking that rental properties were adequately maintained was raised although it may be more appropriate for Overview and Scrutiny to review this matter.
- **Street Planting and Enhancements**
This suggestion involved enhancing the town entrances by additional planting, possibly making greater use of grass verges and other public spaces, subject to budget constraints.
- **Review of Community Assets**
As an asset management exercise was already being pursued by officers, it was suggested that the EAB may be able to contribute to it. Use of empty or underused Council owned and other buildings was raised and it was acknowledged that communities were able to submit applications to register assets of community value.

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- **Parks and Recreation**
This topic was being discussed with officers and feedback would be provided.
- **Promote Street Play Scheme**
Although there was statutory play provision for children of certain ages, it was felt that there were gaps in provision and a lack of provision for teenagers, which could lead to anti-social behaviour. The provision of a skate park was suggested as a possible solution. It was suggested that the EAB may wish to have some involvement through consultation in the review of the quantity, location and use of the areas which formed part of the Westborough/Park Barn Play Area Refurbishment Project.
- **Explore Opportunities for Volunteer Lead Activities for Young People**
It was noted that there was a local organisation named Matrix which organised activities for children. Further activities operated by a charity or social enterprise were welcomed.
- **Spectrum 2**
Involvement in the consultation associated with the possible replacement or refurbishment of the Spectrum Leisure Centre was suggested.

It was agreed that the list of suggested work programme topics be forwarded to the Leader of the Council to ascertain whether they fell within the EAB's remit and how, or if, they could be progressed.

C8 PROGRESS WITH ITEMS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE EAB

Progress with items previously considered by the EAB were noted.

The meeting finished at 9.00 pm

Signed

Date

Chairman