

Proposal form for items for consideration by Scrutiny Committee



Submitted by: Cllr Paul Millar

Date submitted: 23/02/2021

Item for Consideration: Implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 Review

Expected outcome (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, review and/or scrutinise the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas):

Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets; which will inform a new strategy.

Priority for matter to be considered (please tick):

High (up to 3 months)	X
Medium (3 to 6 months)	
Low (over 9 months)	

Basis on which priority has been set:

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control	x
b) It is a recently introduced policy, service area of activity which would be timely to review	x
c) It is a policy which has been running for some time and is due for review	x
d) It is a major proposal for change	
e) It is an issue raised via complaints received	x
f) It is an area of public concern	x
g) It is an area of poor performance	x
h) It would be of benefit to residents of the district	x

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?:

Outstanding Place and Environment, Outstanding Homes & Communities, Outstanding level of economic growth, productivity and prosperity

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?): Yes, the new Playing Pitch Strategy is now being developed and learning lessons from the previous strategy is vital. The sooner the lessons are learned, the sooner they can be considered as part of the new strategy.

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?:

A better Playing Pitch Strategy which is properly implemented and where decisions are made according to the strategy not against it.

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable? Yes

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness? Yes

Additional information – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

a, b, c and h are self-explanatory.

e, f and g- Exmouth forms a major part of the playing pitch strategy and yet it has taken five years the forfeiture of a former tenant to put one of the playing pitches - Warren View - out to tender, and no evidence of any focus on maintaining the pitches. Three usable playing pitches have now become one due to a failure of the Council to maintain and invest in them between 2015-2019.

In addition, it is concerning that at Brixington Park, an informal 11-a-side playing pitch was saved by Cllr Chapman and myself in terms of proposals for the site where officers had planned to install a concrete Multi Use Games Area in the middle of the field.

It was stated in a report to the Strategic Planning Committee on the date of submission of this form that "the previous Playing Pitch Strategy, from 2015, addressed playing pitch supply and need for [football, rugby union, cricket and hockey]"

However, the evidence suggests that in some areas we have been moving backwards. Indeed, due to the loss of playing fields at Rolle College, in Exmouth (added to the Warren View situation), we have fewer playing pitches than we had 10 years ago.

Therefore, a task-and-finish Scrutiny review (holding a number of Member meetings, not open to the public) will establish why this was allowed to happen, with a view of ensuring that officers seek to implement our Playing Pitch Strategy and where possible a situation prevailing of perfectly usable playing pitches to fall into dereliction, when the objective should be the direct opposite, to maximise their uses.

There may be consideration of the introduction of key performance indicators during the strategy to ensure the strategy stays on track.

Please can you return the completed form to Democratic Services via email to democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk.

MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

It is perfectly permissible for this matter to be subject to scrutiny for the reasons given. It will be for Scrutiny to decide whether it is necessary to look at this by way of a TaFF or whether it can simply be dealt with through the ongoing work programme of the Committee. Timings need to be considered to ensure that outcomes can feed into the work of delivering the new Strategy.

Date: 24.2.21