

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

EXECUTIVE - 14 JUNE 2004

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

FOR INFORMATION / ACTION

NAME OF WARD ALL

FP REF NO: ES-03/04-229

**REPORT TITLE : BRENT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2003-2008**

## **1.0 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with a covering report for the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy. The Strategy identifies issues affecting the use and management of playing pitches in parks and at other open spaces in the Borough. The role of various partners involved in the provision of improvement opportunities of playing pitches and ancillary sports facilities are summarised. The Strategy makes recommendations for improvement and details an action plan for delivery. The Playing Pitch Strategy provides detailed information that will contribute to the implementation of the Brent Sports Strategy.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive:

- 2.1 Note the results of the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy 2003-2008 are as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Agree the Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan as set out in paragraph 9.3 of the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy 2003-2008 (**Appendix A**).

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Brent Parks Service (BPS) will be able to commence implementation of the Playing Pitch Action Plan within existing budgets and by working in partnership with other providers. (Suggest: However, the full programme of improvements including those to modernise changing facilities, for the drainage of pitches and for other improvements will require capital finance over a number of years, in addition to on-going revenue finance for maintenance). Where opportunities arise the service will seek external funding to deliver specific elements of the strategy. In the current 2004/2005 financial year, £203k from the Parks Capital Programme and c. £200k from the John Billam Capital receipt will be available for use to implement the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy.

## **4.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any additional staff costs resulting from the Playing Pitch Strategy will be found from within existing revenue budgets. Additional partnership and grant funding will be sought where possible.

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Brent promotes culture, leisure and physical activity primarily within outdoor pitches. Improvements to outdoor facilities including sports pitches and the development of outdoor informal opportunities for sport will help to improve environmental quality in the Borough.

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Strategy is however a component part of the PPG 17 process (Planning Policy Guidance). As such the Playing Pitch Strategy will also be a component of the Borough's Parks and Open Space Strategy.

## **7.0 DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Analysis of consultation has identified that there is a lack of knowledge about what facilities should be provided to make parks and spaces more attractive to user-groups within the community. These groups include young people, people from black and minority ethnic groups, disabled people, older people; and women and girls. Further research with specific focus groups will be necessary to find out the needs of hard to reach groups.

## **8.0 DETAIL**

- 8.1 This Strategy was carried out by leisure consultants McAlpine, Thorpe & Warriar Ltd on behalf of Brent Borough Council and covers the team sports of football, cricket, rugby union, hockey and Gaelic football. It follows the latest Sport England Guidelines for Playing Pitch Strategies and was developed with officers through the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group, made up of Planning, Parks Service, and Sports Service, together with Sport England (who funded part of the Strategy through the New Opportunities Fund: Playing Fields and Community Green Spaces Programme), Stonebridge Housing Action Trust, and other invitees. A copy of the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy 2003-2008 ("the Strategy Report") is set out in **Appendix A**.
- 8.2 The study incorporates the results of a detailed analysis of the supply of pitches, the condition of local authority owned playing pitches and their ancillary facilities, the current and future demand for pitches and the adequacy of supply to meet this demand. The strategy will be reviewed after 3 years during 2006/7.
- 8.3 During the study, comprehensive surveys were undertaken of all relevant sports clubs in Brent together with all primary and secondary schools and colleges. Consultations were carried out with local authority and regional officers for the governing bodies of each sport as well as the league secretaries of the many competitive leagues in the borough. A list of consultees is shown in Appendix 1 to the Strategy Report. The information from the

surveys and consultation was analysed using the methods explained in the Strategy Report. This primarily employed a nationally recognised methodology for Playing Pitch Strategies, as outlined by Sport England and Planning Policy Guidance 17. Further comments from the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group and from the results of the Playing Pitch Strategy were itself used in the preparation of the Action Plan.

- 8.4 A site inspection survey was conducted at all the local authority owned football pitches. The results for Brent are set out in Appendix 5 to the Strategy Report. The survey included an assessment of both the condition of the pitches and the ancillary facilities.
- 8.5 The findings of the playing pitch strategy have been used to set appropriate local standards of playing field provision in each of four sub-areas within Brent (North, South, East and West of the Borough). The strategy will be used to link with the aims and objectives as well as inform documents such as the Sport Strategy, Open Space Strategy and the review of the Unitary Development Plan. The Playing Pitch Strategy will also contribute to meeting the aims and objectives of the Corporate Strategy in particular:
- Promoting quality of life and the green agenda
  - Regeneration and priority neighbourhoods
  - Achieving excellence
  - Tackling crime and community safety
  - Supporting Children and Young People.
- 8.6 The Playing Pitch Strategy has been guided by the requirements of the Government's Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG17). Any reduction in the need for formal recreation land must first be considered for use in meeting deficiencies in open space or other informal recreational uses. Disposal of recreational land is very much a last resort.
- 8.7 The Brent Playing Pitch Strategy makes a number of recommendations (section 9.2 of the Strategy) and the Action Plan is detailed at section 9.3 of the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy.

The Action Plan of the Brent Playing Pitch Strategy will be implemented through the following:

- Brent Sports Strategy
- Brent Parks Strategy
- Brent Parks Service Operational Plan
- Brent Parks Capital Programme
- Brent Unitary Development Plan
- Brent Open Space Strategy
- Partnership working with other organisations including Brent Sports, Brent Education, Arts and Libraries, schools, Brent Planning, sports clubs and other providers.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Details of Documents:**

Appendix A: Brent Playing Pitch Strategy 2003-2008: Intranet (Internet?) web-link:

Brent Draft Sports Strategy 2004 – 2008

Revised Deposit Unitary Development Plan 2001

Revised Parks Strategy 2004 - 2006

Parks Service Best Value Fundamental Service Review Report 2001

Parks Service Best Value Improvement Plan 2001-2006

- 9.1 Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Shaun Faulkner, Head of Parks, 660 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, HA0 2HB, Telephone 020 8937 3710.

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