

# **South Staffordshire Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan**

## **Addendum**

**Nov 2024**

## **Background**

South Staffordshire Council appointed Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to undertake a Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan which was published in September 2020.

The Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2037.

In line with the Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013), the PPS should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains up-to-date and relevant. This is the second annual update to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan.

The Council sought to engage with the sports National Governing Bodies (NGB's) and other relevant stakeholders during early 2024 to seek any updates to the Strategy and Action Plan. These included: Sport England, Football Foundation, Staffordshire FA, England Hockey, England and Wales Cricket Board, Staffordshire Cricket, Rugby Football Union, Lawn Tennis Association, England Golf, British Crown Green Bowling Association and the internal South Staffordshire Council leisure services team.

Relevant section of the Action Plan has been updated and provided in appendix A to this addendum.

The responses from stakeholders are provided in the table below.

## Table of Responses

Partner	Section	Response	Action required?
Sport England	Table of sites P71, site 9 – Brewood Playing Field	Application (24/00046FUL) approved for construction of a bowling pavilion and machine shed	Noted. Playing pitch strategy to be amended once completed.
Sport England	Table of sites P77, site 44 – Kinver High School	Application (20/00847/COND) Discharge of Condition 10, community use secured for indoor and outdoor sports provision. Increase in netball pitch provision from 5 to 6.	Amend Playing Pitch Strategy to reflect changes.
Sport England	22/00915/FUL Location – site 31 Great Wyrley High School	Change from hard court to Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).	Should the number of tennis or netball courts be amended to reflect this change?
Staffordshire FA	Table of sites P77, site 51 – Ounsdale High School	3G pitch built and operational.	Amendment was made as part of the 2022/23 update. .
Staffordshire FA	Table of sites P65, Site 17 - Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre	3G pitch has expired, update required on current status and program for surface replacement.	Noted. Addressed below.
Staffordshire FA	Table of sites – pitches not identified.	Improvements to a number of grass pitches identified but not yet actioned.	Noted. Playing pitch strategy to be amended once actioned.
Staffordshire FA	Update on teams playing.	Team numbers remained steady over past 12 months.	Noted.
RFU	Team Update	Wolverhampton RUFC reduction in men’s adult teams from 4 to 3. Fresh affiliation data will be available prior to next PPS update. This will provide a more accurate picture of senior playing numbers/teams.	Noted.

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Action required?</b>
RFU	Pitch Assessments.	Dudley Kingswinford (4 basic pitches) and Wheaton Aston & Penkridge (1 basic pitch), have undertaken pitch power reports.	Noted. Addressed below.
RFU	Social Space/Changing Room Improvements	Redevelopments as part of the Impact '25 programme to improve facilities and inclusivity for the women and girls' game.	Noted. Playing pitch strategy to be amended once completed.

In addition to the identified detailed changes (see Appendix A) there are a number of additional responses provided by the stakeholders which need to be noted for consideration alongside the 2020 Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan:

### Participation Rates

#### 3G Pitch, Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre

Surface has now expired and will require attention. This situation will need to be monitored to ensure that the pitch is able to continue to contribute to the 3G provision within the district.

**Contact leisure services for update on status for future PPS update.**

#### Staffordshire FA

The Staffordshire FA have provided a revision on teams playing to address data errors, the findings however have remained consistent and indicate that there has been a significant increase in participation which has confirmed the comments submitted to the 2023 Playing Pitch Strategy update.

Sports England have suggested that this increase should act as a trigger an update in the Playing Pitch Strategy to address the new situation in respect of football demand in comparison to demand.

**SSC Comment – This increase would suggest additional requirement for new facilities though the Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 did indicate that there was spare capacity in some areas of the district. The focus of the local plan is to promote the protection of the existing supply of sites and to make provision to accommodate the impacts of new development on sports facilities. In this respect the Publication Local Plan 2024 supports the finding of the Playing Pitch Strategy and provides policy protection for existing facilities and has introduced a requirement for new provision/contributions to be provided in relation to strategic residential sites and a contribution from non-strategic sites based on the Sports England’s playing pitch calculator.**

#### Staffordshire RFU

The Rugby Football Union report that surveys undertaken into pitch quality at Dudley Kingswinford RFC. The club is about to enter Year 1 of a grass pitch maintenance grant for all 4 basic pitches. This will enable the club to carry out key maintenance recommendations and hopefully bring the pitch quality rating up to ‘good’ or better over the next 1-6 years.

**SCC Comment - Improvements once complete to be reflected in future updates.**

### Other

#### **Golf**

Permission has been granted (24/00276/FULM) in July 2024 for: *‘alterations and extensions to clubhouse, replacement of driving range including modified lighting and fencing; Additions to driving range to include re-located golf shop with ancillary office, seating and refreshment area and buggy etc. Store and erection of 2no padel courts’*. This will be incorporated into a future full strategy and action plan update.

## **Conclusion**

It is concluded that the findings of the 2020 Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan still remain relevant in relation to policy requirements which have been reflected in the Publication Draft Local Plan. The findings of the FA regarding team formation provide support to the plan policy requirement to protect the existing supply of sites and will act as a material consideration when determining any relevant planning applications through the Development Management process. The council will continue to monitor the situation regarding changes in demand and the quality of the existing playing pitch provision and this information will be used to inform a future update to the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan.

## Appendix A - Updates to the Action Plan

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>1</sup>	Cost <sup>2</sup>	Aim
44	Kinver High School	Netball	Education	<p>Five poor quality macadam netball courts that are floodlit but unavailable for community use.</p> <p>Two netball courts are expected to be lost in the development of a new sports hall on site.</p> <p>Increase in netball provision from five to six courts.</p>	<p>Improve court quality to better accommodate curricular demand.</p>	EN	Local	M	L	L	<p>Protect</p> <p>Enhance</p> <p>Provide</p>
31	Great Wyrley Academy	Tennis	Education	<p>Five standard quality macadam tennis courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.</p> <p>Has this decreased with the provision of the MUGA?</p>	<p>Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights on site to better accommodate community use and potential LTA projects e.g. Clubspark.</p>	LTA EN	Local	L	L	L	<p>Protect</p> <p>Enhance</p> <p>Provide</p>
		Netball		<p>Four standard quality macadam netball courts that are available for community use but without floodlighting.</p> <p>Has this decreased with the provision of the MUGA?</p>	<p>Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance regime.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights on site to better accommodate community use and potential EN initiatives e.g. Back to Netball.</p>						

<sup>1</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>2</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above