

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

7 February 2006

Report of Director of Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Council

1 PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

A report on the above matter was considered by the Policy and Best Value Committee on 24 January 2006 as part of the Council's policy framework. Members are referred to that report and the recommendations contained therein.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Policy and Best Value Committee considered a draft Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) which, when approved by Council, would provide an important contribution to the Open Space Policy being prepared as part of the Local Development Framework. As such the approved Strategy would become a material planning consideration for deciding planning applications.

1.1.2 Members welcomed the preparation of the Strategy and endorsed its use for development control purposes in the interim period before it, possibly in an updated form, became part of the Open Space Policy in the Development Plan.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The Chief Solicitor has advised that the PPS is one of the "plans and strategies which together comprise the Development Plan". In accordance with the Articles of the Constitution, the executive is responsible for preparing the draft Plans/Strategies and submitting them to Council, and Council is responsible for approving and adopting the final Plans/Strategies.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 The PPS provides an important reference document for negotiations with developers regarding open space requirements and associated financial contributions.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 The PPS will protect the existing provision of playing pitches within the Borough and support the improvement and protection of these areas through the planning process.

1.5 Recommendations

1.5.1 The Policy and Best Value Committee recommended that:

- (1) Cabinet endorse the draft Playing Pitch Strategy for adoption by the Council; and
- (2) the Director of Planning and Transportation be requested to include in reports on housing development planning applications a reference, where appropriate, to the implications of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Background papers:

contact: Robert Styles

Policy and Best Value Committee agenda of 24
January 2006

Peter Wright
Director of Leisure