

Cabinet Agenda



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Date: 30 May 2013
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A meeting of the

Cabinet

will be held on Friday 7 June 2013 at 2.00pm
Council Chamber, The Abbey House, Abingdon, OX14 3JE

Cabinet Members:

Councillors

Matthew Barber (Chairman)
Roger Cox (Vice-Chairman)
Mike Murray
Reg Waite
Elaine Ware

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Democratic Services Officers know beforehand and they will do their very best to meet your requirements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Reed'.

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and vision

(Page 4)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting is attached. A link to information about nearby car parking is http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport/car_parking/default.asp

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as correct records the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 5 and 11 April 2013 (previously published).

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Statements, petitions, and questions relating to matters affecting the Cabinet

Any statements, petitions, and questions from the public under standing order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

6. Leisure and sports facilities study 2013-2029

(Pages 5 - 32)

To consider the report of the head of economy, leisure, and property.

7. Longworth Neighbourhood Plan Area designation

(Wards Affected: Longworth)

(Pages 33 - 38)

To consider the head of planning's report.

8. Exclusion of the public, including the press

The chairman to move that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in Section 100(I) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:

Tilsley Park

(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Exempt information under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

The council hereby gives notice that it intends to hold part of this Cabinet meeting in private to consider the following items for the reasons set out in the 'exclusion of the public, including the press' item above.

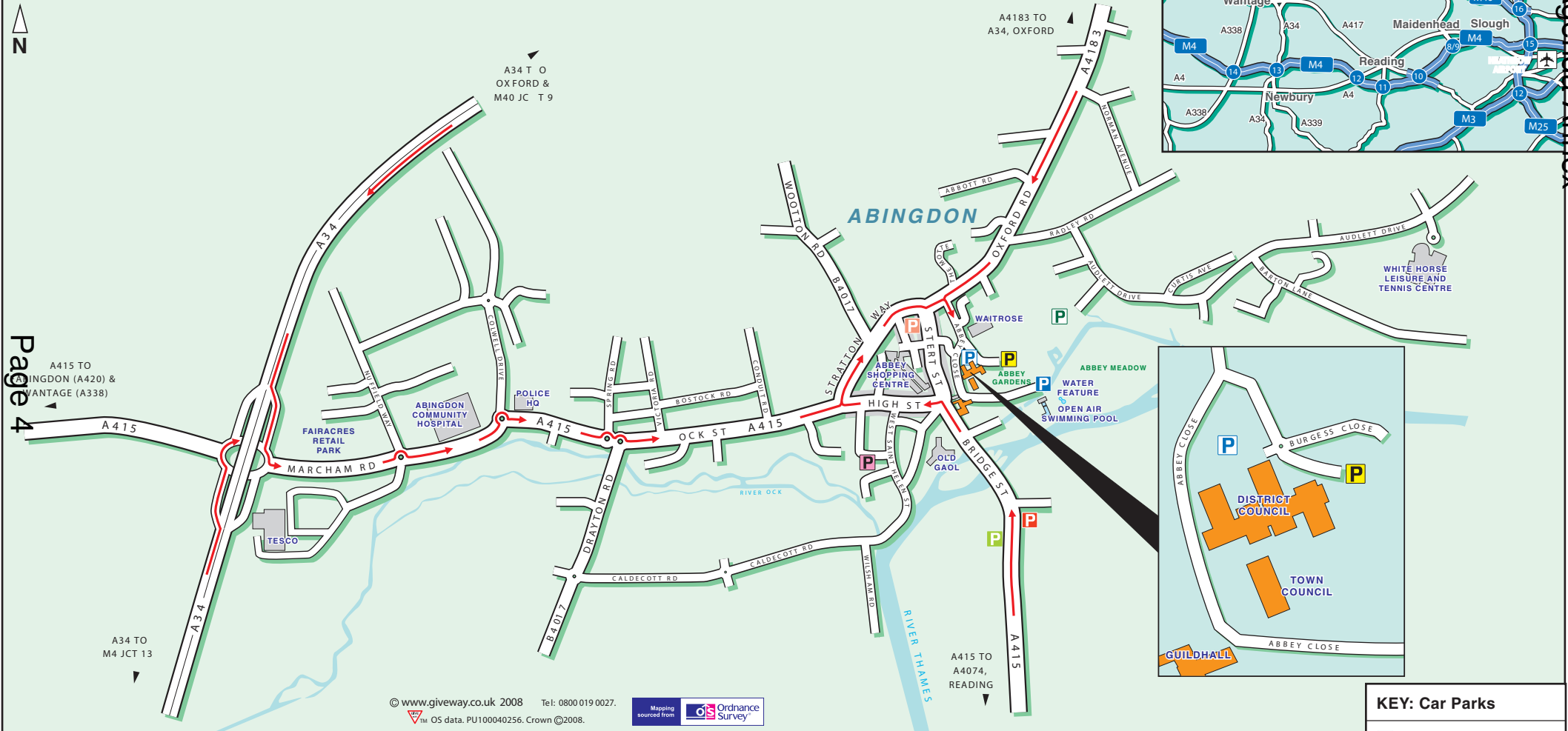
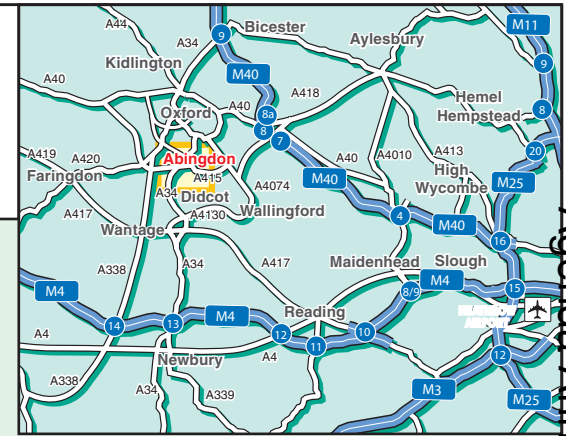
The council has received the following representations about why the following items should be open to the public. The council believes that the need to consider the following items in private outweighs the public interest.

9. Tilsley Park

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Dunmore; Sunningwell and Wootton)

(Pages 39 - 44)

To consider the report of the head of economy, leisure and property.



By rail – the nearest main line railway stations to Abingdon are either Didcot Parkway (seven miles) or Oxford (eight miles). Radley railway station is located on the main line between Oxford and Didcot and is three miles from Abingdon town centre. For details of train times visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 08457 484950

By bus – there are a number of bus routes serving Abingdon town centre. For details of services and timetables, visit Oxfordshire County Council’s website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk. Contact details for bus operators can be found on the travel information pages on our website www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Parking – details of car parks charges can be found on our website

KEY: Car Parks	
	Abbey Close
	Cattle Market
	Charter Multi-storey
	Civic
	Rye Farm
	Hales Meadow
	Audlett Drive
	West St Helen Street

Cabinet report



Report of head of economy, leisure and property

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To: CABINET

DATE: 7 June 2013

Leisure and sports facilities study 2013-2029

Recommendations

That cabinet:

- (a) adopts the leisure and sports facilities study 2013-2029 (formerly referred to as the leisure facilities strategy) subject to amendments to the study being made in accordance with paragraph 14 of this report
- (b) authorises the head of economy, leisure and property, in consultation with the cabinet member for leisure, to make any minor amendments to the study prior to its publication.

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek cabinet's approval for the adoption of the leisure and sports facilities study subject to the amendments referred to in paragraph 14 of the report. The latest draft of the executive summary of the study is attached to the report as appendix A (page 11). The full draft study can be found on the Vale of White Horse District Council's website using the link: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-framework/core-strateg-6>

Corporate objectives

2. The leisure and sports facilities study will help to ensure that the Vale Council is

achieving its strategic objectives and corporate priorities, in the following ways:

strategic objective: excellent delivery of key services, and corporate priority: deliver high performing services with particular emphasis on ensuring good quality sports and leisure provision

strategic objective: meeting housing need, and corporate priority: secure sufficient financial contributions from development to deliver essential infrastructure.

By reviewing the existing provision of facilities across the district and the future requirements arising from population growth up until 2029, the study has prioritised future facilities for which contributions can be sought from section 106 (s106) contributions and the community infrastructure levy (CIL) in order to provide ease of access to facilities across the district.

Background

3. The leisure and sports facilities study covers the period up to 2029 and is required to ensure the effective delivery of leisure services across the Vale of White Horse district. It seeks to inform development by ensuring that there is a strategic network of leisure facilities in place to cater for the needs of the current and future population. As well as helping to meet the requirements of the Vale Council's corporate plan, the study also provides the evidence base for relevant planning policies contained within the local plan, giving guidance on the phasing of leisure facilities to meet new growth and the priorities for other investment. The final report will be published on the Vale Council's website and form part of the evidence base for the local plan.
4. Due to lack of capacity for this piece of work within the Vale Council, officers commissioned leisure consultants, Nortoft, to produce a leisure and sports facilities study for the Vale. Officers oversaw the consultants throughout the process and are satisfied with the final report.
5. The study analyses the key facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity, with the exception of outdoor grass playing pitches, outdoor tennis courts and multi-use games areas (MUGAs). Currently, Sport England is reviewing its guidance for playing pitch strategies. Once these recommendations are available, a further piece of work will be undertaken into playing pitch, outdoor tennis and MUGA requirements up to 2029. In lieu of this updated guidance from Sport England, the consultants have used the standards adopted by the Vale Council in 2009, which are shown in the tables in this report.
6. The key factors influencing this study are the proposed major housing growth planned around Didcot, Wantage / Grove and Faringdon, together with other smaller areas of growth scattered across the district, and the need to:
 - identify the additional sport facilities that will be required in order to cater for the increase in population
 - develop a local plan in line with the 2012 National Planning Policy framework
 - make effective use of mechanisms to lever funds from developers
 - consider trends in participation in sport and physical activity
 - deal with the age and condition of some of the existing facilities.

Summary of content

7. The study uses information taken from various Vale Council documents, including:
 - corporate plan – Vision for the Vale (2012-2016)
 - community strategy (2008-2016)
 - supplementary planning document (SPD) – open space, sport and recreation future provisions (2008)
 - former airfield west of Grove development principles and guidelines – SPD (2006)
 - joint Didcot infrastructure delivery plan live document (2011)
 - Vale of White Horse open space, sport and recreation provision strategy background report (2009).
8. The consultants reviewed the context of the district and other national, regional and local strategies and priorities for sport and facility development, and undertook an analysis of current participation levels in sport and physical activity.
9. The needs assessment for each sports facility type comprised of a number of elements including:
 - theoretical demand for facilities based on various modelling tools
 - consultation responses
 - issues associated with facility accessibility and quality
 - anticipated population forecasts
 - national governing body of sport strategic requirements.
10. To inform these assessments, the consultants used information from:
 - Sport England’s facility planning model (FPM) runs for the district - this provides an up-to-date baseline position of the adequacy of the sports facilities supply in relation to sports halls, swimming pools and artificial grass pitches
 - Sport England’s sports facilities calculator to help quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities is generated as a result of new growth linked to specific development locations
 - Nortoft’s calculator, which forecasts future need for each facility type based upon both changes in population size and the anticipated growth in participation in sport and physical activity
 - updates to requirements for sports facilities to 2029 using the Vale Council’s adopted standards
 - a review of some of the funding applications for sports facility improvements recently made and some other club/site-specific issues known to the Vale Council.
11. One key output of this work has been the review of the relevant planning standards from those adopted in the open space, sport and recreation future provision SPD (2008). The revised quantity and accessibility standards are summarised in figure one on page 8 of the executive summary report (attached as appendix A – page 11).
12. The study sets out the Vale Council’s priorities for sport and recreation provision and identifies, amongst other things, quantitative and qualitative deficiencies in facilities provided in the district, as detailed in figure two on page 9 of the executive summary report (attached as appendix A).

CONSULTATION PROCESS

13. Following an individual cabinet member decision to authorise consultation on the draft study, officers carried out a four week consultation period that finished on 17 December 2012. Officers analysed the consultation responses and reflected these by making appropriate changes to the study. The consultation response summary document is attached to this report as appendix B (page 22).
14. The Vale Council's scrutiny committee reviewed the draft study at its meeting held on 24 May 2013. Below is a summary of the comments raised by scrutiny committee, and any actions that have been, or will be, taken in response to these comments:
 - agreement with officers' proposal that the name of the document should be changed from the leisure and sports facilities strategy to the leisure and sports facilities study – the name of the document will be changed to reflect this
 - timescales for investment should be detailed in the table shown in figure two of the executive summary - timescales will be added to the table and will also be added in the study
 - explanation needed for acronyms within the study, particularly in the consultation response document – explanation will be added to clarify the acronyms used in the consultation response document
 - the study will need to be reviewed as changes are made to joint-use facilities as schools become academies – see paragraph 15 of this report, which will be reflected in the study
 - the study's recommendations should be reviewed in the light of the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan – see paragraph 15 of this report, which will be reflected in the study
 - local plan evidence in relation to leisure and sports facilities should be reviewed - see paragraph 15 of this report, which will be reflected in the study.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

15. Officers will carry out an interim review of the study in 2015 to take account of any changes in housing growth figures, decisions on future indoor sports facilities in Wantage/Grove and to take account of the recommendations in the playing pitch strategy, multi-use games area (MUGA) and tennis court reviews. This will also allow for any amendments to be made following further consultation on the local plan and any neighbourhood plans that are being developed, as well as to review the current position of the Vale Council's joint use leisure facilities as academy schools become more established. Officers will carry out a full review in 2018.

Options

16. The leisure and sports facilities study is required as an evidence base for the local plan. Cabinet could decide not to adopt the study, however, the existing evidence base on sports and leisure requirements is out of date and this would leave the Vale Council in a weak position when negotiating future land requirements and developer contributions for s106 agreements / CIL.

Financial implications

17. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, there are potential future implications arising from the contributions received and the pressure on facilities. The study prioritises future leisure requirements and developer contributions for s106 agreements and CIL contributions towards these. However, this does not mean that the Vale Council will take responsibility for more types of facilities than it has in the past. Neither should it be assumed that the Vale Council will automatically make additional funds available to assist other bodies to provide new or improved facilities.

Legal implications

18. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Risks

19. The study is required in order to provide evidence for the need for leisure and sports facility projects to be funded from s106 and CIL contributions. Without an up to date evidence base, there is the potential for developers to dispute the provision of such funding. Not securing this funding would result in the district missing out on the opportunity to improve its provision of leisure facilities and not maximising the opportunity to secure external funding.

20. There is no guarantee when s106 / CIL funding for identified leisure facility projects will be available, as the monies are likely to be released on the completion of a specified number of houses. Careful communication will be required with local organisations in order to ensure that draft timescales are understood and reviewed as appropriate.

21. The study has also alerted town and parish councils and local sports clubs to needs and deficiencies in the facilities that they provide and this may lead to pressure on the Vale Council to make resources available (through the capital community grants scheme and the capital programme) to help improve provision.

22. There is no guarantee that any of these projects will take place and there is no commitment from the Vale Council to fund projects directly.

Other implications

23. A press release will be issued announcing the adoption of the study and a copy of the document will be available on the Vale Council's website. Town and parish councils will be alerted to the finalised study.

Conclusion

24. The leisure and sports facilities study was created to provide the Vale Council with a list of leisure and sports facility priorities for which s106 / CIL contributions can be sought. All feedback from the consultation process was taken into account and incorporated into the study as appropriate. Officers recommend that cabinet adopts the leisure and sports facilities study and authorises the head of economy, leisure and property in consultation with the cabinet member for leisure to make any minor amendments to the study prior to its publication, which will reflect comments received from scrutiny committee. However, adopting the study does not mean that the Vale Council will take responsibility for more types of facilities than it has in the past.

Neither should it be assumed that the Vale Council will automatically make additional funds available to assist other bodies to provide new or improved facilities.

Background papers

- none

VALE OF WHITE HORSE

Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy 2013 - 2029

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 2013



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INTRODUCTION

1. This Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy covers the period up to 2029 and is required for the effective delivery of leisure services across the Vale of White Horse District, and to ensure that a strategic network of facilities are in place to cater for the needs of the current and expected future population. The Strategy will also provide the evidence base for relevant planning policies contained within the Local Plan, giving guidance on the phasing of facilities to meet new growth, and the priorities for other investment. The end point for this Strategy, at 2029, is consistent with the Local Plan.
2. The Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy addresses the major facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity. The key drivers behind the Strategy are:
 - The proposed major areas of housing growth planned around Didcot, Wantage/Grove and Faringdon, together with other smaller areas of growth scattered across the authority.
 - The need to identify what additional sports facilities needs there will be, linked directly to the housing proposals.
 - The need for the authority to develop a Local Plan in line with the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework.
 - The need to make effective use of mechanisms to lever funds from developers, linked directly to the new housing.
 - The need to respond to the forecast changes in the population.
 - The need to consider trends in sports participation.
 - The need to deal with the age and condition of some of the facilities.
3. The priorities of the Vale of White Horse are set out in a number of key policy documents and these provide the justification for the authority's and its partners' investment in sport and active recreation. These policy documents include the Corporate Plan and the Community Strategy, both of which give very strong weight to the importance of sport and recreation, and the health and well-being of the community.

SUMMARY OF MAIN FACILITY PROPOSALS

4. The following list shows the main facility proposals emerging from the strategy:
 - **New replacement Leisure Centre for Wantage or Refurbishment of existing Wantage Leisure Centre with addition of teaching pool plus joint use 4 court sports hall in Grove.**
 - **Full size 3G AGP at new Grove Airfield Secondary School (unless AGP adjacent to Wantage LC is developed).**
 - **Full size AGP (either 3G or sand) at Faringdon Secondary School.**
 - **Re-carpet of AGPs at Tilsley Park in 2013.**

Participation

5. For good health individuals should ideally exercise at least 5 times per week, but a key performance indicator is the rate of participation in moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes 3 times per week. Overall on this indicator, the Vale is more active than either the south east region or England as a whole at about 25%, however there has been no significant change in this figure from 2005 to 2012.
6. The Vale's participation rates in swimming, cycling, and athletics is higher than either the national or regional averages, reflecting the excellent network of facilities and opportunities in the Vale, plus the relatively high levels of affluence of the area. The main reasons why people do not do more physical activity are the same as the barriers faced elsewhere, primarily a lack of time followed by cost.
7. The strategy also takes into account the key findings and sports development aspirations emerging from the Vale's parallel strategy, the Participation Action Plan.

Population growth

8. The population of the Vale is expected to increase by about 14,200 in the period up to 2026. The main areas of housing growth are those identified in the Local Plan and include: Grove Air Field (2,500 dwellings); Crab Hill at Wantage (1,500 dwellings); North Grove/Monks Farm (700 dwellings); Great Western Park (600 dwellings) and Valley Park (2,150 dwellings) on the edge of Didcot; Harwell Oxford Campus (400 dwellings); and South of Park Road, Farringdon (400 dwellings).
9. Given this growth, there is a need to unlock monies from the developers to help increase the capacity of facilities nearby to cater for the new demand. The recommendations arising from this Strategy will be used to update the 2008 SPD on Open Space, Sport and Recreation Future Provision (2008 SPD).

Methodology

10. The facility assessment has used a range of modelling tools and the findings from these have then be tempered by the consultation findings prior and during the strategy process. The findings for each facility type have then be summarised, and planning standards and changes to the facility mix proposed.

KEY FINDINGS

11. The following are the key findings for each facility type addressed by the strategy.

Sports halls

12. Although there appears to be sufficient capacity across the Vale as a whole to cater for all of the additional demand from the housing growth, the natural population growth and increase in participation up to 2029, there is actually a specific need around Wantage and Grove. The Wantage Leisure Centre is already operating at full stretch and there is no capacity to cater for any additional demand. The existing unmet demand plus the potential new demand from the housing growth at Grove Air Field, North Grove/Monks Farm and Crab Hill mean that at least one new 4 court sports hall is required.
13. There is a firm proposal to develop a new leisure centre in north east Didcot and this is included within the infrastructure programme. Commitment has been given to some funds towards it from the Great Western Park housing site. However no decisions have been made in relation to developers' contributions from Valley Park or from Harwell, and it seems fully justifiable that at least a proportion of funds from these developments are directed towards the Wantage/Grove facility(ies) because they are within the catchment thereof.
14. There is potentially sufficient capacity at Faringdon to meet the needs of both the new housing and the existing population, even with an enhanced level of participation. If an AGP (full size) or small sided boxes were to be developed in the town and some or all of the 5-a-side football moved out of the hall, then there should be sufficient capacity in the long term. Developers' contributions should therefore be focussed on improving the quality of the facility at Faringdon and towards the development of an AGP.
15. A number of sports hall sites are located at schools, both independent and community schools, and almost all are sited in and around Abingdon. They are outside the control of the Vale of White Horse District Council and the security of community use is therefore uncertain. However, given the high level of sports hall provision within Abingdon, some loss of community time or even the closure of a sports hall on a school site should not be a serious issue.

Swimming pools

16. Across the Vale there is currently a mixture of public, independent school and commercial pools which together provide much more water space than is actually needed by the community. However the pool at Wantage Leisure Centre is aging and is likely to become over full due to a combination of housing growth and generally increasing demand for swimming in the period up to 2029. Some additional pool provision is likely to be needed in this area, estimated to be approximately the size of a teaching pool (which the current centre lacks).

Artificial grass pitches

17. If the 3G proposed pitch adjacent to Wantage Leisure Centre is developed and it has significant amounts of community use during weekday evenings and weekends, then community access to another AGP in the Wantage/Grove area is not essential. However given the uncertainties in relation this pitch, the development of an alternative 3G pitch, ideally as a dual use facility in association with the proposed Grove secondary school, is a high priority.
18. If an opportunity arises, a further full-size floodlit AGP should be developed in Faringdon, ideally as a dual-use facility to maximise its use.
19. The existing sand based pitches at Tilsley require re-carpeting; this will be undertaken during 2013.

Athletics tracks

20. The current distribution of tracks is not ideal, but an additional 8 lane track is not sustainable and is not required in the period up to 2029. Consideration however could be given to an outdoor athletics training facility somewhere in the Faringdon area.

Health and fitness

21. Some additional provision is likely to be required, and most will be directly associated with the new housing growth. In particular there will be a need for additional provision in the Wantage/Grove area of at least 50 new stations. This will be increased if the leisure centre site (or its replacement) also attracts users from Valley Park and Harwell.
22. As health and fitness is largely commercially provided this need might be met by the private sector. However if the Wantage Leisure Centre is to be substantially refurbished or potentially replaced, then there would be a case to consider enhanced gym provision with new health and fitness stations linked to the leisure centre. In turn this would help support the viability of the leisure centre. The remaining new demand is likely to be met via the existing sites including those which are commercial.

Indoor bowls

23. There is clearly some unmet demand for indoor bowls in the authority, particularly around the Wantage and Grove areas. The level of interest and demand should be kept under review, and if appropriate, consideration should be given to developing a centre as part of a multi-code bowling facility.

Indoor tennis

24. The White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre is an important tennis facility, hosting the Oxfordshire LTA. Although the LTA national strategy (currently being reviewed) suggests that more indoor tennis provision is required in the District, there is limited justification for additional indoor court space. Participation in tennis has slightly decreased nationally over the past 5 years and the sport indoors is not generally able to attract those groups who are currently least active in the Vale. Direct investment in additional indoor tennis provision by the Vale is not therefore a sports development priority, and the LTA itself is unlikely to see new provision in the district as a high priority for their grant aid investment. However if a commercial proposal comes forwards, it should be welcomed as a positive addition to the sports facility opportunities. As developers' contributions are not being sought towards new indoor tennis provision no specific standard is being proposed for this facility type.

Outdoor tennis

25. The baseline sites information for outdoor tennis courts is now a number of years old, and it is likely that the both the number of tennis courts available to the community and their quality will have changed. It is therefore appropriate to work with the national governing body to update the facility and club information, and to identify the priorities for investment, both authority-wide and in relation to the proposed housing growth. Vale District Council will endeavour to do this review in 2013.

Squash

26. The trend in squash is for a very gradual decline in the sport. Although some additional potential demand has been identified, there is probably sufficient capacity in the existing sites to cope.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

27. As the site and usage information for MUGAs is now a number of years old, the Vale District Council will endeavour to update it in 2013, to enable a full review of the planning standards for this type of facility.

Grass playing fields

28. There is a need to update the playing pitch strategy for the Vale. New guidance is awaited from Sport England but the Council intends to complete a playing pitch strategy as soon as possible once it is released. In order to make this review a success, it will require significant support from the national governing bodies for football, cricket and rugby to identify key issues and priorities for future investment.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning standards

29. A key output from the strategy is a review of the relevant standards in the 2008 SPD Open Space, Sport and Recreation Future Provision. The revised quantity and accessibility standards and justification are summarised in Figure 1 below. The quality standards (including design and layout) should generally be based on current best practice or current guidance notes from the relevant sport's national governing body or Sport England. The justification and details behind the updating of each of these planning standards are contained within the assessment section of the main report.
30. The term "fully available at peak time" means that the facilities are available during weekday evenings and weekends to the community. This will be measured through Sport England's Facilities Planning Model annual National Run.

Facility proposals

31. Figure 2 brings together the facility specific proposals. The most important facility proposal is that relating to the future sports facilities in Wantage/Grove as this potentially brings together the sports hall, swimming pool, AGP and tennis court provision. The decision on future options is dependent upon detailed feasibility studies and negotiations with a number of parties.
32. Many of the built facilities identified could be potentially developed for dual use, i.e. school and community. This would bring opportunities to share both capital and revenue costs although this approach requires formal joint agreements covering issues such as hours of use, shared costs, management etc.
33. Grass playing fields are usually not able to be shared on a dual use basis, and should be separately and specifically developed for community use.

Planning obligations (s106) and CIL

34. The Vale intends to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) by early 2014. Once the CIL has been adopted, most of the larger sport and leisure facilities will need to be funded through this route. However developers can still be required to mitigate the specific and direct impact of their development through either a planning condition or a planning obligation.
35. The Infrastructure Development Plan should include all the main facilities such as the new leisure centre at Wantage/Grove, and the AGPs. Other facilities such as outdoor tennis courts and MUGAs will be better delivered as part of either a planning obligation or planning condition. As the dwelling numbers begin to be confirmed in the strategic housing sites, it should be possible to estimate the costs for each development.

Figure 1: Summary of proposed planning standards

Facility type	2008 SPD Open Space, Sport and Recreation		Proposed new planning standards		Comment
	Quantity per 1000	Accessibility (time by car)	Quantity per 1000 population	Accessibility (time by car)	
Sports Halls	0.6 courts	15 minutes	0.36 badminton courts fully available at peak time*	20 minutes	Revised standards based on different parameters and latest research.
Swimming pools	14 sq m	15 minutes	12.4 sq m water space fully available at peak time*	20 minutes	
Artificial Grass Pitches (full size)	0.03 pitches	15 minutes	0.03 pitches	20 minutes	No change in quantity. Travel time reflects latest research.
Health and fitness	Not covered in SPD		5.06 stations	20 minutes	New standard
Indoor tennis	0.7 courts	30 minutes	NONE		No standard now required.
Outdoor tennis	1.2 courts	15 minutes	1.1 courts	15 minutes	Interim standard. To be updated.
Multi-use games area (MUGA) aka Multi-court	0.76 site	15 minutes	0.76 site	One per parish but may be shared	Interim standard. To be updated.
Grass Playing Pitches	1.6 ha	900 m urban areas, 15 minutes drive in rural areas	1.6 ha	900 m urban areas, 15 minutes drive in rural areas	Interim standard. To be updated.

Note: * fully available at peak time means open to community use in the evenings and weekends.

Figure 2: Main facility proposals and costs

Facility	Location	Cost ¹	Priority for investment and timescales
<p>New replacement Leisure Centre for Wantage (Sports hall, pool, health and fitness)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Refurbishment of existing Wantage Leisure Centre with addition of teaching pool</p> <p>Plus</p> <p>Dual-use 4 courts sports hall</p>	<p>TBC</p> <p>Existing site</p> <p>New Grove Secondary School (Airfield)</p>	<p>Estimated £10-15m</p> <p>Refurbishment: approx £5-10m</p> <p>Teaching pool: £1-2m</p> <p>£2,715,000</p>	<p>High priority.</p> <p>Urgent decisions about sites required.</p> <p>Delivery required by 2029 but ideally linked to development timescale of Grove Air Field, including secondary school</p> <p>Strategic priority for authority</p>
<p>Full size 3G AGP</p> <p>[unless proposed AGP adjacent to leisure centre has full community use]</p>	<p>New Grove Secondary School (Airfield)</p>	<p>£840,000</p>	<p>High priority</p> <p>Urgent decision about site / investment required</p>
<p>Full size AGP (either 3G or Sand)</p>	<p>Faringdon Secondary school site</p>	<p>3G: £840,000</p> <p>Sand-based: £700,000</p>	<p>Medium priority</p> <p>Will require lead from external partner e.g. school</p> <p>Deliver when opportunity arises.</p>
<p>Re-carpet AGPs</p>	<p>Tilsley Park</p>	<p>Cost dependent upon nature of surface.</p>	<p>High priority</p>

¹ All costs based on Sport England Planning Kitbag Facilities cost Q2 2012. These figures do not include land, abnormals, VAT or inflation beyond Q2 2012. Where data is not available, costs from actual examples have been used or estimated based on recent examples. Costs are indicative and should be used as a guide only. See Costs section earlier in Strategy for more details.

IMPLEMENTATION

Phasing and funding

36. In the current economic climate it is important to ensure that all of the available resources are carefully targeted and tailored to meet the needs of the whole community. The proposals arising from the strategy are likely to be funded and supported by a range of partners and new facility provision might be via a mix of public and private sources. There are likely to be an increasing number of innovative partnership arrangements over the next few years both in relation to capital and revenue projects, and consideration should be given by the Council to exploring all of the available options as each facility proposal comes forward to enable the delivery of the strategy's proposals.
37. It is not anticipated that all of the proposals within this document will be implemented at the same time. Some sites/proposals require more urgent action than others, and where facilities relate to new housing growth, the speed of development will necessarily impact upon the speed of provision of new facilities. However, all of the identified facilities and proposals should be developed by 2029.

Procurement and management

38. The nature and process of the procurement of the facilities covered by this strategy and their long term management will fundamentally depend upon the type and scale of facility. Those which are small scale or on-site will be the responsibility of the developer in the larger housing schemes. Those which are off-site will often be the responsibility of the district council, directly or indirectly.

Review and monitoring

39. The strategy will have an interim review in 2015 to take account of any changes in housing growth figures, the decision in relation to the sports facilities at Wantage/Grove, and to take account of the recommendations in the playing pitch strategy, and MUGA and tennis reviews. A full review will be undertaken in 2018.

VALE OF WHITE HORSE LEISURE AND SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY 2012-2029

Consultation Analysis

Respondents

1. The consultation on the leisure and sports facilities strategy ran for 4 weeks in November and December 2012, supported by a Press Notice on 14th November. There were a total of 50 respondents to the online questionnaire. 34 respondents were individuals and 16 on behalf of organisations.
2. Hard copies of the surveys were also made available for completion but none were received back.
3. The organisations that responded were as follows:
 - Active Nation
 - Oxfordshire County Council
 - Abingdon Fencing Club
 - Didcot Cricket Club
 - Pathfinders Youth Canoe Club Abingdon
 - Grove Parish Council
 - Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club
 - Wantage Tennis Club
 - The Park Squash Club
 - Soll Leisure Group
 - Berks and Bucks FA
4. In addition there were brief written comments on the draft Strategy from Sport England, Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Sports Partnership.

Consultation Findings from the Survey

Overall

5. 82% of people agreed that sports facilities in the Vale were generally good. Those that didn't agree mainly lived in smaller settlements in the rural areas where there are fewer facilities. These people usually have to travel to Abingdon, Faringdon or Wantage. The need for extra indoor tennis courts and indoor bowls was not seen as very important, with most people having no particular view on either of those facility types.

Wantage and Grove

6. The facilities that were seen as very important for Wantage and Grove were swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness gyms and artificial grass pitches. A teaching pool and activity hall were also seen as important.
7. The majority of people thought that new residents on the west of Didcot (Great Western Park/Valley Park) would mainly travel to Didcot for sports facilities rather than Wantage and Grove, or to Abingdon. However it was still expected that some people would travel to Wantage/Grove, to Abingdon, and also to Oxford.

Faringdon

8. Well over half the people that responded to the question about the need for an artificial grass pitch in Faringdon said they didn't know whether one was needed or not. Only 5 people said a pitch was definitely needed.

Abingdon

9. The fact there were no new sports facilities being proposed for Abingdon was generally accepted, although 7 respondents thought Abingdon did need new facilities such as: an additional skate park; extension of the existing sports centre to cater for additional fitness classes and/or martial arts, and tennis. One respondent thought a review of the current outdoor swimming facility should be undertaken and it is described in the response as being dilapidated.

Local Facilities

10. The majority of respondents thought that grass playing pitches and multi use games areas were very important local facilities, and outdoor tennis courts as important. A commitment to producing a Playing Pitch Strategy has already been made by the Vale of White Horse District Council.
11. Other facilities that people would like to see in their local area included:
 - Skate park
 - Fitness trail with running track
 - New sports not currently catered for e.g. lacrosse, handball
 - Green gym
 - Teaching pool at Wantage
 - Cycle track
 - Gymnastics facility
 - Boxing facility
 - Angling pond
 - Pitch and putt
 - Running facility (not an athletics track)
 - Indoor sports facility geared up for elderly/disabled

- Secure and floodlit MUGA
- Floodlighting of existing outdoor tennis courts
- Safe cycle paths linking villages
- Dedicated 5-6 court badminton centre
- Better access to river for recreational use

Other Consultation Responses

Oxfordshire County Council

12. Oxfordshire County Council provided a written response in addition to partial completion of the survey form. The main points from this response were:
13. It is expected that most, if not all secondary schools and a significant number of primary schools will convert to academy status, therefore the list of academy schools contained within the Strategy already requires updating and would soon become out of date again.
14. The Department for Education (DfE) encourages community use of academy facilities and as such can be written into academy funding agreements. Should an academy want to later withdraw community use, it would have to agree to the alteration to its Funding Agreement with the DfE.
15. The Strategy should actively promote the use of access and rights of way networks for sport and leisure recreation.

Sport England

16. Sport England (SE) welcomes the Strategy and recommends that it is endorsed by the Local Strategic Partnership as well as by the Council. SE also welcomes the breadth of the consultation and expects any feedback or comments will be able to influence the final Strategy.
17. The Strategy could be strengthened by more cross-reference to sports development objectives and priorities, including new activities and different sports and how these might be delivered through the facility infrastructure.
18. SE would encourage the use of the Facilities Planning Model to support further more detailed options appraisals for facilities in specific areas.
19. The final section of the Strategy could be developed further to explain more how the evidence has been used to develop the options listed. The Strategy should be clearer on how the solutions to the gaps in provision will be addressed and which partner agencies will help to deliver them. The Strategy might be clearer on when developments will happen and which projects are the priorities.

20. Sport England would wish to see a full funding appraisal including all possible sources of funding and allocations to demonstrate how specific projects will be delivered. The Strategy should include targets that are measurable, achievable and realistic in their aspiration. These should set out clearly who is responsible for delivery.
21. The Council should establish a steering group to oversee the implementation of the Strategy.

Oxfordshire Sports Partnership

22. The Sports Partnership has not taken a strategic lead in the co-ordination of facility developments countywide leaving that to the Districts as lead. Therefore the CSP has not developed any policy or strategy relating to facility development. That said the CSP do advocate an evidence based approach to facility development that contributes to the countywide vision of making our communities the highest participating in the country.

Comments

23. Specific comments and detailed responses can be found in the table below, along with Nortoft's reply and any suggested change to the strategy.

Comment	Response	Change to strategy
<p>Active Nation (current operators of White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre, Abingdon)</p> <p>The Strategy is a very comprehensive piece of work, although some of the data included may need clarifying (such as the number of fitness stations at the White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre). The report says there are 54 stations but there are 74.</p> <p>We have slight concerns that the new leisure facility in north east Didcot may have a detrimental effect of the usage of the White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre.</p> <p>A key element to increasing participation is for operators to understand the current barriers to participation, such as time, cost, no-one to go with etc. This should feature as a key element of the forthcoming leisure management procurement.</p> <p>As of today (17/12/12) Sport England will have announced the NGB funding for the period 2013-17. It would be good if the Vale of White Horse could benefit from initiatives/programmes that</p>	<p>The number of fitness stations came from the Active Places website which will now need updating.</p> <p>This new facility is needed for the new development in Didcot and its surrounds, and the growth in the population as a result. Existing residents that live nearer to Didcot may use the new facility as a result, this is accepted.</p> <p>Noted, this strategy does not deal with the procurement of leisure facilities but the comment has been passed to the Leisure Services Manager at VoWHDC.</p> <p>Agreed, this is for the NGBs and clubs to follow and should be included in the Sports Development Strategy.</p>	<p>The figure will be amended</p> <p>No change required</p> <p>No change required</p> <p>No change required</p>

<p>are part of key Whole Sports Plans locally.</p> <p>More sports which are not currently catered for, such as Lacrosse, Handball etc. Also, more provision of disability sports to capitalise on the success of the Paralympic Games 2012.</p>	<p>Many sports can use multi-purpose facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools. Provision for disabled users are a integral part of all sports facility provision.</p> <p>Grass pitch based sports will be addressed later in 2013 as part of the playing pitch strategy review.</p>	<p>No specific change required</p>
<p>Anonymous individual</p> <p>By concentrating on areas of housing growth it ignores those places that have poor facilities historically.</p> <p>By analysing facilities within a certain drive time it underplays the problems people without cars of accessing facilities and should look at public transport links too.</p>	<p>Facilities need to be located in the most sustainable locations and that service the largest number of people, this is why historically smaller settlements don't have lots of facilities.</p> <p>It is recognised that access to facilities for those in the rural areas find access to facilities difficult and this has been flagged in the strategy.</p>	<p>No specific change needed</p> <p>This issue is already covered within the strategy</p>
<p>Anonymous individual</p> <p>There are four main population centres in the Vale: Abingdon, Botley, Faringdon, Wantage & Grove. We currently have nothing in Botley. And this questionnaire only asked about facilities in the other three.</p>	<p>The consultation asked about existing facilities in those four main population centres, therefore no specific question was asked about Botley. This was covered in a later question about facilities in your local area.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Resident of Wantage (Anonymous)</p> <p>Wantage needs its own facilities to cope with all the new housing extra housing that's coming.</p>	<p>New facilities are planned for Wantage.</p>	<p>No change required</p>

<p>Resident of Watchfield (Anonymous)</p> <p>There is no mention of facilities provided in Watchfield/Shrivenham, despite the fact it identifies football locally as being under the national average for participation!</p> <p>There is no mention of any large scale housing development in Watchfield/Shrivenham, so the needs of our villages are not represented. Clearly this fatally flaws the report as it assumes the only large housing development will be as per local plan when we know this won't be the case, i.e.156 houses already approved locally plus 65 refurbished MoD properties.</p> <p>It makes no sense to provide all provision in Faringdon but far more sense to spread the facilities across the two communities to increase participation levels. It makes little difference to those in smaller village if they have to travel to Watchfield/Shrivenham or Faringdon as they will almost certainly be travelling by car or using route 66 bus.</p> <p>There is no mention of Watchfield pavilion, Shrivenham rec or facilities provided by Shrivenham Royals. The report generally ignores all provision by parish councils in its calculations. If all facilities are provided in Faringdon this will destroy local football clubs, as they won't be able to compete with clubs linked to an ATP in Faringdon. It will land the parish councils with</p>	<p>This strategy does not deal with pitch sports as a full review is needed.</p> <p>Any increase in population as a result of these houses are already included within the demographic forecasting which forms the basis for this Strategy. The impact at a local level may need to be considered further in relation to village halls/community halls etc. The development of 156 houses is not a significant figure in terms of sports facility provision (approx 4000 new houses would equate to a requirement for a new sports hall)</p> <p>Facilities are provided in the most sustainable location. Access to those MOD facilities in Shrivenham would be welcomed.</p> <p>This strategy does not deal with pitch sports as a full review is needed.</p> <p>The use of AGPs for football tends to be additional to existing football club activity, and also helps them by providing an all weather training base. This is particularly the case with minis and junior teams who are tend to be catered for locally.</p>	<p>No change required</p> <p>No change required</p> <p>Noted in report</p> <p>No change required</p>
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<p>long term liabilities with no income from paying customers, as they have all gone to the proposed ATP in Faringdon.</p>		
<p>Kingfisher and Pathfinder Youth Canoe Club</p> <p>Kingfisher and Pathfinder Youth Canoe Clubs have been using council land for their activities for approximately 30 years. The land is at present rented to the army and we have been unable to get any formal security of tenure.</p>	<p>Access to facilities for water sports should be explored further but this is out of the scope of the strategy.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Anonymous individual</p> <p>Stop centralising everything. Villagers have a need and a right to leisure facilities. You are alienating large sections of the Vale and not contributing to their health or well-being.</p>	<p>Facilities are developed in the most sustainable locations for the widest number of people as well as a number of other factors such as land availability, development costs etc. This strategy deals with large facilities in the main which would not be sustainable in small communities.</p> <p>The larger sports facilities should be considered as part of a wider community facilities network which also includes village and community halls amongst other local provision.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Anonymous individual</p> <p>It is a pity that schools are excluded as pressure on school land in the past has led to a reduction in available facilities.</p>	<p>Due to the lack of secure community use at school facilities these are sometimes excluded as they are not available to the community. This point is covered in the strategy.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Resident of Abingdon (Anonymous)</p> <p>It does not seem to address equality issues so will be of limited value.</p>	<p>Sports facilities need to comply with DDA requirements and any new facilities would be built with accessibility in mind as a requirement.</p>	<p>No specific change needed</p>

<p>Anonymous Individual</p> <p>Ensure that Grove gets the facilities required for the population and that the south Vale gets facilities rather than Abingdon.</p>	<p>Sports facilities for the growth of Grove (Airfield) have been looked at in detail and planned in from the outset.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Park Squash Club</p> <p>An increase in trails/cycle only roads linking the areas and therefore the various leisure complexes would be a major benefit to health and also assist in achieving one of the aims of the wider sustainability strategy, ie the reduction of traffic on the roads. If more people could cycle safely between venues, there would be fewer cars. Also, cycle only ways would promote road cyclists to enjoy training runs in greater safety and this would assist the motorist who possibly has issues with a group of cyclists obstructing the road. It is a win:win all round.</p>	<p>The importance of cycling in the Vale is acknowledged in the Strategy but is outside its scope. However safe cycling routes could be considered as part of the GI strategy and also in association with sustainable transport initiatives.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Anonymous individual</p> <p>I couldn't see anything about sailing provision - the locality has at least three sailing clubs and rowing clubs and my personal experience is that Farmoor (just outside the Vale?) is very teaching / racing oriented.</p>	<p>Countryside and water sports cannot be given set provision standards but should be treated positively in planning policies.</p>	<p>Strengthen policy statements to support countryside and water sports.</p>
<p>Anonymous Individual</p> <p>The council needs to underwrite investment costs if investments are to be made by private</p>	<p>Development costs for facilities are complicated and are dealt with on a case by case basis. Where appropriate, funding from various</p>	<p>No specific change required</p>

<p>companies operating council facilities. This means that investments can be written off over 14 years (their probable life) rather than 7 years which makes them financially not viable. The underwriting can normally be spread jointly with the national governing body for sport (tennis and badminton in particular).</p> <p>Would like a dedicated 5-6 badminton court centre probably in combination with an existing centre.</p>	<p>sources (including NGBs) will be sought.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Badminton Performance Centre is based at Abingdon and no additional specialist badminton facility is required.</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>AP Thompson Services Ltd</p> <p>I believe that 5 a side, flood lit pitches are great for exercise as well generating income. They can be used by a wide age range and as well as encouraging exercise they also encourage team sport. Although a full sized AGP would be used I believe pound for pound a series of 5-a-side is better for the community.</p>	<p>Small sided football boxes are currently provided at Tilsley Park. The demand for this type of pitch needs to be investigated further as this strategy concentrates on full size pitches.</p>	<p>No specific change required</p>
<p>Anonymous Individual</p> <p>Better access to the river for recreational use</p>	<p>This is outside of the scope of the strategy</p>	<p>No change required</p>
<p>Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>List of academy schools needs updating</p>	<p>Update list</p>	<p>Update list</p>
<p>Sport England</p> <p>Sports development links and cross-references could be strengthened</p> <p>Phasing, prioritisation, partnerships and funding</p>	<p>Vale Officers to consider how the feedback from the sports development strategy can be used to provide this cross-reference</p> <p>Given the long term nature of this strategy it was agreed that it</p>	<p>Cross-references to be added</p> <p>Add partnership notes to</p>

opportunities	should not attempt to identify specific funding programmes that may be relevant at the present time. Similarly the partnerships will need to be developed in more detail over time although the key partners may be possible to identify for some of the facilities nowl	project lists.
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Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Planning

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To: CABINET

DATE: 07 June 2013

Longworth Neighbourhood Development Plan

Recommendation

Cabinet is recommended to designate the parish of Longworth (Appendix 1) as a neighbourhood plan area under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the designation of Longworth Parish as a neighbourhood area for the purpose of the production of a neighbourhood plan within the remit of the Localism Act 2011.

Corporate Objectives

2. The council's corporate plan has a specific objective, under the theme of 'Support for Communities' that seeks to encourage communities to develop Neighbourhood Plans as a means of shaping their local environment.

Background

3. Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's initiative to empower local communities to take forward planning proposals at a local level. This is outlined in Section 116 of the Localism Act.
4. The first statutory step in producing a Neighbourhood Plan is application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area. Longworth Parish Council has submitted a map of the area it wishes to designate along with a statement of why the area is considered

appropriate as per Section 5 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This information is contained in Appendix 1 of this report. In summary, the application covers the parish of Longworth for the purpose of creating planning policies that would apply to development in the parish.

5. Section 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 requires that councils publicise any applications received for the designation of a neighbourhood area. The requirements of Section 6 have been met and exceeded (e.g. article in local news letter and specific local contacts) by the district council in publicising the Longworth area designation.
6. Section 61H of the Town and Country Planning Act as amended requires that the district council considers whether the neighbourhood area should be designated as a business area, this is defined as an area where the area is primarily or wholly business in nature. This is not the case for the proposed Longworth neighbourhood area.
7. The district council received six responses to the consultation. These are summarised in Appendix 2 of this report. No objections or significant issues were raised.

Options

8. There are no reasonable alternative options for consideration in this case.

Financial Implications

9. Funding is available from central government to enable local planning authorities to meet their new legislative duties on neighbourhood planning. Specifically, it covers the neighbourhood planning duties in the Localism Act, which are to provide advice and assistance, to hold an examination and to make arrangements for a referendum.
10. This central government funding is available in three stages: £5000 at area designation, £5000 when the local authority publicises the neighbourhood plan prior to examination and £20,000 on successful completion of a neighbourhood planning examination.
11. In accordance with the individual cabinet member decision, taken in April 2013, we will offer Longworth Parish Council a neighbourhood planning grant of £5000, towards their costs in producing their neighbourhood plan, if cabinet are minded to designate the Neighbourhood Area.

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications of significance

Risks

13. No significant risks to report.

Conclusion

14. It is recommended that the neighbourhood area identified at Appendix 1 is agreed.

Background Papers

- Appendix 1: Map of Longworth parish
- Appendix 2: Summary of consultation responses

Appendix 1 – Map of Longworth Parish and Statement of Area Designation

LONGWORTH

Longworth lies between the river Thames and the A420, 12 miles SW of Oxford and 8 miles west of Abingdon. Adult population is approximately 500, comprising some 230 households.

The village, which dates back to the XIV Century, has one church, two pubs, a village hall, a primary school, a pre-school and several acres of allotment gardens. Post Office and shops are some three miles away, across the dual carriageway of the busy A420. Bus route 63 provides service between the village and both Oxford and Abingdon. Longworth has a long history as a centre of rose-growing. It is a flourishing community with many local clubs and organisations; the Longworth History Society has a wide reputation for its work in the research and documentation of the community's past. The village website www.longworthvillage.org.uk contains more detailed information.

The village has a socially mixed population, with housing to match, ranging from a 50-year-old estate of social houses (ex Vale Housing, almost all now privately-owned) to large 5 and six bedroomed homes and one Manor House. In recent years a small number of individual houses have been built on single sites. There are a number of larger potential sites, within the village boundary, some owned by residents, which have been recently attracting developers' attention.

A recent (2012) Housing Needs Survey conducted by ORCC in conjunction with the Parish Council and the Vale identified a need for nine affordable houses within the village.

The Primary School received an 'outstanding' mark at its 2010 Ofsted inspection. It is currently at capacity with 70 pupils. The pre-school (2 to 5 year olds) was built in 2008, largely by community subscription, in the grounds of the main school. Together, the two schools provide a seamless education to local children to age 11. The Parish Council and the village cherish this continuity.

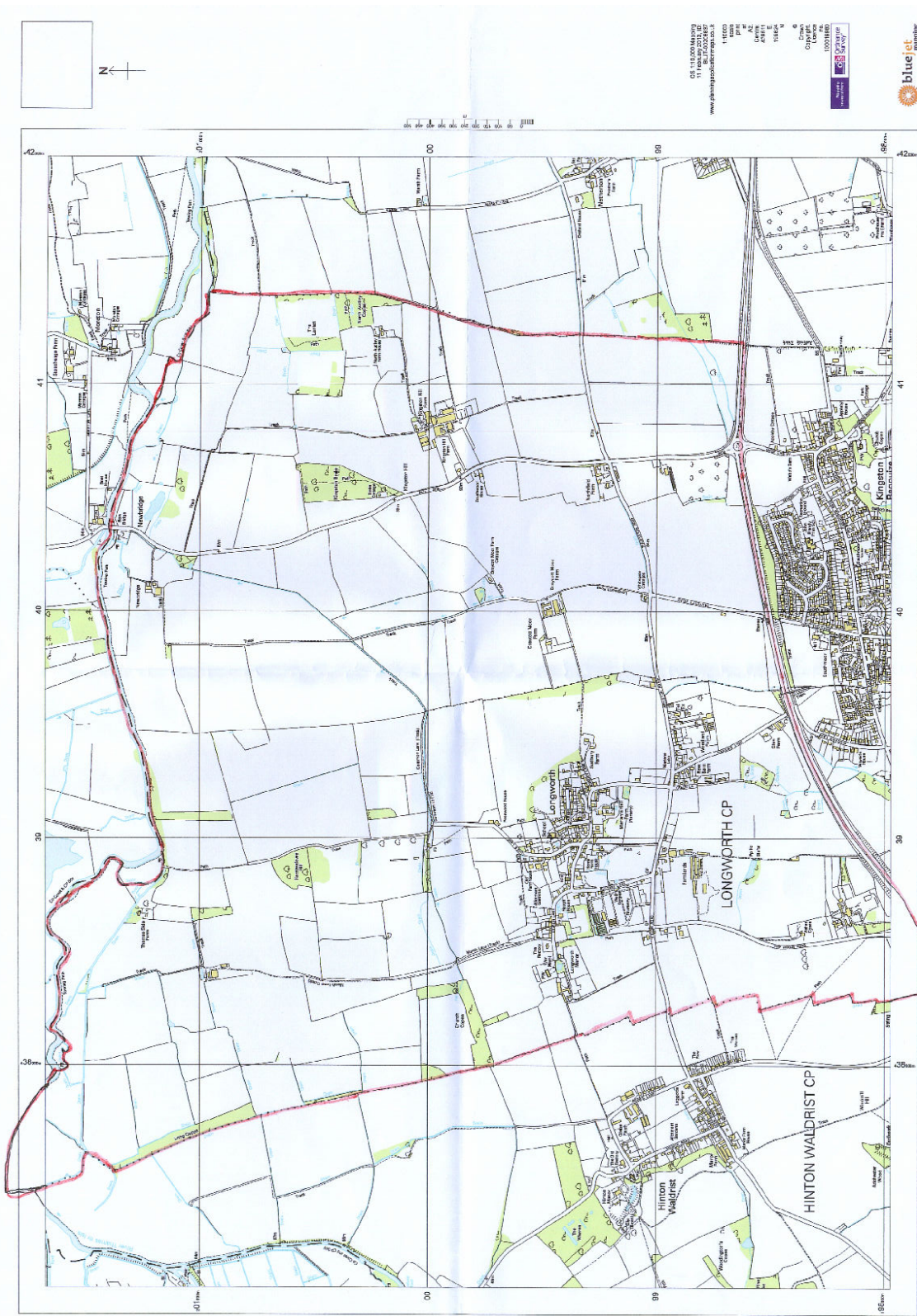
The village infrastructure is in need of improvement, especially if there is even a small population increase. Drainage is inadequate in many parts of the village, as is often indicated by overflow from manholes into roads; many lanes are too narrow to allow two vehicles to pass in safety and the bus service provider has lodged complaints on this count. Essential footpaths are poorly maintained by the OCC.

If there is to be pressure for more housing, there is a coming need to strike balance between small, individual sites and larger, estate-type housing in the village; and balance between affordable and market pricing. Balances that will maintain the character of the village and its sustainability. In addition, at capacity, the school will need some enlargement to accommodate the added pupils likely to be generated by additional housing.

Longworth is a self-contained and flourishing entity whose unique character merits being nourished and sustained in as many ways as are possible.

The map indicates in red the boundary of Longworth parish, which constitutes the area considered appropriate to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area and within which the Parish Council wishes to make policies and proposals.

afb 14/2/13



Appendix 2: Summary of consultation responses

Organisation	Summary of response
English Heritage	No comment. General advice on the role of English Heritage in neighbourhood planning.
Environment Agency	No comment
Marine Management Organisation	No comment
Natural England	General advice on the role of Natural England in neighbourhood planning.
Network Rail	No comment
Standlake Parish Council	No comment

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted