

DECISION TAKER: Councillor Kathleen Becker, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER SPORTS FACILITY ASSESSMENT AND PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2025-2040

20 MARCH 2026

Contact Officer: Steve Lincoln Tel No: 01962 848 110 Email slincoln@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

DECISION:

1. That the Winchester Sports Facility Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy 2025-2040, shown at appendix 1, be adopted.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This report seeks approval for a Sports Facility Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy (referred to in the report as 'the PPS') which has been produced to inform decision making about the provision of sports facilities for public use across the district.

The purpose of the PPS is to:

- Provide robust evidence on the current and future supply and demand of all outdoor sports pitches within Winchester district.
- Provide a clear strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities.
- Help guide investment, funding bids, planning applications and decision making.
- Provide detail and inform the Local Plan, including the next review.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. The council could decide not to adopt the PPS. This option is not recommended as it would leave a gap in the evidence base which supports

Local Plan policies and leave a risk of sporting infrastructure not being provided in association with development. It would also deprive the council of an important tool which can inform future investment and management decisions with respect to sports provision across the district.

2. The council could alternatively seek additional work to be undertaken on the PPS before adopting. However, the work to date has been comprehensive and in accordance with accepted good practice in the development of such documents. The fundings are evidence led and there is little likelihood of further work leading to different findings. This option is not recommended as delay in adopting the PPS means the previous PPS (completed in 2018) would become more outdated and increase the risk of challenge to planning decisions that involve sports provision.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

None

APPROVED BY: Kathleen Becker

DATE: 20.03.2026

Councillor Kathleen Becker – Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities

APPENDICES:

1. Winchester Sports Facilities Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy 2025–2040
2. Equality Impact Assessment