

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. was commissioned in 2021 by Harborough District Council (HDC) to review the 2018 Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the district.

## 1.2 The rationale for the strategy

### 1.2.1 Background

In April 2019 HDC adopted its [Local Plan 2011 to 2031](#) for Harborough District and the 2018 Playing Pitch Strategy informed that plan. The current PPS review is to bring the playing pitch information up to date and to continue to support the Local Plan policies

The Strategy makes recommendations for outdoor pitch including associated facility development and use based on evidence and consultation throughout the development of the document. It should be noted that the proposals identified in the strategy are not all intended to be provided or funded directly by the District Council and it should not be assumed that the Council will automatically make additional funds or resources available to assist other bodies to provide new or improved facilities. It also does not mean that the Council will take on responsibility for providing or managing more facilities. Delivery of the recommendations associated with the District Council or other stakeholders are subject to capacity and resources being available to realise them. Inclusion in this strategy does not guarantee delivery of all recommendations in the lifetime of the Strategy.

### 1.2.2 Purpose

The overall purpose of the project is to update both the evidence base and the strategic direction for the provision of outdoor sporting facilities in Harborough District. The revised Strategy provides a recommendation and action plan to satisfy Sport England requirements and informs future investment in outdoor sport and recreation.

### 1.2.3 Objectives

The objectives of the strategy are:

- To inform planning decisions.
- To provide evidence alignment for securing S106 obligations, and/or making provision for Playing Pitch or Playing Pitch grounds as part of future development sites.
- To co-ordinate facility investment by clubs and other stakeholders in partnership with the governing bodies of sport.

- To help secure external funding for the investment and improvement of outdoor sports facilities and to prioritise investment in Harborough District sites and other sites.
- To identify any deficiencies or surpluses in provision and options for dealing with them now and in the future taking into account the Local Plan housing allocations.
- To inform future decisions about the provision and funding of Playing Pitches and Playing Pitch facilities.

### ***1.3 The scope of the strategy***

The pitches and outdoor sports facilities included in the Strategy are:

- Football.
- Cricket.
- Rugby Union.
- Hockey.
- Tennis.
- Bowls.
- Netball.
- Rounders.

### ***1.4 Strategy format***

This document comprises the 'Stage D' report of the playing strategy. The structure of the document is as follows:

- Assessing playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities needs in Harborough district.
- The local context for pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision.
- Strategic influences on pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision.
- Football pitch needs.
- Cricket pitch needs.
- Rugby Union pitch needs.
- Hockey pitch needs.
- Tennis court needs.
- Bowls green needs.

- Netball court needs.
- Rounders pitch needs.
- Applying and reviewing the strategy.