<u>Indoor Built Facilities Strategy - Progress and Evidence Review – February 2019</u>

1. Background

- The Strategy was published in August 2017 alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy. This
 followed a period of formal public consultation and formal adoption by the Council. Two
 constituent documents, a Needs Assessment (January 2017) and Strategy/Action Plan (April
 2017). The Strategy is also formally adopted by the Council and used as material evidence in
 planning applications.
- This review covers the initial period of the strategy to December 2018.

2. Monitoring & Review

The documents and progress made have been assessed in line with the monitoring and review process as set out in the Strategy (page 32)

It was recommended that the review should include:

- A review of annual progress on the recommendations and the 3 − 5 year action plan; taking
 into account any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the priority of some
 may increase following the delivery of others)
- Lessons learnt throughout the year
- New facilities that may need to be taken into account
- Any specific changes of use of key sites in the Borough (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.)
- Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction or increase in club numbers, new housing growth
- New formats of traditional sports that may need to be taken account of
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities

3. Review of progress on the Strategic Recommendations Actions Plan (Appendix 1)

The Strategy outlined Cheshire East Council's vision for sport and leisure provision as set out at Appendix 1 and built on the conclusions identified in the Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities Assessment Report. It sets out the vision and objectives for Cheshire East's physical infrastructure for the period 2017 to 2030 and considered all of the area's community sport and leisure assets required to ensure the Council and its partners serve the people of Cheshire East through:

- Fulfilling its community leadership role well.
- Ensuring quality and value in public services.
- Safeguarding the most vulnerable in society.

Cheshire East's vision is:

"To create a network of high quality, accessible, affordable and sustainable sport and leisure facilities, which offer inclusive services for all; enabling the inactive to become active and

more residents to fulfil their potential by participating in sport and physical activity, thus improving their long-term health and well-being".

The strategic recommendations were identified to deliver the above vision and provide strategic direction for Cheshire East Council, its partners and stakeholders who both manage facilities and deliver opportunities for residents to pursue sport and recreation as a means to engage in physical activity. The strategic objectives are as follows:

- (i) Maximise the potential sports facility development opportunities created through Cheshire East's housing and population growth.
- (ii) Where appropriate engage with other services to create multi-agency hubs through the co-location of services.
- (iii) Work with colleagues in education to ensure that any new schools or improvements to sports facilities in existing schools are accompanied by a community use agreement.
- (iv) Work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use.
- (v) Enhance the quality of the existing sports facility infrastructure and improve its longer term financial sustainability by ensuring sufficient capital funds are available for improvement and upkeep.
- (vi) To protect key sports facilities which are deemed at risk or closure, either as a result of age or potential development.
- (vii) The retention of the Sports facilities and the community access where there are changes in education.
- (vii) Strategically programme sports and leisure provision to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of sports to enable growth and increase participation.

Having reviewed the Recommendations, at this early stage in the delivery of the Strategy (which is aligned to the delivery of the Local Plan to 2030), and as commented on in Appendix 1 as necessary, it is not proposed to change any of or their relative importance as they are currently set out.

4. Review of the 3 – 5 year Settlement Action Plan (Appendix 2)

Current use and achievements

- In support of the adopted Local Plan, the Strategy Action Plan has been used to comment on and assess a range of planning applications including, pre application, outline and full.
 Between August 2017 to December 2018, there were 42 responses to strategic planning applications, with a total value of £748,064 requested in line with policy requirements. To date £247,960 has been added to section 106 Agreements through the decision making process.
- Major planned improvements, both new and replacement, of sports facilities during the period since the adoption of the Strategy include:
 - Planning approval and commencement of construction of a new community accessible Alderley Park Leisure Centre. Expected completion Autumn 2019.
 - The planning approval and commencement of replacement indoor and outdoor facilities for The Kings School in Macclesfield including dedicated swimming, indoor cricket, and a range of community accessible facilities. Expected completion late 2019
 - Development and investment of a new gym and spin studio plus associated change facilities at Sandbach Leisure Centre (£0.5m) completed summer 2018.

- Redevelopment of the gym at Wilmslow Leisure Centre, including full gym equipment replacement.
- Investment at Macclesfield Leisure Centre (£4m) due for completion July 2019 including extension to gym, creation of new spin and studio spaces, creation of new spa and redevelopment to create a new wet side changing village.
- Allocated investment of £8.8m for the redevelopment of Congleton Leisure Centre including replacement swimming pool, new gym and studio spaces. Planning decision expected March 2019.
- Commencement of replacement of indoor and outdoor facilities at the former MMU
 Alsager site and the creation of a Sports Hub (£4.8m) including 3G football and all
 weather hockey pitches, five grass pitches, pavilion and supporting car parking. An
 additional £0.4m was also secured for improvements to the adjacent Alsager Leisure
 Centre including extension of existing gym and creation of new spin and studio spaces.
- The Strategy has also been used in partnership with Everybody Sport & Recreation to develop a three year investment plan commencing in the 2019/20 financial year for a range of targeted improvements at five further leisure centres within the Borough. The Council's current capital programme "addendum" for the 2019/20 financial year has a proposed figure of £14.5m for this investment subject to the completion of detailed business cases.
- During the period there were a number of known reductions and changes to indoor sport facilities within the Borough, these included:
 - Lidl supermarket planning application for the redevelopment of its site in Dean Row,
 Handforth. This included the closure of a commercial facility (including swimming pool and gym) following the submission of an independent Sports Needs Assessment demonstrating the close availability of similar facilities.
 - The was a reduction in the number of squash courts at a number of sites including the Astra Zeneca leisure facility at Alderley Park (three courts not being replicated in the new replacement facility (based on a Sports Needs Assessment by the applicant). A further three courts were lost for the redevelopment of gym facilities at Alsager (1) & Sandbach Leisure Centres (2). Whilst the Indoor Strategy emphasised that the Borough was well provided for in terms of squash courts the reduced number was recognised in the mix of facilities for Congleton Leisure Centre which has retained a squash court in its development proposals.

5. Wider corporate use of the Strategy

- The Strategy has been used to develop and implement Local Plan policy.
- Along with the Playing Pitch Strategy, the document has brought about closer cross departmental working to maintain and improve opportunities for sport, recreation and green space through the planning process. This has proved to be extremely useful on projects such as the development of the Handforth Garden Village Masterplan and other planning documents.
- The Strategy has been used in discussions on the creation of the now approved FA "Local Football Facilities Plan" for Cheshire East to guide future investment and where indoor facilities will play an important element in supporting outdoor site improvements.

 During the period the Strategy has also been used to comment on a wide range of other issues including responding to requests for green infrastructure community transfer requests where indoor facilities have been part of the consideration and also in support of written support to external grant funding bodies by local sports clubs.

6. Additional information

As set out in Section 2 above, the following have been considered as part of the monitoring and review of the Strategy to date:

- Review "active participation" and changes from Sport England data As the Strategy is still
 only just over twelve months old and was completed using both Sport England data and
 assessment tools it is not considered necessary to review this element again at present.
 However the council will continue to monitor the latest information on active participation
 made available and act accordingly as required.
- New facilities that may need to be taken into account The Strategy has been used to support a number of new build developments over the period as set out in the review
- Lessons learnt throughout the year The Strategy continues to be used on a range of issues raised both within the authority and in respect of responses from outside bodies. As part of the development of Part Two policies for the Local Plan it will become necessary to have a greater focus on any challenges made in respect of justifications for the charging policy and utilising any updated national participation figures. A further improvement through the use of the strategy for planning responses is how its scope has been widened to include contributions to suitable facilities supporting "active participation" programmes in small villages and rural communities.
- Any specific changes of use of key sites in the Borough (e.g. sport specific specialisms of sites, changes in availability, etc.) – During the period there have been no other major changes to leisure facilities that the Council is aware of in addition to those as identified in this review.
- Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or clubs in the area (e.g. reduction
 or increase in club numbers, new housing growth All planning applications where major
 investment or reductions in facilities are a possibility will continue to be the subject of an
 independent Sports Needs Assessment. All capital investments supported by the authority
 are based on business cases taking into account financial viability and sustainability of
 proposed development based on geographic market research and general industry trends
 within the leisure sector.
- New formats of traditional sports that may need to be taken account of the Council continues to have regular meetings with the leisure trust Everybody Sport and Recreation as the principal Cheshire East wide provider of facility based leisure opportunities. These discussions identify changes in the market for both traditional sport and participation in activities outside the traditional sports. To date no major changes have been identified.
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities are identified in discussion with Everybody Sport and Recreation, and a range of key stakeholders often in response to major planning applications received by the Council. The Settlement Action Plan is used as the basis for responding to such opportunities.

7. Conclusions

During the initial post-adoption phase, the Strategy has made a considerable impact in maximising the opportunities to improve sport and recreational facilities across Cheshire East. As identified in Section 4 above this has been most clearly seen through its use as policy in support of the Local Plan.

In addition the Strategy's use in providing a focus for working both within and outside the Council on the wider sport and green infrastructure agenda and its contribution to local "place making".

APPENDIX 1 – REVIEW OF STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ACTION PLAN

The following actions are relative to the overall management and programming of the wider leisure offer in Cheshire East.

Str	ategic recommendation	commended actions	Time-scale	Partners	Importance
1.	Maximise the potential sports facility development opportunities created through Cheshire East's housing and population growth.	CE Council to adopt the recommendations PPS and ensure that they are encapsulated documents (Local Plans) and other relevan where appropriate. Action Achieved	l in planning policy t CE Council strategies	CE Council; Sport England, CSP	High
		Develop robust planning policies that set of securing sports and recreational facilities for Action Achieved			
		Use the policies to assist CE Council to ider could be funded through CIL/Section 106 a funding. Policies are used for the evaluation of all a applications when submitted to the Council Cou	ppropriate planning		
		Engage with planning department when pl made. Action ongoing			
2.	Where appropriate engage with other services to create multi-agency hubs through the co-location of services.	The master planning of facilities in Handfo Macclesfield is important in ensuring any relocated with other relevant services such a shops, etc., Action ongoing with contributions to const	new provision is co- is new schools, local	CE Council; Sport England, CSP	High
		Locate new community facilities to ensure new and existing communities and passing In South Macclesfield, there is not only a n development but also to add facilities such group fitness and outdoor provision which facilities and programmes at Macclesfield	eed to cluster as Health and Fitness, is complementary to		

Strategic recommendation	Recommended actions	Time-scale	Partners	Importance
3. Work with colleagues in education ensure that any new schools improvements to sports facilities existing schools are accompanied by community use agreement.	as per the Settlement Action Plan. Action Ongoing	Medium	Schools, CE Council	High
4. Work with selected schools to increase their availability for community use.	 Work to achieve community use agreements for all schools in the area. A range of "Facility Access Agreements" have now been signed with schools/academies to replace the former Joint Use Agreements on leisure centre sites shared with schools. To date this has included, Poynton High School, Shavington High School & Alsager High School. Still to be completed includes Sandbach High School 2020, Knutsford High School 2021 and Holmes chapel 2023. Where a school has moved to a FAA there is now increased scope to use the leisure facilities, including where appropriate swimming pools during the day time for community leisure activities On a site by site basis consider whether it is appropriate to engage with schools to extend community use into daytime hours in order to meet the needs of an increasingly ageing community. As set out above leisure provision continues to be made more available for community accees in those sites governed by an FAA 	Medium	Schools, CE Council, Leisure Operators, Sports Clubs/Communi ty Association	High

St	ategic recommendation	Re	ecommended actions	Time-scale	Partners	Importance
5.	Enhance the quality of the existing sports facility infrastructure and improve its longer term financial sustainability by ensuring sufficient capital funds are available for improvement and upkeep.	•	Ensure sufficient finances are available to support the delivery of the Settlement Action Plan (i.e. council capital, revenue efficiencies, ESAR surpluses, external funding, and planning gain). Action Ongoing including longer capital programme work in partnership with Everybody Sport & Recreation Invest in the current sport and leisure infrastructure in order to sustain provision within key communities and address some of the longer term viability challenges of the cost of operating facilities. Action as above Develop a whole site approach to deliver the actions identified within the Settlement Action Plan.	Long	CE Council, Sport England, CSP, NGBs, Leisure Operator, Sports Clubs	High
6.	To protect key sports facilities which are deemed at risk or closure, either as a result of age or potential development.	1	Protect the facilities as per the Settlement Action Plan and retain community access to the facilities. Action ongoing using Strategy in support of Policies SC1 and SC2 in the Local Plan	Short	CE Council, Education, sport England CSP, NGBs	High
7.	The retention of the Sports facilities and the community access where there are changes in education (University)	4	Retain the facilities as per the Settlement Action Plan or alternatively seek to negotiate mitigation from the loss of the facility and invest this in a strategic development in the area. Action ongoing	Short	CE Council, Education, Sport England, CSP, NGBs	High

Str	ategic recommendation	Re	commended actions	Time-scale	Partners	Importance
8.	Strategically programme sports and leisure provision to ensure that there is sufficient access for a range of sports to enable growth and increase participation.	•	Consider current programming across the Borough and prioritise sports at sites so that they can flourish and grow, and new sports have the opportunity to develop. Quarterly review meetings take place with Everybody Sport and Recreation to identify changes to programming taking into account their most recent market research. Define the role of each facility within the wider community use offer across Cheshire East. Every Council leisure facility has had wider market research undertaken and is used as the basis for business planning for capital investments as seen already at Sandbach and Macclesfield Leisure Centres	Short	Leisure Operator, CE Council, Schools & community centres, NGBs, Clubs	High
		•	Work with partners to identify how growth potential of certain sports can be developed and accommodated across the network of facilities. Everybody Sport and Recreation regularly works with a range of partners including National Governing Bodies of sport to identify trends within their specific sectors			
		•	Develop a site by site action plan which contributes to improving programming across the Borough. As set out above, market research directs funding and programme development to changes in the leisure landscape			
		•	Ensure that higher performing clubs are playing within facilities appropriate to their level (e.g. with appropriate run-off areas). All capital improvements ensure compliance with the latest NGB requirements			
		•	Consider developing a sport by sport programme (e.g. swimming clubs) to ensure the efficient use of limited resources. This already occurs as part of regular reviews of service provision by Everybody Sport & Recreation			

APPENDIX 2 - REVIEW OF SETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN

Settlement Area	Planned Changes	Capacity	Challenges	Action and Achievements
	2,000 new homes which will increase population by 3,201 people creating additional demand for 1 badminton court and 0.5 lanes of swimming pool.	The increase in demand can be accommodated within current provision, but quality needs to be improved.	The aging facilities in the area and the quality of sports halls.	Improve the quality of the sports hall and changing provision alongside the investment in the Health and Fitness offer at Alsager Leisure Centre.
Alsager	There is planned investment to increase and improve fitness provision at Alsager Leisure Centre as part of the development of the former MMU Alsager site.	Fitness provision will be increased which will ensure there is sufficient supply to meet increased demand.		Deliver on planned fitness investment at Alsager Leisure Centre (extension of fitness gym and creation of two studios). Due for completion Easter 2019
	PPS identified a shortfall of 3G pitches and need to improve the quality of existing sand based pitch.	The shortfall of 3G pitches will be alleviated after the development at the former MMU Alsager site is completed.		Deliver on planned development of a new floodlit 3G pitch and sand based hockey pitch at the former MMU Alsager site. Due for completion Spring 2019
	4,150 new homes which will increase the population by 6,700 people creating an additional demand of 2 badminton courts and 1.5 lanes of a swimming pool.	Current supply of sports halls is sufficient to meet existing and future need within the area.	Need to increase the capacity of Health and Fitness within the area and maintain current facility infrastructure.	Maintain and improve the quality of all facilities in the area. Increase the provision of Health and Fitness facilities. Secure long term community use agreements at the sites.
Congleton	Redevelopment of Congleton Leisure Centre which will enhance the leisure offer in the area.	The redevelopment of Congleton Leisure Centre will increase capacity and significantly improve the quality and attractiveness of facility.	Need to retain core facility mix and develop facility in such a way that it is financially sustainable.	Retain and enhance the facility mix at Congleton leisure Centre and ensure its financial sustainability in the longer term. £8.8m allocated for leisure centre redevelopment. Planning decision expected March 2019 for completion Autumn 2020.

Settlement	Planned Changes	Capacity	Challenges	Action and Achievements
Area				
Crewe	7,700 new homes will increase population by 12,401 creating additional demand for 3.5 badminton courts and 2.5 lanes of a swimming pool. Potential loss of 2x 4 court halls and 50 station fitness gym at MMU (Crewe	The current stock of facilities is sufficient to meet increased demand; however the potential loss of facilities at MMU (Crewe Campus) will result in a shortfall of sports hall and fitness provision.	To retain / negotiate suitable replacement facilities should the University withdraw from the area.	Retain the sports halls and fitness at MMU or negotiate suitable replacement facilities within an appropriate location within the town that meets current need and future demand.
Handforth	Campus). 2,200 new houses will increase the population by 3,501 creating additional demand for 1 badminton court and 0.5 lane of a swimming pool.	The increase in demand is not sufficient to require substantial indoor sports facilities investment, however there is need to consider how demand can be accommodated within community halls and in adjacent areas.	Ensure any new community offer is sufficient to accommodate a range of physical activity sessions and how this fits alongside the outdoor sport requirements.	Ensure increased demand for sports facilities is accommodated within any future strategic development of Wilmslow Leisure Centre. Business case for capital investment currently been developed Ensure localised demand for indoor physical activity sessions can be accommodated within new community facilities and that, where appropriate, this is colocated with new outdoor sport provision. Support given to the current SPD consultation to maximise sports and recreation opportunities from the Handforth Garden Village proposals.

Settlement	Planned Changes	Capacity	Challenges	Action and Achievements
Area				
Knutsford	950 new houses will increase the population by 1.501 people creating additional demand for 0.5 badminton courts and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool.	There is insufficient water space to meet current demand, therefore increased water space would be required to meet additional demand. There is also an under supply of Health and Fitness provision to meet the increase in demand from population growth.	To improve the quality of sports halls and increase the quality and provision of both water space and Health and Fitness provision available to residents.	Develop a whole site plan to provide to provide where possible an enhanced community sport and leisure offer that builds on the success of the existing dual use agreement. A range of 106 contributions have been requested resulting from major planning applications in the town. Increase pool size to 5 lanes, extend Health and Fitness offer by providing a larger fitness suite and two group fitness studios.
Macclesfield	It is anticipated there will be 4,250 new houses in the area which is anticipated to increase the local population by c.6,800. The majority of development will be in the south of the town, whereas the majority of the community accessible facilities are located to the north or just outside the town. The housing growth will create additional demand for 3 badminton courts and 1.5 lanes of a pool.	There is a concern regarding the amount of Health and Fitness provision to meet the increase in demand from an increase in population. There is a need to increase the sports hall provision in the area. Fallibroome Academy has an aspiration to develop an on-site sports hall rather than hiring Macclesfield LC.	To provide access to community facilities for existing and new residents in the south of the town.	Develop a whole site plan to maintain quality of Macclesfield LC and where possible expand the Health and Fitness offer. Current £4m redevelopment of key elements of the leisure centre. Complete Summer 2019 If a new sports hall is developed at Fallibroome Academy (with community use in place) consider using one of the sports halls to enhance the income generation
	There is planned development at Club AZ in Alderley Park (although outside the area – it will be accessible to Macclesfield residents).	Will complement Macclesfield facility provision.	Both facilities will have community access, in addition to the core use by education and employment.	potential of the facility by extending the fitness offer or providing soft play.
	There is a planned development of a six court sports hall and six lane 25m pool at Kings School Macclesfield.	This will increase the amount of water space and number of sports halls in the area.	The challenge will be to ensure use is complementary to existing provision.	Consider the opportunity to colocate community facilities in the south that complement the Macclesfield LC offer and includes

Settlement	Planned Changes	Capacity	Challenges	Action and Achievements
Area	Macclesfield Harriers Athletics Club has an aspiration to develop an indoor athletics straight at Macclesfield Leisure Centre.	The demand and technical feasibility of this needs to be explored further.	Any development will be reliant on the club and NGB working along with the Leisure Operator to develop this proposal and then to identify a capital and revenue funding solution to deliver the scheme.	Health and Fitness provision and group fitness studio alongside new outdoor provision required in the area. Put in place community use agreements at Kings School and Club AZ and ensure programming is complementary to other facilities. New development commenced, due for completion Summer 2020 with community access agreements to be in place Support the athletics club to test the feasibility of a new indoor straight, working with the Leisure Operator and the Council as part of a wider upgrade and development of the site Still under consideration as part of the wider £4m redevelopment
Middlewich	1950 new homes will increase the population by 3,101 people creating additional demand for 1 badminton court and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool. Residents have access to one below average quality facility.	There is sufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand.	To improve the quality of the sports hall and Health and Fitness facilities at Middlewich LC to ensure the facility is attractive to local residents. Middlewich is in the catchment of Winsford Lifestyle Centre (Cheshire West) and Sandbach Leisure Centre; both within 10 mins drive.	There is a need to improve the quality of Middlewich LC in order to sustain community use. Current business case being developed to support improved provision in the town.

Settlement	Planned Changes	Capacity	Challenges	Action and Achievements
Area	2.050		XX 14 170 1	
Nantwich	2,050 new homes will increase the population by 3,301 creating demand for an additional 1 badminton court and 0.5 lanes of a swimming pool. Planned development of a four court sports hall at Reaseheath College	There is capacity within the current and planned supply to meet the additional demand from the increase in population.	Health and Fitness is spread across two sites, neither of which provides the appropriate critical mass of provision to attract high membership levels. Given the provision of sports halls is limited to educational sites, it is imperative that community use agreements are secured and that quality is improved.	Develop a single high quality Health and Fitness offer at Nantwich Pool and Fitness Centre with a focus on extending the size of the fitness suite and providing two group fitness studios. Current business case being developed to support improved provision in the town.
				Secure community use agreement at Reaseheath College.
Poynton	650 new homes will increase the population by 1,001 people creating additional demand for 0.5 badminton courts and 0.5 lanes of a pool.	There is an under supply of water space in this area and insufficient capacity to accommodate additional demand. PPS found there to be a shortfall of 3G pitches in this area.	Increase the size of the swimming pool and extend the Health and Fitness offer at Poynton Leisure Centre. There is a need to invest, and consider the option of colocating/providing 3G pitches at Poynton High School where a management presence already exists.	Develop a whole site plan to provide an enhanced community sport and leisure offer that builds on the success of the existing dual use agreement. Increase pool size to 5 lanes, extend Health and Fitness offer by providing a larger fitness suite and two group fitness studios Current business case being developed to support improved provision in the town. Locate a 3G pitch at Poynton LC given that there is already a management presence at the site. Proposal (subject to available funding) now supported in the Cheshire east Local Football Facilities Plan

Settlement	Planned Changes	Capacity	Challenges	Action and Achievements
Area				
Sandbach	2,750 new homes will increase the population by 3,401 creating additional demand for one badminton court and 1 lane of a swimming pool. Planned redevelopment and extension of the HEALTH AND FITNESS offer at Sandbach LC will result in the loss of two squash courts.	There is capacity within the current facility provision to meet the demand created by an increase in population.	The planned investment in improved Health and Fitness facilities at Sandbach LC will reinforce the need to improve the quality of the sports hall, swimming pool and ancillary facilities at the centre.	Deliver on the planned investment in Health and Fitness at Sandbach LC Completed summer 2018 Identify investment to improve the quality of the sports hall and swimming pool at Sandbach LC.
Wilmslow	900 new homes will increase the population by 1,401 creating additional demand for an additional 0.5 badminton courts and 0.5 swimming pool lanes.	The current supply is adequate for the local demand; however, this needs to be reviewed within context of future housing growth in Handforth which is in close proximity to the catchment of Wilmslow.	Monitor the impact of the housing developments in Handforth and the increased demands placed on Wilmslow Leisure Centre.	Identify appropriate investment to improve the quality of Wilmslow Leisure Centre. Gym improvements completed 2018 Future planning of the growth of Handforth and the impact on Wilmslow facilities needs careful consideration. Support given to the current SPD consultation to maximise sports and recreation opportunities from the Handforth Garden Village proposals.