

Midlothian Council Football Pitch Needs Assessment

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

Report for Information

1 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- Notes the Football Pitch Needs Assessment Report and actions that are being taken

2 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the revised football pitch needs across the county and the corresponding actions that are being taken by Council Officers.

Date: 2nd February 2023
Report Contact: Derek Oliver, Chief Officer - Place
Email: derek.oliver@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background

- 3.1 With the continuing growth and development across Midlothian, it is important to assess the degree to which current outdoor football facility provision meets current requirements and the extent to which demand for football facilities created by the future population growth can be catered for by existing provision, or whether additional or improved facilities are required.
- 3.2 In 2022, Midlothian Council requested an update of the sports pitch needs analysis, originally undertaken in 2007 and revised in 2017, but with a specific focus on football, taking account of new housing development and the increasing importance of the provision of synthetic grass pitches for both playing and training.
- 3.3 The aim and objective of this study was to update population projections, pitch usage, demand criteria, and providing recommendations as to future levels of pitch provision.
- 3.4 Developing participation in football, and indeed other sports, provides many benefits. As sportscotland sets out in its *Sport for Life* website, it can support health, improve activity, develop skills, strengthen communities and help the economy. Fundamental to this is adequate provision of facilities.
- 3.5 The consultants undertook engagement with football clubs across Midlothian. Midlothian Council officers provided booking information for council pitches, gradings for those pitches, population data and projections, and information on known planned facilities. Where pitches and synthetic turf pitches (STP) existed that were not under the direct control of the Council the providers were directly contacted to discuss levels of use and demand.
- 3.6 The findings of the assessment is contained within the report and summarised below:

Area	Findings	Council Actions
Bonnyrigg, Lasswade, Dalkeith, Easthouses, Mayfield, Newbattle, and Newtongrange	<p>Provide two additional 3G Synthetic Turf pitches (STPs) – one at Kings Park if practical, one at planned new secondary school.</p> <p>Due to impact of population growth – need for one additional 3G STP. Additional demand for grass pitch provision can be met by existing facilities.</p> <p>Grass pitch improvements – upgrade drainage on the two pitch areas of the Mayfield Complex as identified in this report.</p>	<p>STP provision identified within preliminary designs of new education assets in Easthouses Primary School and Mayfield Joint Campus.</p> <p>Work with Dalkeith Thistle to attain relevant funding, if desired, to develop Kings Park.</p>

Danderhall, Millerhill & Shawfair	<p>Due to impact of population growth – need for 3 x 6-11 grass pitches and 2 additional adult/youth grass pitches. 2 adult pitches and one 6-11 pitch currently planned for the Shawfair development.</p> <p>Impact of population growth - need for 1.6 3G STP's.</p>	<p>Being addressed through development.</p> <p>Brief for Shawfair All Through Campus will reflect requirements arising from report.</p> <p>Support current planned provision for 2 STPs as part of new Shawfair development.</p>
Gorebridge and Arniston	<p>Provide a 3G STP to meet current demand – the lack of such a facility to serve these settlements makes this a PRIORITY project.</p> <p>Recommend improving drainage at Birken side Playing Field.</p> <p>Due to impact of population growth – need for one additional 11v11 grass pitch.</p> <p>Consequential rise in team numbers justifies a further 3G STP.</p>	<p>Pitches at Birken side have been re-instated.</p> <p>Work with Arniston Rangers to develop business case and funding applications to develop Newbyres Park.</p>
Loanhead and Bilston	<p>Provide a 3G STP to meet current demand – the lack of such a facility to serve these settlements makes this a PRIORITY project.</p> <p>Recommend improving drainage on grass pitches.</p> <p>Impact of population growth indicates a need for one additional 11v11 grass pitch and one additional grass pitch for 6-11 year olds.</p> <p>Impact of population growth – need for a half size 3G STP.</p>	<p>Pitch drainage works have been commissioned.</p> <p>Further scoping work necessary for any possible STP or addressed through future development.</p>
Penicuik and Auchendinny	<p>Due to impact of population growth – need for one additional grass pitch for 6-11 year olds.</p> <p>Impact of population growth – need for a half size 3G STP.</p>	<p>Address through future development.</p>

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

New pitches can be incorporated into the design and build of new Council assets. Any new 3G STP provision at a primary school should as a minimum meet the SFA's size guidance for a 7v7 pitch, to ensure its potential use by community clubs.

Existing community facilities can potentially be improved/replaced through Developer Contributions, where appropriate.

Place Services currently piloting the cost effective use of MUGAs within the Council school estate to address needs of community football clubs.

4.2 Digital

Information on pitch needs assessment will be displayed on the Council's website.

4.3 Risk

Not implementing the relevant actions will have an adverse effect on football clubs, especially where there is an increasing population within the community.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

An Equality Impact Assessment will be necessary on the implementation of the measures.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix B - Football Pitch Needs Assessment

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The route map outlines the phases of service recovery and transformation which will underpin the Single Midlothian Plan.

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- Holistic Working
- Hub and Spoke
- Modern
- Sustainable
- Transformational
- Preventative
- Asset-based
- Continuous Improvement
- One size fits one
- None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- One Council Working with you, for you
- Preventative and Sustainable
- Efficient and Modern
- Innovative and Ambitious
- None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The report aims to deliver best value.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Extensive public consultation is imperative and has been undertaken as per the Final Report.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report aims to measure progress through outcomes.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The report is based on the creation of a wellbeing economy which prioritises prevention, fairness for people, the economy and the environment.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The improvement and enhancement of our environment.