



Report of the Director of City Development

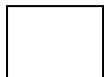
Development Plan Panel

Date: 13 July 2010

Subject: Leeds' Needs and Opportunities Assessment for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Electoral Wards Affected:

All



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

The council has been collecting sport, recreation and open space data to allow preparation of a needs and opportunities assessment for Leeds, which is compliant with Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG17). The key purpose of this is to inform the evidence base of the Local Development Framework, including the Core Strategy, but the information in turn, will assist the council in delivering services and a range of initiatives.

The audit of green spaces, including quality assessment of the sites, is now complete. The needs assessment, comprising the public consultation exercise, user group surveys, key stakeholder workshops and interviews has also been completed. Within this context, data analysis is currently progressing to inform the drafting of the study document and subject to progress, it is anticipated that a draft study will be completed in the Autumn 2010.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to explain the purpose of a PPG17 study and the main tasks involved in its preparation (including data collection and inputting), and provides an update on the progress made to date.
- 1.2 In preparing to write up this information, officers felt it would be useful for members of the Development Plan Panel at this stage, to receive this overview report and a presentation to panel regarding the study, including the spatial distribution of the different types of open spaces across the district.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 PPG17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' was revised and re-issued in 2002. The revision contained a clear instruction to local planning authorities to provide for better protection, improved access and use of open space, sport and recreation facilities. It focused on the need for improved, more locally determined standards, justified by public consultation.
- 2.2 In preparing a study, 5 main areas of work need to be undertaken. The summary table below identifies each of these stages. Progress has been made on steps 1 and 2. Early analysis of both the needs assessment and audit data is informing the work on step 3, which is currently ongoing.

	Table 1 PPG17 comprises 5 main steps
Step 1	Identify local needs Consult local communities, assess demand and need Completed by PMP between March 2008 and Nov 2008.
Step 2	Audit existing provision. LCC officers between Jan 2008 to July 2009, audited some 2,000 outdoor sites and 130 indoor sport sites
Step 3	Determine quantity, quality, accessibility and minimum acceptable size standards
Step 4	Apply the standards to: Identify deficiencies in accessibility, quality, quantity Identify surpluses in quantity Identify future needs
Step 5	Identify and evaluate strategic options, greenspace to be protected, greenspace to be enhanced, provision to be relocated, new provision, review of any surplus facilities. Prepare draft development plan policies and consult stakeholders

- 2.3 The proposed PPS consultation period for the 2010 replacement of PPG17 closed on 1 June 2010. This proposed replacement retains the requirement for local planning authorities to keep up to date assessments of the existing and future needs.
- 2.4 There are a range of initiatives, which require an up to date evidence base provided by a PPG17 study. These include:
- Leeds Core Strategy
 - Greenspace Strategy and all descendant documents
 - Aire Valley Area Action Plan
 - Holbeck Action Plan
 - Beeston Hill and West Hunslet Action Plan
 - EASEL Neighbourhood Plans
 - West Leeds Gateway SPD
- 2.5 To support and inform decisions in the preparation of the above planning documents, work began in November 2007 to progress the Leeds study. The quality audit of all

sports, open space and recreation sites began in January 2008. In March 2008, the council commissioned PMP, a leisure consultant, to undertake the needs assessment element of the primary research required for a compliant study. This comprised public consultation in the form of household and on-street surveys, workshops and interviews with key stakeholders. PMP completed their commission in November 2008.

- 2.6 The audit of sites was completed in September 2009. Workshops were held in November 2009 to examine all the data resulting from the above exercise and other data already held by the council. A workshop was undertaken for the majority of the PPG17 typologies listed at Appendix B. It is important to note at this stage, that no workshops have yet taken place in regard to city centre public realm and indoor sports. No workshop has taken place, or is planned, for green corridors, cemeteries and burial space, as the PPG17 study is not expected to set standards for their provision.

3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 At present the study includes data for the following types of open space:

- Parks and Gardens
- Amenity Space
- Children and Young People's Play Provision
- Outdoor Sports
- Allotments
- Natural Greenspace
- Cemeteries, Churchyards and Green Corridors

- 3.2 Work is continuing on collecting data for public realm space in the city centre and indoor sports data. However, this is still not available at this time.

4.0 Implications for Council policy and governance

- 4.1 PPG17 requires up-to-date needs and opportunity assessments of open space, sport and recreation to provide the robust evidence base for the development of relevant planning policies and strategies. It is, therefore, necessary to complete this work to justify the council's future approach to controlling development in respect to greenspace and recreation land.

5.0 Legal and resource implications

- 5.1 Once adopted, the LDF, will be the development plan for Leeds and will need to be consistent with corporate objectives and the objectives of the community strategy. Preparing evidence for the council's emerging LDF is time consuming and resource intensive. Resource commitments will need to be addressed and reviewed within the context of existing provision and the council's overall budget position and priorities.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 This report has provided information on the progress made in preparing a Leeds PPG17 study. The presentation provides an initial overview of the spatial distribution of the different types of greenspace across Leeds.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 Development Plan Panel is recommended to:

i) Note and comment on the contents of the report and presentation in preparing a completed draft Leeds PPG17 study.