ITEM 6  OPEN SPACES, SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY

Purpose of the Report

To receive a briefing on when a strategy or strategies, including revisions to existing strategies, would be developed from the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study. To provide a detailed timetable for their consideration, to ensure that scrutiny of the development of Council planning and green spaces strategies and policies was undertaken at the appropriate time.

Background

A technical study into Charnwood’s Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation was undertaken by PMP which is designed to assist with the development of Council Strategies and Policies in respect of Planning and Green Spaces. This study was finalised in November 2010 and considers the following areas:

- Section 1 Introduction & background
- Section 2 Undertaking the study
- Section 3 Strategic context
- Section 4 Parks and gardens
- Section 5 Natural and semi natural open space
- Section 6 Amenity green space
- Section 7 Provision for children and young people
- Section 8 Outdoor sports facilities
- Section 9 Playing pitch strategy
- Section 10 Allotments
- Section 11 Cemeteries and churchyards
- Section 12 Green corridors
- Section 13 Civic Spaces and village greens
- Section 14 Indoor sports facilities
- Section 15 Summary and planning implementation

The study also includes the following appendices:

- Appendix A  Benefits of open space
- Appendix B  Household survey
- Appendix C  Consultation summary
- Appendix D  Site assessment matrix
- Appendix E  Standards
- Appendix F  Quantity standard worksheet
- Appendix G  Key recommendations
- Appendix H  Applying standards
The full study is available from Planning Policy at Charnwood Borough Council.

Scrutiny Management Board on 30th November 2010, received a report of the Director of Development presenting the final Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study by PMP in order that the Board could determine whether to make recommendations on its usage for Charnwood Borough Council in determining Planning Policy or whether further scrutiny was required by an appropriate body (Minute 31 2010/2011).

To ensure that scrutiny of the development of Council planning and green spaces strategies and policies was undertaken at the appropriate time; Scrutiny Management Board resolved that the Lead Member for Planning and Development be asked to advise Scrutiny Management Board when a strategy or strategies, including revisions to existing strategies, would be developed from this study, and to provide a detailed timetable, for their consideration.

Updated Position

The Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study is being used to inform the preparation of green infrastructure policies in the Core Strategy. A public consultation on the draft Core Strategy is due in February 2012, followed by a submission to the Secretary of State in May 2012; an Examination in Public would occur in September 2012 with adoption of the document taking place in May 2013.

Timetable for revision of Green Space Strategies

The development of a revised Green Spaces Strategy will be informed by the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study and will supersede the 2004 Green Spaces Strategy.

It considers the practical steps required to address the statistical shortfalls in the quantity, quality and accessibility standards of public open space detailed in the 2010 Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study.

Public open space has been classified by the following typologies

- Parks
- Natural and Semi Natural Open Space
- Amenity Green Space
- Facilities for children
- Facilities for Young People
- Outdoor Sports Facilities
- Allotments
- Cemeteries and Churchyards
Public Open Space in Charnwood is owned and managed by Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, Town and Parish Councils, schools and the private sector. New Public Open Space is generally acquired through Housing Development.

Actual improvements in specific areas will require the co-operation of one of more of these partners. Public consultation to identify improvements should be carried out with Friends Groups, community groups, Area Forums, users and other stakeholders. The shortfalls and resources are such that this will be an ongoing process throughout the life of the strategy.

The revised Strategy will provide a strategic framework for managing existing Green Spaces and the development of new Green Spaces to ensure that the Council acts in a co-ordinated way with all stakeholders to make best use of Green Spaces by as much of the community as possible. It is anticipated that the Action Plans that will be informed by the Strategy will help identify a prioritised list of sites that need to be developed or improved to improve service provision, shortfalls and/or accessibility.

The following timetable is being proposed:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Timetable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desk top review of current documents, data, policy and</td>
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<tr>
<td>best practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to October 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder input to Draft Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of Draft Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>November – December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Consultation on Draft Strategy</td>
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<td>January – March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of Final Strategy</td>
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<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adoption of Final Strategy</td>
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<td>April 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of ongoing Action Plans</td>
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<td>May 2012 onwards</td>
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Background Papers: Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study by PMP (November 2010)

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