



GATESHEAD COUNCIL SPORTS STRATEGY DOCUMENTS

Mike Barker, Acting Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Council's Sports Strategy Documents, which comprise a Playing Pitch Strategy, and Indoor and Build Sports Facilities Strategy and the Gateshead Football Plan.
2. Policies contained within Gateshead's emerging Local Plan need to be supported by an accurate and up to date evidence base. To meet this requirement, three sports strategy documents have been prepared which provide information on needs and opportunities for provision of sports facilities in Gateshead.
3. In addition to supporting policy preparation, and the Development Management Process, the sports strategy documents will be used to inform the development of future leisure provision across the borough, and may provide key evidence in future funding bids.
4. Approval of the strategies will allow the Council to implement the findings of the strategies through collaborative work with local sports clubs, facilities providers, and sports' national governing bodies. Formal approval of the strategies will also provide Sport England with assurance that the Council's activities in exploring new mechanisms for the provision and maintenance of sports facilities are compatible with Sport England's policy approach and will continue to support sporting activity in the borough.
5. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that Council:
 - i) Notes the potential implications of the Gateshead Sports Strategy documents, including opportunities for new mechanisms for the provision and maintenance of sports facilities.
 - ii) Approves the Gateshead Playing Pitch Strategy 2016 – 2019, the Gateshead Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 – 2026, and the Gateshead Football Plan 2016 – 2019.