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1 Sport, Recreation and Open Space

1.1 Summary

Open spaces, sport and recreational facilities underpin people's quality of life in Cornwall. Taking into account the key messages from the current evidence available, the following spatial planning issue has been identified:

Issue SROS1 – The Core Strategy should ensure the retention and provision of high quality accessible open spaces and recreational and sports facilities.

1.2 Purpose

This is one in a series of papers dealing with a specific theme. Each can be read in isolation or together with other papers to gain a wider understanding of issues facing Cornwall. This paper sets out the evidence base and the policy context for sport, recreation and open space and describes how the issues that need to be addressed in relation to sport, recreation and open space could be taken forward in the Core Strategy. These papers will form the first stage of the development of options for Core Strategy policy. Other issues papers available in this series include:

- *Housing*
- *Economy*
- *Tourism*
- *Retail & town centres*
- *Education & skills*
- *Social inclusion*
- *Crime & anti-social behaviour*
- *Health*
- *Transport & accessibility*
- *Energy*
- *Climate change*
- *Soil, air & water quality*
- *Flooding, drought & water consumption*
- *Biodiversity & geodiversity*
- *Landscape & seascape*
- *Historic environment*
- *Design & efficient use of resources*
- *Agriculture & food*
- *Coast & maritime*
- *Minerals*
- *Waste*

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This series of papers is closely linked to the topics of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report. The SA scoping report identifies the sustainability⁽¹⁾ objectives, decision making criteria and indicators against which the LDF and other plans in Cornwall should be tested, to examine whether plans are sustainable. The SA scoping report also identifies key messages from national, regional and local plans for the Cornwall LDF, a baseline and sustainability issues for each topic. These Core Strategy issue papers largely build on the SA scoping report and start to examine in greater detail the messages from evidence and research, the opportunities and threats and planning issues that need to be considered in the Core Strategy (the SA scoping report can be found at <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=17394>).

1.3 What is sport, recreation and open space?

Open spaces, sport and recreational facilities underpin people's quality of life. Open space can also be described as 'greenspace'⁽²⁾, and 'bluespace'⁽³⁾.

Open space can be defined in many ways – see appendix 1 for more information. Planning Policy Guidance 17 states that '*open space should be taken to mean all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity*'⁽⁴⁾.

The Council of Europe⁽⁵⁾ definition of sport is '*all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.*'

Green infrastructure is a managed network of natural spaces: it can provide routes from built up areas into the countryside, support biodiversity, provide space for allotments, recreation areas, footpaths or other sustainable transport networks, opportunities for green cooling and can be used to provide sustainable urban drainage⁽⁶⁾ solutions. Green infrastructure management is particularly useful in the treatment of the urban fringe, where a significant amount of development may take place, where the landscape setting of a settlement could be affected and various uses of open space and access into the countryside need to be considered.

Whilst all topics in this series are interlinked, Open Space, Sport and Recreation have very strong links to Tourism and Health, as well as to Social Inclusion, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, Landscape and Seascape, and Coast and Maritime issues papers.

1 Sustainability and sustainable development is defined in the glossary.

2 Greenspace – those spaces that can be described as land based resources such as parks, natural spaces, river banks, village greens, churchyards, etc.

3 Bluespace – those spaces that can be described as aquatic resources such as ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, etc.

4 Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002.

5 Council of Europe - <http://www.sportdevelopment.org.uk/>

6 Sustainable Urban Drainage is a technique for dealing with flooding or surface water quality using the best practicable environmental solution.

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1.4 Sport, recreation and open space 'portrait' of Cornwall

Cornwall contains a wealth of spaces that can be enjoyed in their own right or for sporting and recreational purposes, and this environment is one of the main draws for visitors to the area (see 'Tourism' Issue Paper for more information). Spaces range from the formal, such as tennis courts, swimming pools, boat slipways and cricket pitches, and equipped children's play areas, to the more informal, such as village greens, beaches and moorland.

Work is underway to collect a comprehensive list of all the sport, recreation and open spaces in Cornwall – see Appendix 2 for more detail on work to date. Some information⁽⁷⁾ is available on the more informal spaces in Cornwall and these include:

- 21,109 hectares of Open Access land is now available in Cornwall for people to access on foot.
- There are approximately 25,000 acres of common land and 55 town or village greens⁽⁸⁾.
- Cornwall has 6,500 Public Rights of Way, totalling 2,700 miles. This includes a 300 mile section (almost 50%) of the South West Coast Path, Britain's most popular National Trail. Cornwall's Rights of Way Network⁽⁹⁾ consists of:
 - 83% Footpaths (3548km/2203 miles);
 - 13% Bridleways (606 km/376 miles);
 - 4% Byways Open to All Traffic (203 km/126 miles) and;
- Cornwall also has 180 miles/275km of the National Cycle Network some sections of which makes use of Public Rights of Way.
- Over 50 main beaches⁽¹⁰⁾, six of which have been awarded Blue Flag status.

There are approximately 700 sports clubs in Cornwall which are voluntarily run.

1.5 What is the role of the Core Strategy?

The Core Strategy can provide planning policies that help deliver enhancement and protect environmental standards for the benefit of local communities. In developing these policies, the Core Strategy needs to take into account all other relevant plans, strategies, policies and programmes as well as involve key stakeholders and the community. The Core Strategy has a role to play in open space, sport and recreation in that it can:

- Provide criteria based policy that will ensure that access to and space for quality recreation, sport and/or relaxation are considered in all new developments;
- Allocate sites for the provision of open space; and
- Ensure that development does not have any negative impacts on the natural and coastal environments.

7 For more information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3951>

8 For more information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2759>

9 For more information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2449>

10 For more information see <http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=18369>

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1.6 Relevant Policy Context and key evidence

When preparing the Core Strategy, the Council does not start with a blank sheet of paper. There is a whole series of policies at national and regional level which have to be followed and the Core Strategy needs to be prepared within the framework set by national and European legislation and national & regional guidance. This section focuses on the most relevant published legislation, plans & strategies and draws out their key messages for the Core Strategy. The key directives, acts, plans and strategies identified and used are:

International / European

- European Landscape Convention (2000) (Binding on UK since March 2007)

National

- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
- Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play 2008 – Fields in Trust (formerly NPFA)
- Sport England Strategy 2008-2011
- Planning for Play – Play England & BIG Lottery (2006)
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance (2009) CABE
- The Rural Challenge. Achieving sustainable rural communities for the 21st century, The Rural Commission (2010)
- Blue Sky Green Space (2010) GreenLink

Regional

- N/A

Local

- Cornwall Play Strategy 2007
- SPG Negotiation of Community Benefits 2008 – North Cornwall District Council
- Carrick Sport & Recreation Facilities Strategy & Action Plan – Carrick District Council
- Camborne/Pool/Redruth Green Space Strategy (2009) Kerrier District Council

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1.7 Relevant Evidence and Research

Importance of sport, recreation and open space



The recent trend towards unhealthy lifestyles including lack of exercise and overeating will increase health issues such as obesity. Safe and enjoyable children's play spaces are increasingly important in encouraging a more active lifestyle from an early age. The provision of good quality outdoor facilities for young people and the sense that they are entitled to their own space has been demonstrated to help reduce anti-social behaviour and the costs of crime. Access to open space can improve the quality of life and independence of older people, and improve mental health for all.

According to the World Health Organisation⁽¹¹⁾, approximately 2 million deaths around the world are due to physical inactivity. This report concludes that

- Physically active people have a 20-30% reduced risk of premature death and up to 50% reduced risk of major chronic disease;
- The risk of developing coronary heart disease due to being physically inactive is comparable to that of smoking;
- The prevalence of inactivity amongst adults is almost three times that of smoking;
- More than 60% of men and 70% of women are not active enough to benefit their health.

The Chief Medical Officer's report 'At least five a week'⁽¹²⁾ (2004) identifies sport and physical activity as a key determinant of health. The Government strategy 'Healthy Weight Healthy Lives'⁽¹³⁾ and the report 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices'⁽¹⁴⁾ highlight physical activity level as a key determinant of obesity. See the 'Health' Topic Paper for more information.

Sport England has developed a new strategy⁽¹⁵⁾ for community sport in England for 2008-2011 which will ensure that:

11 National Heart Forum (2007) Health impact of physical activity

12 Department of Health (2004) At least five a week: evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health

13 Department of Health (2008) Healthy weight healthy lives: a cross government strategy for England

14 Foresight (2007) Tackling obesities: future choices

15 Sport England (2008) Sport England strategy 2008-2011

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- A substantial – and growing – number of people from across the community play sport;
- Talented people from all backgrounds are identified early, nurtured and have the opportunity to progress to the elite level; and
- Everyone who plays sport has a quality experience and is able to fulfil their potential.

Standards for sport, recreation and open space



‘The main role of the planning system is to ensure there are sufficient of them [sport, recreation and open spaces] and that they are in the right places, ... of high quality, attractive to users and well managed and maintained’⁽¹⁶⁾. Government guidance recommends the use of assessments and audits to assess local need, and advocates the production of a design guide to ensure good quality spaces are provided. Spaces and facilities are only valuable if they meet local need, and not all settlements can expect to have a full range of facilities.

Once an assessment and audit are complete, local provision standards can be set for the provision of both formal and informal open space, sport and recreational facilities in the area. In Cornwall, local provision standards were prepared for the former Carrick, Kerrier (CPR) and North Cornwall District areas. The research in North Cornwall concluded that the type of space most needed was equipped children’s play space, whilst in Carrick the need was for sports halls, swimming pools, and multi use games areas (MUGA). Research in Camborne/Pool/Redruth (Kerrier) concluded that active recreation and spaces for children and young people were most needed.

Informal spaces can also be awarded various standards if they meet set criteria. The Green Flag⁽¹⁷⁾ for example is awarded to parks and gardens. In Cornwall the Bodmin Beacon Local Nature Reserve, Penzance’s Princess May Recreation Ground, Queen Mary Gardens, Steeple Woodlands, and Tuckingmill Valley Park are 2009 holders of this award. The Blue Flag⁽¹⁸⁾ is an international award and is a guarantee that coastal destinations have reached the highest standards in water quality, facilities, safety, environmental education and management. In Cornwall, Carbis Bay, Gyllyngvase, Polzeath, Porthmeor, Porthtowan, and Sennen Cove are 2009 holders of this award.

16 ODPM (2002) Assessing needs and opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17

17 Keep Britain Tidy/Communities & Local Government (2009) Green Flag Award - <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag>

18 Keep Britain Tidy/Foundation for Environmental Education (2009) Blue Flag Award - <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/Programmes/Beaches/BlueFlag/Default.aspx>

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Safeguarding and enhancing existing spaces and facilities

Local provision standards offer a clear method of determining the value of an open space, sport or recreational facility in an area, and can demonstrate whether a specific facility is surplus to requirement or a necessary part of provision. If a facility is considered necessary to the overall offer it will enjoy greater protection than spaces in areas without local provision standards.

Once local provision standards are set it is often found that it is more important to improve the accessibility and quality of existing provision than to provide new facilities. The scale of new development required to meet the needs of population growth means that there is an opportunity to improve the accessibility and quality of existing provision through off site developer contributions where new provision is not necessary.

Spaces can also be safeguarded and enhanced when aspiring to meet nationally recognised awards such as the Blue and Green Flag awards.

The scale of new development required to meet the needs of population growth means that there is likely to be pressure to develop on open spaces, especially informal recreational space. If a need to remove existing spaces is justified it is important to ensure that any loss of open space, sport and recreation facilities is adequately compensated for through like for like replacement or provision of similar community value.

Little information is available on the number of open and sports spaces lost to development in Cornwall but it is likely to be significant. For example, regular monitoring of spaces in North Cornwall has shown that formal spaces had been lost in the majority of the main towns through the re-development of sites between 1992 and 2004.

New provision

Planning policy should clearly set out the provisions in respect of open space, sport and recreation that will be expected as part of new development. Accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities should be provided as part of new housing developments through developer contributions. Ideas developed, for example, active design and Home Zones (Sport England), should be incorporated into the design of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities to ensure that they are a well used, accessible, sustainable, attractive and an integral part of new development, and not, as has sometimes been the case, the 'left over' bit of grass in the corner. Children's play space and allotments are once again becoming important to people.

Participation in sport and recreational activities

Participation in cultural and sporting activities improves skills and confidence, enhances social networks and strengthens social cohesion and has positive impacts on health⁽¹⁹⁾. 'Playing to Win'⁽²⁰⁾ has set out the Government's aim to engage a million more people in regular sport as part of an overall ambition to get two million more people physically active by 2012.

19 DCLG (2006) Strong and prosperous communities

20 DCMS (2008) Playing to win: a new era for sport

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National Indicator 8 (NI8) is the percentage of the adult population (age 16 years and over) in a local area who participate in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last 4 weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week). In Cornwall in 2007/08, the proportion of people who met the national indicator was 21.9%⁽²¹⁾. This is one of the lowest participation rates in the South West.



Nearly 40 per cent of adults in the South West spend some of their leisure time enjoying water. The most popular activities are walking, swimming and visits to the beach. Boating, angling and other pastimes are becoming increasingly popular, with nearly 10 per cent of adults in the region now regularly taking part⁽²²⁾. Surfing is one of the most popular recreational activities in Cornwall.

Increasing participation in physical activity is not just about sports activity, it includes such activities as surfing, walking and cycling. Cornwall has an extensive public rights of way network which encourages visits to the countryside and sea.

The Cornwall Quality of Life Survey⁽²³⁾ found that:

- 60.8% of respondents felt the natural environment was important to them for active recreation and outdoor pursuits
- 39.2% of respondents did not feel it was easy to access sports and leisure facilities
- 48.2% felt the same about cultural or recreational facilities.

Respondents⁽²⁴⁾ were least satisfied of all with facilities for teenagers, with 45% of people saying that activities for teenagers were one of the things that most needed improving. Results from the 'Tell Us Survey'⁽²⁵⁾ indicate that 28% of children and young people in Cornwall, compared to 26% nationally, are happy with activities and things to do in their area. The Cornwall Play Strategy (2007) reports that children and young people ask to be involved in the design and development of their play and recreational spaces and facilities.

21 Please note NI8 differs from Sport England's KP1 (Participation) due to the inclusion in NI8 of certain light intensity sports for those aged 65 years and over. <http://www.sportengland.org>

22 Environment Agency (2009) Enjoying Water: a strategy for water based recreation in the South West 2009-2014

23 Cornwall Strategic Partnership (2007) Quality of Life Survey

24 Cornwall Strategic Partnership (2007) Quality of Life Survey

25 Ofsted (2007) Tell Us Survey

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Sport England's Active People's Survey shows that just over half (50.6%) the population over 16 do not participate in sport at all. Thousands of people drop out of playing sport each year, and there is a particular problem at the age of 16, where 25,000 drop out of sport each year.

The Active People Survey 2⁽²⁶⁾ data for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is given in the table below:

Table 1.1

Indicator	Cornwall	Regional	National
KP1 Participation ⁽²⁷⁾	21.8%	22.5%	21.3%
KP2 Volunteering ⁽²⁸⁾	6.2%	5.5%	4.9%
KP3 Club membership ⁽²⁹⁾	21.1%	24.5%	24.7%
KP4 Tuition ⁽³⁰⁾	18.5%	18.5%	18.1%
KP5 Competition ⁽³¹⁾	14.6%	15.9%	14.6%
KP6 Satisfaction ⁽³²⁾	67.3%	68.5%	66.6%

Sustainability

Research has demonstrated that taking part in sporting and recreational activities has a positive impact on health, educational attainment, community cohesion & safety, and economic vitality. Therefore sport and recreation are important aspects of a sustainable development.

'Green Infrastructure (GI) is an important component of ensuring development provides positive benefits for the region. It consists of strategic networks of accessible, multifunctional sites (including parks, woodland, informal open spaces, nature reserves and historic sites) as well as linkages (such as river corridors and floodplains, wildlife corridors and greenways). These contribute to people's well-being, and together comprise a coherent managed resource responsive to evolving conditions.'⁽³³⁾

Public space is important for supporting wildlife, and many footpaths, rivers, cycle paths, etc., act as wildlife corridors and benefit biodiversity, which is particularly important in the more urban areas.

26 Sport England (2008) Active people survey 2

27 Participation is defined as taking part on at least 3 days a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least 12 days in the last 4 weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session. Participation includes recreational walking and cycling. See <http://www.sportengland.org> for more information about KPI participation indicators

28 Volunteering is defined as 'Volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'

29 Club membership is defined as 'being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last 4 weeks'

30 Receiving tuition is defined as 'having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last 12 months'

31 Organised Competition is defined as 'having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last 12 months'

32 Satisfaction is the percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area

33 SWRA (2006) Former Draft Regional Spatial Strategy

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CABE⁽³⁴⁾ has stated the need to place parks and public spaces at the heart of sustainable development. Public spaces play a major role in combating the effects of climate change - from moderating rising temperatures in our towns and cities to preventing flooding.

Economic benefits

'Sporting [including recreational] and cultural activities and events can generate significant economic commercial and social benefits, both locally and nationally⁽³⁵⁾'.

Open and marine spaces can be used to facilitate sustainable tourism through eco-volunteering and with outdoor leisure activities throughout the year. Sport helps to deliver increased skills, employment and economic prosperity as demonstrated by 'The economic importance of sport in England 1985-2005' and 'Skills needs assessment for sport and recreation' etc. See the Tourism paper for more information on the importance of the natural environment to both visitors and residents.

1.8 Emerging Evidence

The gathering of evidence is an iterative process and must be continued throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy. Additional evidence should be considered right up to the 'submission' stage in the process. Listed below are the known emerging relevant guidance & studies, which will be taken into account if available before the submission of the Core Strategy:

- Draft Planning Policy Statement: Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment (2010)
- Cornwall Council (2009) Facility needs for community sport in Cornwall
- Cornwall Council (2010) AONB Atlas

1.9 Gaps in Evidence

A sound evidence base on the location and quality of sport, recreation, open and water based spaces is needed to help inform policy making and to plan for future sport and recreation needs and informal spaces. In Cornwall, the evidence base is patchy at this time, with only the areas covered by the former Carrick (2007) and North Cornwall (2005) District Councils having undertaken a needs assessment. In Cornwall, some audits have been undertaken but coverage is patchy and in some cases very out of date.

1.10 Key Messages from the Evidence Review

A number of key messages and issues were drawn out from the evidence review. The table below identifies the messages deemed most relevant and the source documents.

34 CABE (2005) Green space strategies: a good practice guide

35 DCLG (2006) Strong and prosperous communities

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Table 1.2

Message	Relevant Document(s)
Clear links between health and physical activity	<p>Healthy Weight Healthy Lives 2008</p> <p>Health Impact of Physical Activity 2007</p> <p>At least five a week 2004</p> <p>Blue Sky Green Space 2010</p>
The importance of local audits and assessments to set local provision standards for both formal and informal spaces – this process will safeguard and maintain existing facilities and spaces and identify areas where new facilities and spaces are required.	<p>PPG17</p> <p>Assessing Needs and Opportunities 2002</p> <p>Local Provision Standards – NCDC</p> <p>Local Provision Standards – Carrick DC</p>
The need to increase participation rates in physical activity	<p>Sport England Strategy 2008-2011</p> <p>Local Transport Plan</p>
In larger urban extensions and new settlements, the co-location of community facilities (including sport, recreation and open space) and other health and social care services is important in terms of reducing the transport needs of users, and hence the polluting effects of vehicles.	<p>Local Transport Plan</p>
Need for children's play areas	<p>Planning for Play</p> <p>Local Provision Standards – NCDC</p>
Improvements in access to countryside, public footpaths and other rights of way, benefiting residents and local wildlife.	<p>CRoW Act</p> <p>Countryside Access Strategy for Clay Country</p>

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Improvements in access to the coastal and marine environment for informal and formal recreation	PPG17 PPG20
Local Authorities should prioritise access to green space in new community developments, adopting the Natural England recommendation that people living in towns and cities should have 'an accessible natural green space, of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300metres (5 minutes' walk) from home'.	The Rural Challenge. Achieving sustainable rural communities for the 21st century (2010)
Air quality, air temperature, water and flood management, are all kept within manageable limits because of parks and green spaces.	Blue Sky Green Space 2010

1.11 SWOT Analysis

Table 1.3

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good participation rates compared to national rates • Wealth of environmental assets – including beaches, coast path, moorland, cycle trails, footpaths, etc. • Some information on provision of facilities and spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor participation rates compared to regional rates • Accessibility – particularly for rural residents • Limited facilities in some areas, particularly spaces for children and young people • Limited information on assessment of needs across Cornwall • No county wide local provision standards
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale of development • Better linking of green, water based, open and sports spaces • More spaces reaching high levels of quality through achieving levels set by awards such as green flag or blue flag. • Lifestyle changes as a result of changing weather patterns, with potential greater use of parks, pavement cafes, and other outdoor activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale of development • Time needed to set local provision standards • Climate change implications – sea level rises along coast and waterways, flooding, extreme weather events • New government changing planning laws and abolishing RSS • Financing of spaces • The impact (particularly environmental) on spaces by encouraging more people to use them

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1.12 Climate Change Considerations

The main pressures on open space and facilities for sport and recreation are:

- Flooding and sustainable urban drainage;
- Drought;
- Greater need for cooling / shade; and
- Greater demand for out door space with increases in temperature.

Climate change is further explored in a separate issues paper in this series, as well as in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (visit www.cornwall.gov.uk). The scoping report sets out a series of sustainability objectives against which the Core Strategy and other parts of the LDF will be assessed, to gauge how far they will promote sustainable development. The relevant objective for sport, recreation and open space states the need:

'To improve health through the promotion of healthier lifestyles and improving access to open space and health, recreation and sports facilities'

1.13 Main Spatial Planning Issues

Taking into account the key messages from the current evidence available, the following spatial planning issue has been identified.

Issue SROS 1

The Core Strategy should ensure the retention and provision of high quality accessible open spaces and recreational and sports facilities.

This issue will work towards achieving the following long term objective for Cornwall as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy - 'Future Cornwall':

- To make it easier for people to lead healthy, active lifestyles and to get involved in their local community

This paper summarises the evidence on sport, recreation and open space brought together to inform the Cornwall Core Strategy. However, it will be added to and kept up-to-date as other relevant evidence becomes available. In updating these papers all previous versions will be archived to ensure it is clear what evidence was available at each stage.

1.14 Appendix A

Planning Policy Guidance 17 provides the following list to illustrate the broad range of open spaces that may be of public value:

- Parks and gardens, including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens;

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- Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces, including woodlands, commons, wetlands, wastelands, etc;
- Green corridors, including river and canal banks, cycle ways, and rights of way;
- Outdoor sports facilities, including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, school and other institutional playing fields, etc;
- Amenity green spaces, including informal recreation spaces, village greens, etc;
- Provision for children and teenagers, including play areas, skateboard parks, etc;
- Allotments, community gardens, etc;
- Cemeteries and churchyards;
- Accessible countryside in urban fringe areas; and
- Civic spaces, including civic and market squares, and other hard surface areas designed for pedestrians.

To this we should add a range of water based spaces such as beaches, lakes, rivers, estuaries, and the sea.

Indoor facilities for sport are also available and PPG17 states that *'for the purposes of assessments of need and audits of existing built facilities for sport and recreation, local authorities should use a typology which includes swimming pools, indoor sports halls and leisure centres, indoor bowls centres, indoor tennis centres, ice rinks, community centres, and village halls'*⁽³⁶⁾.

1.15 Appendix B

Research currently underway⁽³⁷⁾ into facilities within settlements that are likely to feature in the list of towns, main and minor villages within the Core Strategy has identified the following type and number of formal spaces within Cornwall:

- 51 allotments
- 34 bowling greens
- 257 cemeteries
- 237 equipped children's play areas
- 56 cricket fields
- 63 formal football fields
- 36 golf courses
- 60 Gyms and sports halls
- 24 indoor swimming pools
- 36 older children's play areas and skate parks
- 3 outdoor swimming/sea pools
- 52 parks and gardens
- 176 general playing fields
- 20 rugby fields
- 241 school playing fields (some available to the public, others not)
- 31 tennis courts

36 Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, July 2002.

37 Please note: this research has not concluded and the number of facilities is likely to increase.

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1.16 Appendix C

Consultation to date:

The Issues papers were first published for stakeholder consultation in September 2009. The papers were amended to take into account consultee responses and were then circulated to Planning Policy Advisory Panel members in November 2009. They were also given to all members at a series of three area based consultation events in March 2010.

Revisions to Issues Papers:

In writing the draft Issues and Options report in March 2010 it was clear that it was necessary to revise the issues identified in some of the topic based issues papers. Some issues were requirements under other legislation or procedural matters, and therefore options could not be set against them (e.g. *The Core Strategy should work with other plans and programmes...*) Others were in fact options and needed to be set as options under an overarching issue (e.g. *The Core Strategy has a role in supporting the growth and sustainability of the micro and small business economy*). There was also some repetition between different topics and these issues could be amalgamated.

Criteria for Changes:

The issues have been rationalised against the following criteria:

- Is this a Spatial Planning Issue?
- Is the issue covered by other legislation?
- Can options be generated against each issue?
- Is this an issue and not an option?
- Is the issue rooted in evidence?
- Is there potential to amalgamate issues?

Issues in Consultation Version:

Issue SROS1– The level and provision of sports and recreational facilities should be based on carefully considered local assessments (PPG17 etc) of current and future needs for strategic and local facilities (i.e. local provision standards).

Issue SROS2 – The Core Strategy should set the mechanisms for appropriate retention or provision of new facilities and how this can be considered through the planning process (e.g. developer contributions, appropriate design, etc).

Issue SROS3 – The Core Strategy should support the Public Rights of Way and the green and water based infrastructure networks in their role of offering the single most important means by which people can get out into and enjoy the countryside and the sea.

Revised Issues:

Issue SROS1 – The Core Strategy should ensure the retention and provision of high quality accessible open spaces and recreational and sports facilities.