

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 30 October 2023

Title: Sports Pitches

Contact Officer: Town Clerk - Sharon Groth

Background

Each year the Council engages the services of an experience Agronomist who carries out independent inspections to advise on the conditions, safety and ongoing maintenance of all football, cricket pitches and bowling rinks.

Current Situation

A professional report is produced and attached to this report for information. This report takes into account the fact that the grounds maintenance was brought in house from 1st October 2022. The Operations Manager is pleased with the first year of maintaining the sports pitches – particularly as the Leys pitches were in poor repair and required the Council to undertake additional works in the first instance.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Having greater control over pitch maintenance practices gives the Council better opportunities to ensure it considers environmental issues where possible.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The annual pitch inspections form part of the Council's risk management ensuring that the playing surface is safe and usable, and the maintenance regime is appropriate.

Financial implications

The Council pays an annual subscription to STRI which is currently £1,020.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and the independent inspection report attached.