

A Playing Pitch Strategy for Stockton on Tees Borough Council

Final version

June 2011

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Key Issues

General	Where to look
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are generally enough football pitches to meet existing demand although there is a mismatch between adult and junior football pitches, with junior teams often playing on adult size pitches. 	Paragraph 3.1 (page 28 onwards)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of football pitches and ancillary accommodation is variable and there are issues in respect of the proliferation of small, 1- pitch sites. 	Paragraph 3.5 (page 32); Appendix 5; and, Map 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a reliance by many football teams on pitches on school/education sites, which are not generally in secured community use. 	Paragraph 3.1 (page 28 onwards); and Appendix 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In certain parts of the Borough new development will have a marked effect on the demand for football pitches. 	Paragraph 3.8 (page 34 onwards); Appendix 5, and Map 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to school/education sites in return for qualitative improvements and formalising access arrangements will help in meeting future needs and also make a valuable contribution to meeting existing needs. 	Paragraph 3.5 (page 32); Appendix 5; and, Map 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comments of local leagues and clubs have highlighted sites where there is a desire to see improvements. A separate technical appraisal has confirmed these views with regard to some sites. 	Paragraph 3.9 (page 35 onwards) for football; and paragraph 5.8 (page 59 onwards) for other pitch sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult clubs and leagues have expressed concerns about the wear and tear on pitches brought about by intensive use by both adults and juniors over the weekend periods. 	Paragraph 3.9 (page 35 onwards) for football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs have identified opportunities on specific sites for marking out additional pitches, allowing for separate provision for adults and juniors at some locations. 	Paragraph 3.9 (page 35 onwards) for football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A desirable and longer term solution would be the development of a 	Section 7 (page 70); Appendix 5

General	Where to look
<p>multi-pitch adult site within Norton Central Stockton (within the Central and Western Sub Area) to compliment multi-pitch junior provision at the New North Shore Academy site.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supply/demand situation in respect of rugby (union) is very marginal, and clubs have concerns about the overuse of pitches for both matches and training, as well as lack of availability in bad weather in some cases. 	<p>Paragraphs 5.3, 5.6, 5.8.2 (pages 56 and 59/60)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally speaking, the supply of cricket pitches meets demand, and responding clubs have raised no issue with the general supply, although the overall lack of indoor training facilities has been mentioned in club surveys, and is reinforced by the governing body which in contrast to the clubs has expressed concern about the future supply of pitches due to burgeoning participation amongst the young. At least one indoor 4-lane venue would be very welcome. 	<p>Paragraphs 5.3, 5.6, 5.8.1 (pages 56 and 59)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, hockey clubs are satisfied that the provision of synthetic turf pitches meets their needs for matches, although some teams have to spread their matches and training across different sites. There is also a concern about the cost of hiring facilities (including for training); the ageing status of some of the playing surfaces; and, the competing demands of other sports- especially from small-sided football and training by other sports. 	<p>Paragraph 5.8.1 (pages 60/01)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic analysis conducted by Sport England suggests a need for an additional synthetic turf pitch, and that the best location for this might be in the central part of the Borough. This would help to reduce the strain on the existing stock in meeting both the needs of training and matchplay in respect of hockey and football in particular, but also potentially for rugby. 	<p>Paragraph 5.5 (page 57); and Appendix 7</p>
Sub Area specific	

General	Where to look
<p>Billingham and North Stockton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently sufficient pitches to meet peak time needs for adult football, but that there is a deficiency in junior pitches at the peak time (Sunday AM). This is largely accounted for by the fact that some games are played on adult pitches. Another issue is that the Northfield School and Sports College (Sportsdrome) caters for several junior and some adult community teams but pitches are not in secure community use. • Junior pitch availability is the main issue but with an apparent surplus of senior pitches. • Quality mixed with a number of single pitch sites having no changing facilities and on public recreation areas. • Better access to school pitches seems to be the priority together with an improvement in quality and a consideration of rationalisation to consolidate use on a smaller range of better equipped multi pitch sites. • Opportunities include - securing community use of school sites. Improvements to Rievaulx Stadium to address current issues of parking and quality. Improving pitch quality and securing better community use at Billingham Campus and at Northfields. This could release certain single pitch sites (such as Low Grange) for other open space uses or, where appropriate, for development. • This scale of future development would not create a significant additional demand for pitches. However, developer contributions could also be collected to help towards the improvement of facilities elsewhere and within convenient reach. For example, in return for improvements at Billingham Campus and Northfield Schools they might be expected to enter into secured community use agreements relating to grass pitches, and changing accommodation. The pitches at Bedford Terrace and High Grange are also only rated as being of average quality and would benefit from additional investment. Facilities at the somewhat isolated Clarences/'Bendy Rec' are rated as poor and 	<p>Paragraph 3.1 (page 28 onwards); Appendix 5; Maps 3 and ; paragraph 5.8.1 (page 59)</p>

General	Where to look
<p>would very much benefit from improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor pitch drainage quality at Billingham Synthonia RUFC's ground at Greenwood Road. • Poor wickets at Billingham Synthonia CC's ground 	
<p>Central and Western:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently sufficient pitches to meet peak time needs for adult football, but that there is a deficiency in junior pitches at the peak time (Sunday AM). This is largely accounted for by the fact that some games are played on adult pitches (notably at the Grangefield Youth and Community Centre). Another issue is that the Our Lady and St Bede School caters for junior community teams but pitches are not in secure community use and are marked out as adult size. • A shortfall in junior pitches and apparent surplus of adult pitches together with a significant number of full size pitches not in secure community use. • Facility quality is mixed and a number of public sites lack any changing facilities. • Better access to school pitches seems to be the priority together with an improvement in quality and a consideration of rationalisation to consolidate use on a smaller range of better equipped multi pitch sites. • Opportunities include - securing community use of school sites. The former Blakeston School (now the North Shore Health Academy) was a Sports College, but its 2 pitches are poor, and there is no community use. With fencing, improved drainage and remarking the site could be more intensively used and be available for community use. • There is felt to be scope to rationalise pitch provision if more pitches were brought into public use and lesser quality small (single pitch) sites with no facilities such as at Yarm Road, the Education Centre (Junction Road), and Darlington Back Lane for other open space uses 	<p>Paragraph 3.1 (page 28 onwards); Appendix 5; Maps 3; paragraph 5.2 (page 56); paragraph 5.6 (page 59); and, paragraph 5.9.3 (page 64)</p>

General	Where to look
<p>or, where appropriate, for development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A desirable and longer term solution would be the development of a multi-pitch adult site within the Norton or Central Stockton (within the Central and Western Sub Area) to compliment multi-pitch junior provision at the New North Shore Academy site' • Planned residential development at North Shore will increase the demand for pitches in the medium to long term and s106 should be used to secure appropriate improvements/enhancements to existing facilities and/or new provision. • There is a large amount of new development proposed in the sub area, which will generate demand for additional pitches. New provision could be made in an accessible location, but developer contributions could also be collected to help towards the improvement/expansion of facilities elsewhere and within convenient reach. Existing facilities at Stockton Sports Centre and Primrose Hill are close to some of the major development sites, as is the former Blakeston School (North Shore Health Academy). The latter does not have any known community use by outside teams currently, but is well related to major potential development, and could be a candidate for improvement (the pitch quality is rated as poor). In return for improvements the school might be expected to enter into secured community use agreements relating to grass pitches, and changing accommodation. The proposed new North Shore Health Academy site at the Tilery is also well placed in relation to major potential development areas and its planning and design might be influenced to facilitate community use for football- a 3G pitch might be an appropriate form of provision for widest possible utility. • The existing synthetic turf pitch at Teesside Sports Complex is both well-maintained and used, but is now showing its age and may require replacement/overhaul in the near future. • Improvements at Stockton Rugby Club's Facilities at the Teesside 	

General	Where to look
<p>Sports Complex would improve prospects for establishing girl's/women's teams.</p>	
<p>Eaglescliffe and Yarm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently sufficient pitches to meet peak time needs for adult football, but that there is a deficiency in junior pitches at the peak times of (Saturday/Sunday AM). This is largely accounted for by the fact that some games are played on adult pitches (such as at Preston Field and Urlay Nook). Another issue is that the Conyers and Eaglescliffe Schools, as well as Kirklevington Prison cater for some community teams but pitches are not in secure community use. • An area with a relatively small overall number of pitches, with junior pitch availability being the main issue with shortages evident on both weekend days, but with an apparent small surplus of senior pitches together with a number of full size pitches not in secure community use. • Better access to school pitches seems to be the priority together with an improvement in quality and a consideration of rationalisation to consolidate use on a smaller range of better equipped multi pitch sites. • Opportunities include securing community use of school facilities, particularly at Conyers together with improvements to pitch quality there and at Egglescliffe school to improve changing facilities to facilitate community access . There is the potential for the release of the currently unused and remote Saltersgill site which could generate S106 funds to help carry out pitch and access improvements. • This scale of future planned development would not create a significant additional demand for pitches. However, developer contributions could also be collected to help towards the improvement of facilities elsewhere and within convenient reach. An obvious candidate would be at Conyers School. Although the facilities are well used by the local community the pitches are only rated as 'average' 	<p>Paragraph 3.1 (page 28 onwards); Appendix 5; Maps 3 and ; paragraph 5.8.1 (page 59)</p>

General	Where to look
<p>and the changing rooms 'poor'. In return for improvements the school might be expected to enter into secured community use agreements relating to grass pitches, changing accommodation, and the 3G pitch. Facilities at Preston Field and Urray Nook, as well as Eaglescliffe School are also relatively close to major housing development proposed at Allens West.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor pitch drainage quality at Yarm RUFC's ground at Wass Way. 	
<p>South East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently sufficient pitches to meet peak time needs for adult football, but that there is a deficiency in junior pitches at the peak times of (Sunday AM). This is largely accounted for by the fact that some games are played on adult pitches (such as at most of the local authority controlled pitches in the sub area, and Thornaby Community School (Sporting Central). Another issue is that the pitches at Thornaby Community School are not in secure community use. • The shortage of junior pitches and an apparent surplus of senior pitches together with a significant number of full size pitches not in secure community use. • Quality is marginally better than in other areas. • Better access to school pitches seems to be the priority together with an improvement in quality and a consideration of rationalisation to consolidate use on a smaller range of better equipped multi pitch sites. • Opportunities include securing community use of school facilities, securing improvements to junior provision at Teesdale Park and investing in All Saints school. • Future planned development will be large enough to generate the demand for additional pitches. New provision could be made in an accessible location, but developer contributions could also be collected to help towards the improvement/expansion of facilities elsewhere and within convenient reach. For example, the 'Village 6' 	<p>Paragraph 3.1 (page 28 onwards), Appendix 5; and, Maps 3 and 4</p>

General	Where to look
<p>development at Ingleby Barwick is well located in relation to the Harold Wilson Sports Centre, and the All Saints School. Both these venues have pitches and changing accommodation recorded as being of a generally good standard. Elsewhere, facilities at Littleboy and Teesdale Parks would be well located relative to future development at the Tees Marshalling Yard.</p>	

Part A: General Introduction and Football

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Stockton Borough Council is committed to the enhancement of cultural, leisure and recreational activities for the benefit of its residents. Participation in sport and leisure activities, in particular, has the potential to make a significant contribution to health and well being and the quality of life. This is reflected in the positive and clear strategic framework, supported by detailed strategies and action plans, that has already been put in place to define the Council's objectives and priorities.

This strategy deals specifically with playing pitches as they play an integral part of the sport and active leisure offer within the borough. The intention of the strategy is to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of pitch provision, in relation to current and potential demand, and to set out the steps that could be taken to address specific issues and capitalise on any emerging potential for its enhancement.

The strategy covers all pitch sports but in this report **Part A** covers football- by far the largest pitch sport in terms of participation and demands on council pitches; and, **Part B** covers other pitch sports as well as aspects of the provision of Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)- which are essential for hockey, but are also very popular for football and rugby training, as well as small-sided football. **Part C** finally offers some recommendations and action points

1.2 Aims and objectives

The aim of the strategy is to:

- help improve participation in sport and physical activity by helping to ensure that an appropriate number of playing pitches are available of the right quality where they are needed,
- maximise the resources currently available,
- ensure that appropriate community use is made of school facilities,
- capitalise on the opportunities presented by school capital programmes.

1.3 Strategic context and links

The strategy fits within a clear strategic framework which recognises the value of sport and recreation and has clear policies relating to participation and engagement.

A detailed Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping Supplementary Planning Document, for the Local Development Framework, was completed in December 2009 and is supported by a comprehensive Planning Policy Guidance PPG17 document, which was produced at the same time.

These documents refer to range of Borough wide and regional strategies that provide the context for sport, leisure and recreation specific action plans and policies.

These include:

- Shaping Our Future: A sustainable Community Strategy for the Borough of Stockton on Tees 2008-2021,
- Local Development Framework – Core Strategy
- The Council Plan 2008-2011
- The Regeneration Strategy for Stockton Borough 2007- 2012
- A Sport and Active Leisure Strategy for Stockton on Tees 2009-2014
- A Sport and Active Leisure Infrastructure Plan
- The Regional Facilities Strategy for the North East

All but the Regional Facilities Strategy can be accessed via the Council's website.

Accepting that there is a strategic context for the positive handling of sport and recreation issues within Stockton it seems relevant here to concentrate on the sport specific context. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the key documents as referred to above.

The **Sport and Active Leisure Strategy** seeks to ensure the effective planning and co-ordination of opportunities for participation in sport and active leisure to meet the needs and aspirations of the borough's residents and to support the objectives of the council and its strategic partners.

Its vision is 'To positively contribute to the health, educational attainment and economy of Stockton through raising the levels of participation in sport and active leisure within the community.' This will be achieved by 'offering a quality sport and leisure environment that is equally accessible to all and which encourages the achievement of personal goals.'

Three aims support the vision and these are as follows:

- through strong and cohesive partnerships develop opportunities for all sectors of the community to participate in sport and active leisure, at whatever level they choose;

- To develop robust structures (physical and organisational), in which to develop sustainable and high quality sport and active leisure opportunities;
- To inspire a generation to participate in sport and physical activity through the delivery of high profile initiatives that promote and realise the many benefits that sport can provide.

1.4 The study area

The extent to which players and teams are prepared to travel to play matches varies greatly depending on factors such as the standard of competition, the age group concerned, income etc. Junior leagues (in particular) can draw their clubs from a very small area. On the other hand adult teams, especially those of a higher standard, may be prepared to travel further to play opponents or secure use of better standard facilities.

The study area has been further divided into the following sub-areas to reflect as far as possible the geographical distribution of demand, and the availability of detailed information on the present and future population. Ideally, the sub areas should take better account of roads, rivers, and embankments etc that may constrain or enhance accessibility to facilities in a given area. However, to do this would compromise the use of accepted and up-to-date population statistics upon which the method underpinning this strategic assessment must be based. A balance has there had to be struck between these two considerations.

The Sub Areas together with the wards from which they have been created are listed below and shown on **Map 1**.

Sub Area	Wards	Estimated population (mid year estimates)
Billingham & North Stockton	Billingham Central, Billingham East, Billingham South, Billingham North, Billingham West, Northern Parishes	40050
Central & Western	Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree, Western Parishes, Norton West, Roseworth, Hardwick, Newtown, Parkfield and Oxbridge, Hartburn, Fairfield, Grangefield, Stockton Town Centre, Norton North, Norton South	86030
Eaglecliffe & Yarm	Eaglecliffe, Yarm	20705
South East	Ingleby Barwick East, Ingleby Barwick West, Mandale and Victoria, Stainsby Hill, Village	43463

1.5 Timetable for preparation

The study was undertaken over a period of twelve months, presenting an opportunity to look at the supply, use and quality of pitches in all seasons and weather conditions. Football has been investigated separately and as a priority because of its relative dominance as a mass participation sport, and the consequent need to address local issues relating to the quantity and quality of local provision.

1.6 Schools capital programme

Although the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme has been cancelled, there will still be an extensive school capital programme both nationally and within the region, and this will also affect Stockton Borough. As well as meeting curricula needs, new and renovated schools can help the wider community to fulfil important aims of economic, social and environmental regeneration. Education can be mixed with the wider aspirations of the community at all levels and ages, with the school as the hub for this activity. At the time this study was conducted, the Borough Council were committed to the closure of both Blakeston School and the Norton School Community College, with the interim site for the new North Shore Health Academy being located at the Blakeston School, pending a move to an entirely new campus at the Tilery in the longer term.

1.7 Method

The starting point for assessing the adequacy of provision of pitch sports within the borough is the Playing Pitch Assessment Model (PPAM) advocated by Sport England and explained fully in their publication 'Towards a Level Playing Field'. The Model is based on an assessment of Units of Demand (teams); Units of Supply (pitches); the Temporal Distribution of Demand; and an assessment of Availability of Pitches at times of peak demand. The following offers a general summary of the approach.

Task 1 - Identifying Teams and Team Generation Rates

Task 2 - Home Games per Team per Week

Task 3 - Total Home Games per Week

Task 4 - Temporal Demand for Games

Task 5 - Pitches Used/Required on Each Day

Task 6 - Pitches Available

Task 8 - Determine the level of existing, latent and future demand for outdoor pitch sports.

Task 9 - Assess the geographical/temporal distribution of demand in relation to trends, special characteristics of the pitch sports, catchment areas and a review of the effectiveness of booking procedures.

Task 10 - Analyse ownership/management of sites and pitches, and the perceived and actual quality of pitches and ancillary facilities.

Task 11 - Develop recommendations

It is a useful model. However, like all such approaches it is essentially a tool that needs to be used expediently, and the results it produces require interpretation. It is one part of a wider process of 'getting a feel' for the adequacy of local supply. Its use is confined to grass pitch sports. Furthermore the nature of some pitch sports, such as mini versions, and hockey (with its reliance on synthetic surfaces) is not well suited to being dealt with by this model.

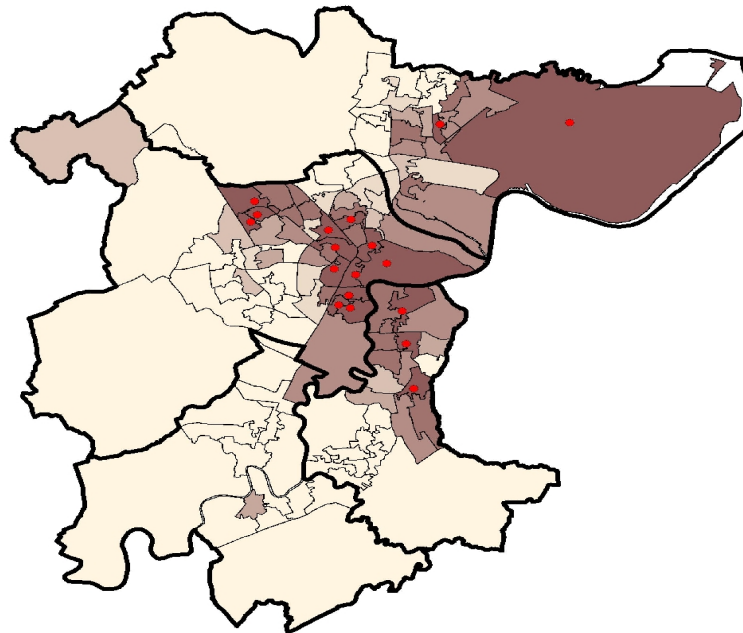
2. Existing situation

2.1 General information on participation

Stockton Borough currently has an estimated population of just over 193,000 people. Further population data is provided at paragraph 3.8 together with an explanation of the implications of population change on participation in pitch sports.

Deprivation. The following map of the Borough shows the Rank of Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Scores. The IMD is the official government measure of deprivation and is based on a suite of indicators reflecting access to services, economic, social, health considerations amongst others. The scores are at the level of census 'Super Output Area' (SOA). The darker the tone the more deprived an area. The red dots highlight those areas ranking in the worst 10% of SOAs in England located in the Borough. The majority of these hotspots are located in the central and north eastern parts of the Borough.

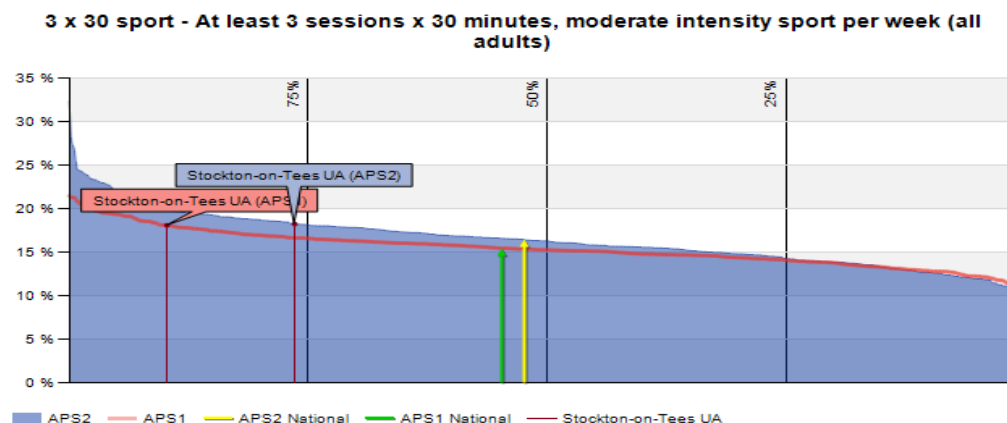
Rates of obesity are rising in both children and adults and are higher in the Borough than the national average. The direct costs of physical inactivity to NHS County Durham are estimated at £2,106,0003m per annum (based on 2006/07 data- Source: Department of Health - Be Active Be Healthy, Year: 2006/7, Measure: Cost of sporting inactivity).



A digest of information on national and local participation patterns in the outdoor sports covered by this study as well as other relevant information is contained in **Appendix 2**. Lack of physical activity is a major factor in the rise of diabetes and coronary disease, which have implications not just for the quality and longevity of life.

National participation. In 2006, as part of the 'Active People' survey project, Sport England commissioned a survey of over 300,000 adults of sixteen years of age or older to identify frequencies and rates of participation in physical recreation activity. The results are available for analyses at local authority level. It is being updated on an annual basis using a smaller sample base, (with the 2007 and 2008 survey results now available). Nationally, the most popular activities for most people tend to be walking, swimming, cycling, jogging/recreational running and going to the gym. Participation in codified outdoor sports tends to lag behind in terms of rates and frequency of participation, with football (in all its forms) being the most popular (and cricket the next best).

Local Participation. The Active People Surveys also show that, in terms of regular adult participation in sport, the Borough tends to do comparatively well in overall terms when compared with the national averages for England. This is shown in the following chart which compares the Borough with the national pattern over the first three Active Surveys (AP1-AP3).



However, other evidence from the Active People Surveys suggests that whilst adult participation in sport within the Borough is generally better than average, levels of membership of a sports club; and participation in organised competitive sport (perhaps better measures of participation in pitch sports) are not so good. This is highlighted in the following table which shows how various 'Key Performance Indicators' (KPIs) compare over the first three surveys. The more relevant indicators for pitch sports are highlighted, including that for volunteering, which shows a worrying decline given that so much activity in the pitch sports sector depends on people volunteering their time.

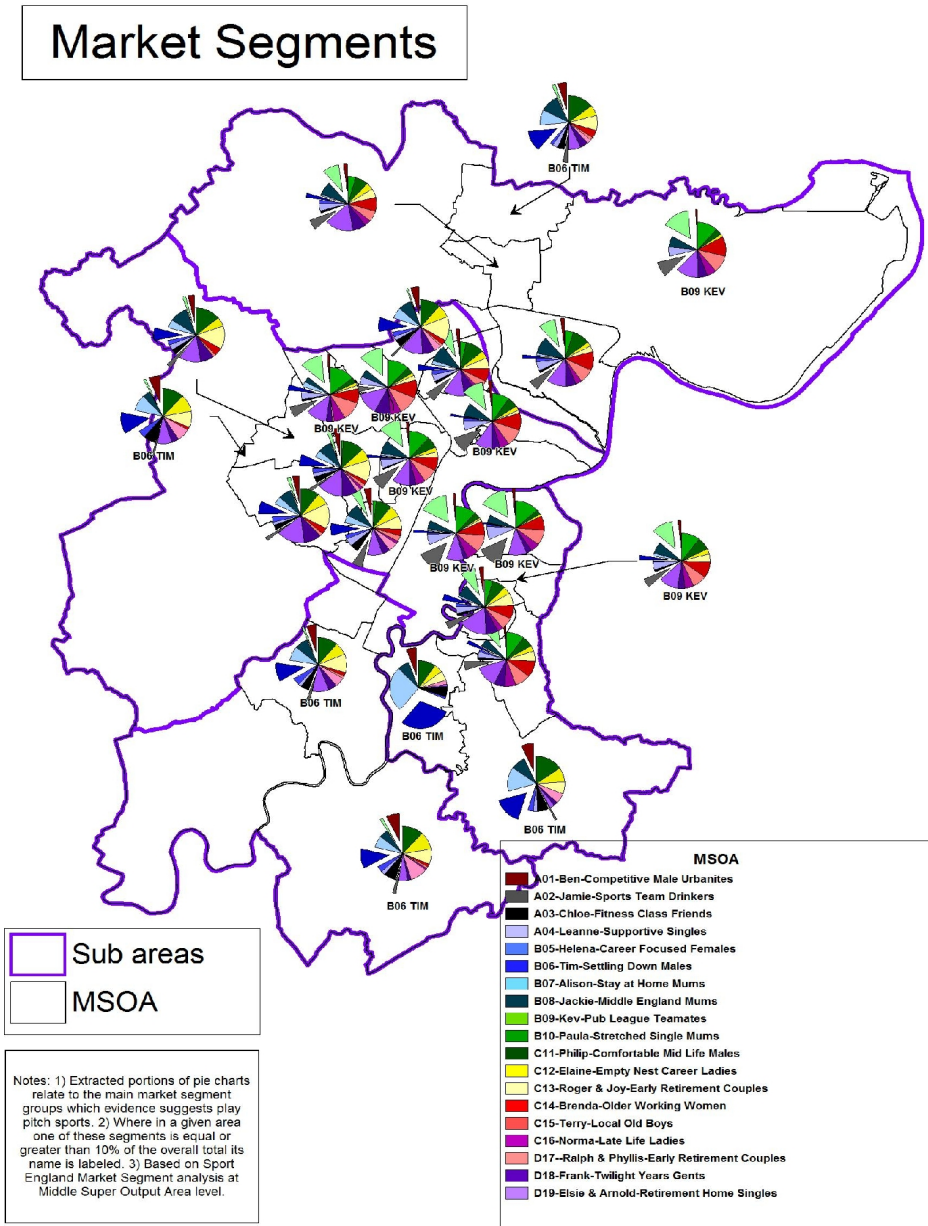
	APS1		APS2		APS1 vs APS2	APS3		APS2 vs APS3
3 x 30 sport - At least 3 sessions x 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport per week (all adults)	18.10%		18.30%		No Change	17.30%		No Change
KPI 1 - At least 3 days x 30 minutes, moderate intensity participation (sport and recreational walking and cycling) per week (all adults)	24.40%		22.60%		No Change	22.70%		No Change
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour of volunteering to support sport per week (all adults)	4.00%		6.00%		No Change	3.10%		Decrease
KPI 3 - Member of a sports club (all adults)	25.80%		25.50%		No Change	20.60%		No Change
KPI 4 - Received sports tuition or coaching (all adults)	16.00%		16.70%		No Change	14.90%		No Change
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport (all adults)	16.00%		12.30%		Decrease	11.20%		No Change
KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	71.00%		72.10%		No Change	69.90%		No Change

	Top 25% in England
	Middle 50% in England
	Bottom 25% in England

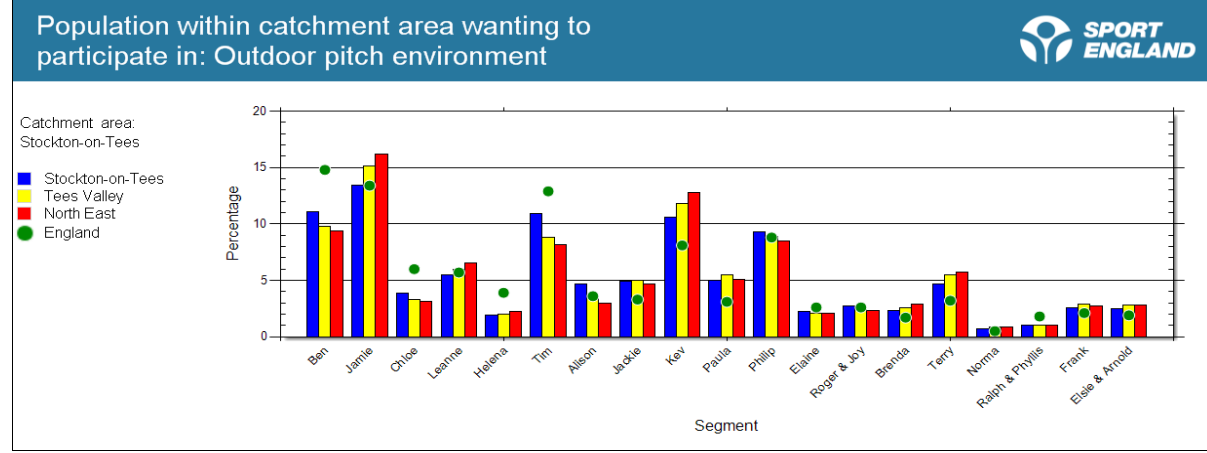
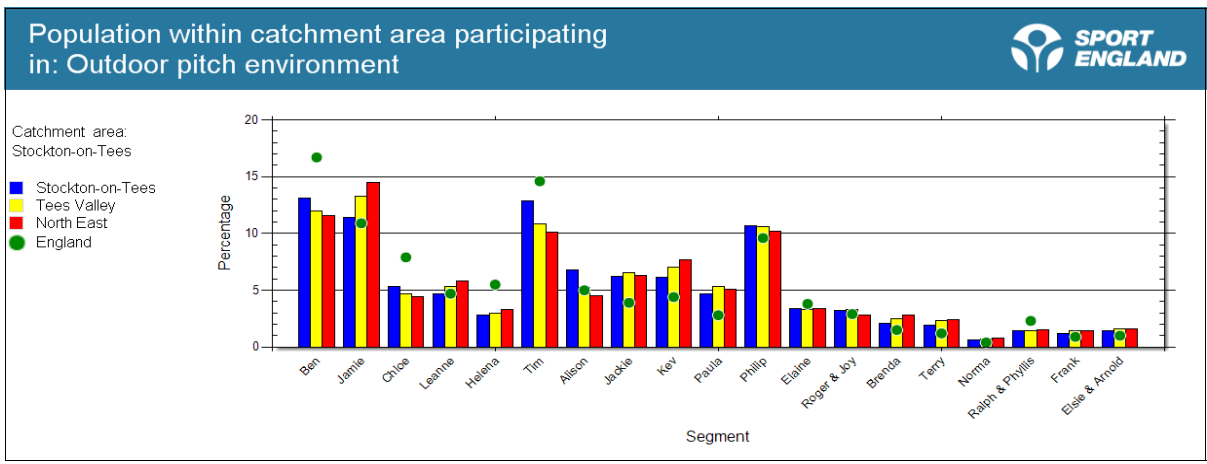
Data on children's and young people's participation in pitch sport. Outside school and, in contrast to adult participation, there is very little national data on participation by children and young people in sports to enable comparisons with the adult profile. Outside school, most participation will be casual and often more akin to 'play'. More structured activity will take place at clubs often involving tuition and taking part in modified versions of sports. For this reason, the only way to obtain a good understanding of local participation by youngsters in extra-curricular sport is through having a direct dialogue with clubs, leagues, and governing bodies- which has been the approach adopted.

Market Segmentation. Map 2 is reproduced here but is included at a larger scale as a separate document. It analyses population (as recorded by the 2001 Census) broken down into 19 different categories that aim to help in identifying the sport and recreation activities that would seemingly appeal within each category. This Market Segmentation information is available from Sport England for all English local authorities at a Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) level. The categories are on the map.

The names are of largely Anglo-Saxon origin and may not be particularly well-suited to use in some areas. However, the Market Segmentation package offers alternative names for use where circumstances require a change. The Segment Characters are summarised on the next page, based on far more detailed profiles available on the Sport England Market Segmentation website: http://www.sportengland.org/research/market_segmentation.aspx



Ben	Jackie	Brenda
Competitive Male Urbanites Male, recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude 5% of all adults; 10% of adult men	Middle England Mums Mums juggling work, family and finance 5% of all adults; 10% of adult women	Older Working Women Middle aged ladies, working to make ends meet 5% of all adults; 10% of adult women
Jamie	Kev	Terry
Sports Team Lads Young 'blokes' enjoying football, pints and pool 5% of all adults; 11% of adult men	Pub League Team Mates Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport 6% of all adults; 12% of adult men	Local 'Old Boys' Generally inactive older men, low income and little provision for retirement 4% of all adults; 8% of adult men
Chloe	Paula	Norma
Fitness Class Friends Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim 5% of all adults; 9% of adult women	Stretched Single Mums Single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure 4% of all adults; 7% of adult women	Later Life Ladies Older ladies, recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles 2% of all adults; 4% of adult women
Leanne	Philip	Ralph & Phyllis
Supportive Singles Young busy mums and their supportive college mates 4% of all adults; 8% of adult women	Comfortable Mid-Life Males Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves 9% of all adults; 18% of adult men	Comfortable Retired Couples Retired couples, enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles 4% of all adults; 5% of adult men, 4% of adult women
Helena	Elaine	Frank
Career-Focussed Females Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane 5% of all adults; 9% of adult women	Empty Nest Career Ladies Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home 6% of all adults; 12% of adult women	Twilight Year Gents Retired men with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities 4% of all adults; 8% of adult men
Tim	Roger & Joy	Elsie & Arnold
Settling Down Males Sporty male professionals, buying a house and settling down with partner 9% of all adults; 18% of adult men	Early Retirement Couples Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers 7% of all adults; 6% of adult women, 8% of adult men	Retirement Home Singles Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation 8% of all adults; 2% of adult men; 14% of adult women
Alison		
Stay at Home Mums Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle 4% of all adults; 9% of adult women		



It is worth noting that the 'Kevs, Jamies, Tims, and Bens' (who are noted as liking football and other pitch sports) live in large numbers in the Borough. The information must be used cautiously. Obviously the population has changed to some extent since 2001. More important though is the possible inference that sections of the population may have an automatic predisposition towards certain activities. Participation in a given activity will be influenced by many factors including access, awareness, cost, social convention, time etc. The fact that a person is 'categorised' in one of 19 different ways should not lead to an assumption that their preferences will be predetermined. Notwithstanding this point the Market Segmentation analytical package allows for answers questions asked in the Active People Surveys to cross tabulated to be cross tabulated to the 19 Market Segments. For Stockton Borough this cross tabulation provides the charts to the left, relating to questions asking respondents if they play outdoor sport on a regular basis; and, whether they would like to play more. It will be seen that current participation amongst certain key groups (namely 'Ben' and 'Tim') is below the national average. It will also be seen that there may be 'frustrated' demand on the part of some key groups- perhaps most notably 'Kev'.

Interpretation of data. In reality, Active People and other national surveys can misrepresent local circumstances because of the limited size and scope of the local samples, as well as their concentration on adult participants (as opposed to also looking at participation by children and young people). Information readily available at the local level can often be patchy. In terms of the codified sports activities, additional information has been secured through this study using material supplied by the Football Association. One of the particular issues in relation to areas like Stockton Borough is the amount of competitive sport that can be played without being recorded by the governing bodies and local administrators. Some of this activity can be identified through checking local booking records although much will be spontaneous and impossible to record other than through direct observation. It is very important nonetheless to acknowledge the significance of

informal sport as it places a demand on open space. It is clearly a very popular form of healthy physical activity for many people who cannot or don't want to play sport in the formal competitive sense.

2.2 Football teams locally

The following football leagues are recorded as having affiliated teams playing in the area:

- AJM Pat Testing Over 35 League
- Cleveland Youth League
- Durham County Women's League
- Durham Emergency Services League
- Langbaugh Sunday League
- Middlesbrough and District Sunday League
- North East Christian Fellowship League
- Northern League
- Revenue & Customs Challenge Cup
- Russell Forster Youth League
- Stockton Sunday League
- Sunderland and District Sunderland Catholic Club Over 40s League
- Teesside Junior Football Alliance
- Teesside League
- Wearside Football League

Of these leagues the Stockton Sunday League and the Teesside Junior Football Alliance have by far the greatest representation in the Borough by far, and make the heaviest demand on 'public sector' pitches.

Based on information gathered by this study, the following represents a count of all football teams identified broken down by, age group, and sub area.

Sub area name	Adult Male Football Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Football Teams	Girls Football Teams	Mini soccer teams
Billingham & North Stockton	19	19	0	2	9
South East	13	12	0	0	6
Central & Western	25	26	1	3	14
Eaglescliffe & Yarm	6	17	0	0	5
	63	74	1	5	34

The study therefore identified a total of 64 adult teams; 79 junior teams (girls and boys); and, 34 mini soccer teams (covering mixed gender teams between 6 and 9 years). A previous study was conducted in 2003, and the figures above indicate a substantial fall in the number of teams recorded. Factors influencing participation are discussed further later in this report. A key point to bear in mind though is that participation in many sports has historically ebbed and flowed and it is important to therefore plan sufficient space to cater for the peaks as well as troughs in demand.

2.3 Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

The table below provides the estimated Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for football over defined age groups. TGRs can be defined as the number of people it takes within a given population to generate a 'team' based on information available about local teams and population. They can help to plan for future needs as will be explained later in this report. The TGRs shown are generalised to allow for comparison across the various sub areas, and to provide as much consistency as possible with current and future population estimates. Sport England advocates more detailed breakdowns covering both male and female age groups. However, these cannot be produced for the individual sub areas, due to the absence of population estimates/projections which fit the age groups used by different governing bodies. **Appendix 4** does however provide an estimate of these more detailed TGRs at local authority level to enable comparison with information from similar studies in other local authority areas.

Sub area name	TGR mini soccer	TGR full size football
Billingham & North Stockton	245	466
South East	504	898
Central & Western	339	729
Eaglescliffe & Yarm	211	396

It will be noted from the above that there is a very wide variation in the respective TGRs.

2.4 Schools football

Along with the significant usage of playing pitches for community football it is important to take account of the fact that the pitches on school sites are also subject to usage for the delivery of the curriculum and the for the provision of school matches. From discussions with schools via the Schools Sports Partnerships it is estimated that there is 10 hours curriculum usage of the pitches along with 3 hours of Out-of-School-Hours football (including schools matches). Although 13 hours appears to be significant usage it must be taken into account that these pitches are in the main used for curriculum P.E and not competitive matches which will create greater wear and tear. It is also important to note that these pitches are being utilised by young people and not adults and as such the impact upon the quality of the surface will not be as great. These matters will be considered further later in the report.

2.5 Pitch provision

In terms of the supply of pitches, the following categorisation has been employed related to the availability of pitches for community use.

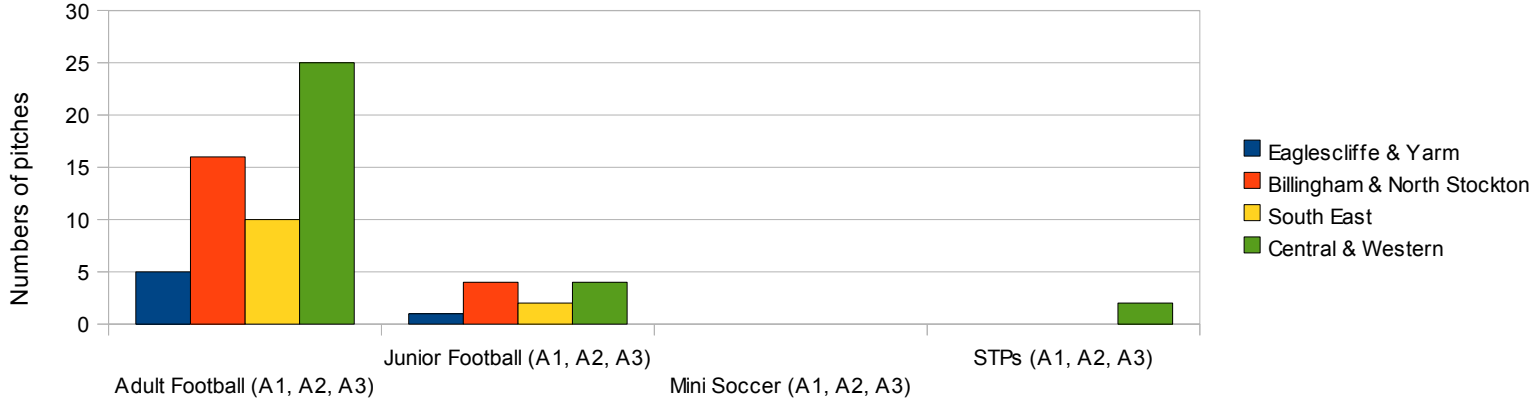
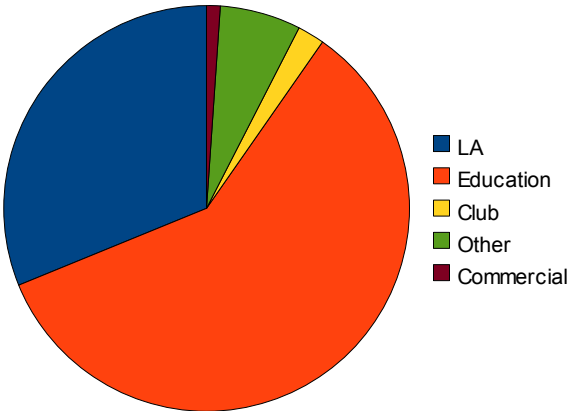
Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public
A(iii)		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

In terms of assessment using the PPAM categories B, and C have been excluded (as required by the Sport England Method). Critically, this means that several school sites, which are significant providers of community sports opportunities, have been excluded from the calculations. This is because such schools do not have formal user agreements in respect of their grass pitches (this is not uncommon – most community access is de facto).

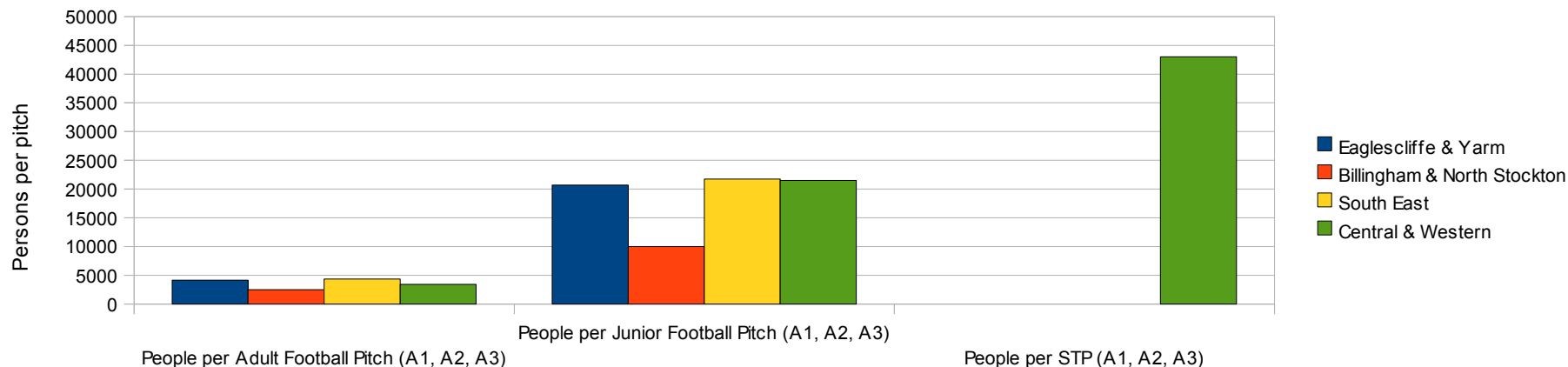
Category	Pitches			
	Adult Football	Junior Football	Mini Soccer	STP
A1, A2, A3	56	11	0	2
B	25	8	0	4
C	7	16	27	1
Totals	88	35	27	7

This provision (in terms of numbers of sites) breaks down into the pie chart showing ownership classification. As will be seen education provision is dominant, but with local authority provision also making a vital contribution.

The following chart illustrates the provision of pitches in secure community use by sub areas. Unsurprisingly, most pitches can be found in the 'urban' sub areas. The absence of mini soccer pitches in secured community use is noteworthy



This same information is presented as provision relative to numbers of people in the following chart. The Central & Western, and the Billingham & North Stockton Sub Areas have the best levels of provision in Secured Community Use. Provision per capita of junior and mini soccer pitches reflects there being relatively few if any such pitches in Secured Community Use.



Maps 3 identify all sites on a sub area basis, and also details those which are available for community use (A1, A2, A3, B).

The main sites are:

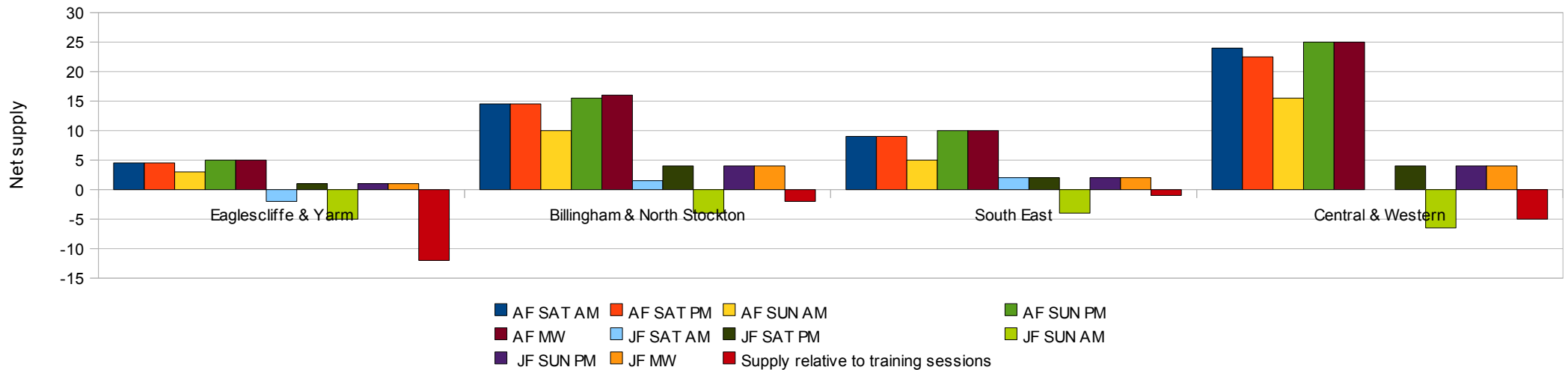
- **A1:** Stockton Sports Centre; Grosvenor Road Playing Field; Blue Hall Recreation Ground; Harold Wilson Centre; Greenwood Road; Billingham Town Football Club; Grangefield Youth & Community Centre; Robert Atkinson Pitches; Newham Grange Park; High Grange Playing Fields; Rievaulx Stadium
- **A2:** Urlay Nook; Norton Sports Complex
- **B:** Our Lady & St Bede School; Norton School; Northfield School & Sports College (Sportsdrome); Billingham Campus School; Blakeston Community School; Mandale Mill Primary; Stockton 6th Form College; Thornaby Community School (Sporting Central); Ian Ramsey CE Aided Comprehensive School.

The Sub Area profiles at **Appendix 5** show that schools sites (such as those listed as Category B above) play an important role in meeting community needs in many parts of the borough.

3. Supply and demand for football

3.1 Net supply of pitches within the sub areas

Appendix 6 provide larger scale graphical illustrations of the net supply of pitches relative to demand in all of the Sub Areas, and additional information on the temporal distribution of demand over the week. The following chart summarises the position. The graph charts the results of applying the Sport England method to the various sub areas, by Adult Football (AF) and Junior Football (JF) and over times of demand. The chart shows where demand is being met and by what margin (above the zero line); and what isn't (below the zero line). The latter can be a difficult notion to grasp but is explained below the graph.



Key observations:

- The most obvious point to make about the above graph is the apparent shortage of junior football pitches at times of peak demand in some areas. How can this be? Essentially, there are two reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, many junior teams (10-15 years) are using adult pitches for their matches. Although the Governing Body (The FA) does not in fact have regulations for pitches covering this age range, the situation is less than ideal. A compounding factor is that some sites (schools which do in practice provide for community teams) have been excluded from the calculations, so making the situation look even worse.

- Given the obvious importance of some schools in the supply of grass pitches it would be appropriate to formalise this situation through written agreements, if possible. However, this may require incentives to be offered to schools in return, which might include financial contributions and/or physical improvements to facilities to ensure such use can be maintained without detriment to curriculum needs.
- The final grouped item in the bar chart is an attempt to provide a general indication of the supply of grass pitches relative to training that takes place during mid week. There are relatively few competitive matches during mid week but there is a considerable amount of time devoted to training. It is very difficult to establish precisely patterns in terms of frequency and locations for training- arrangements can be ad hoc and subject to change. To overcome these problems so as to offer some indication of the significance of training the following assumptions have been made and revised in circumstances where they are known to differ:
 - Where training takes place it is on average once a week, and on a week day. Unless venues are floodlit, it will normally be confined to late spring and summer months.
 - Training sessions are largely confined to the more serious and/or enthusiastic teams (strong Saturday male league teams, ladies and junior teams).
 - A training session equates to about one full size game.
 - Team squads will tend to train at the venues they use for competitive play. Where, teams alternately share a pitch for matches they will generally train on different evenings of the week, to avoid time clashes.

Using these assumptions, (amended where specific knowledge dictates), the far right of the bar chart shows that supply in some of the sub areas is in the negative. This can in part be explained by the fact that some teams will train at venues not in secured community use. Some teams will also not necessarily train on formal pitches but on the marginal space often found on sports grounds. Even, so this bar chart does indicate the comparative impact of demand on supply if such considerations are taken into account. The impact of training on the wear and tear of pitches is considered further under 3.3 below.

3.2 Mini-soccer

Mini-soccer games are short in duration, do not result in heavy wear and tear, and tend to be played in sequence (meaning that playing surfaces can accommodate multiple matches in a day). Many mini-soccer teams will be sharing the same playing surface as older full-sided teams, the practice being that mini-soccer teams tend to play on the least worn parts of the surface, and their pitches are marked out with temporary lines and portable goals or on smaller bits of land adjacent to the main pitch. It is therefore unreasonable to apply the PPAM to assessing the adequacy of mini soccer provision. Mini soccer teams also tend not to use changing facilities as the preference is to change at home. They have little requirement for many of the ancillary facilities needed by the older age groups. For all these reasons mini-soccer's need for space and facilities is far less demanding than that of the older age groups.

3.3 Capacity

The PPAM focuses largely on the ability of the local supply of pitches to meet peak time demand. However, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' also acknowledges the importance of taking into account the capacity of the pitch stock to absorb games over a period of time (week, month, season) in normal seasonal weather

conditions and without undue wear and tear. In the above sense the capacity of a given pitch is not directly related to its availability at peak times of demand. However, there will be an indirect relationship in that over-use of a pitch in a given period may ultimately stop it from being available to meet peak time demand because it needs to be rested or re-laid/seeded etc.

The capacity of a pitch is influenced by how well it is managed and maintained as well as the provision of a well-drained surface, amongst other things. Generally speaking, a well managed and installed full-size pitch for football might be anticipated to absorb an average of two adult games a week over a season without undue wear and tear.

The ability of a grass pitch to absorb regular competitive matches will also be influenced by:

- training activity (on all sectors of site)
- curriculum activity (on education sites)
- informal recreation activity (on public, multi functional sites such as park and recreation grounds)

Each of the above will impact upon the capacity of a pitch to host a given number of competitive matches on a regular basis- sometimes significantly. Without very precise local information it is impossible to establish accurately the impact of such activity. However, the following has been adopted as basic guidance in establishing the capacity of the local pitch stock.

1. Where squad training for football regularly takes place on a marked out full size pitch, then the wear and tear this produces might reasonably be considered to equate to 1 match if the size of the squad is the team equivalent of c. 2 teams in size; or 0.75 if the squad is the team equivalent of c. 1.5 teams. The more training sessions conducted per week the more equivalent matches are generated.
2. On education sites the primary function of grass pitches is to meet curriculum needs. On principal education sites where the amount of PE related activity might be around 4 hours a day on average, it might be reasonable to expect that at least half of that time is given over to the use of grass pitches. Because school 'players' have a lighter body mass than adults, wear and tear of pitches will be comparatively less. Even so, the level of use of school pitches and the consequent wear and tear is likely to be the equivalent of at least 1 adult match per week.
3. In terms of pitches marked out in parks and recreation grounds, unless heavy training takes place, wear and tear from non-match use will arise only from informal recreation use. Unless this includes abusive activity such as motorbiking/joyriding; or, else hosting certain other significant events likely to cause surface damage (fêtes, carnivals, fairs, concerts etc), wear and tear should not be a major factor.

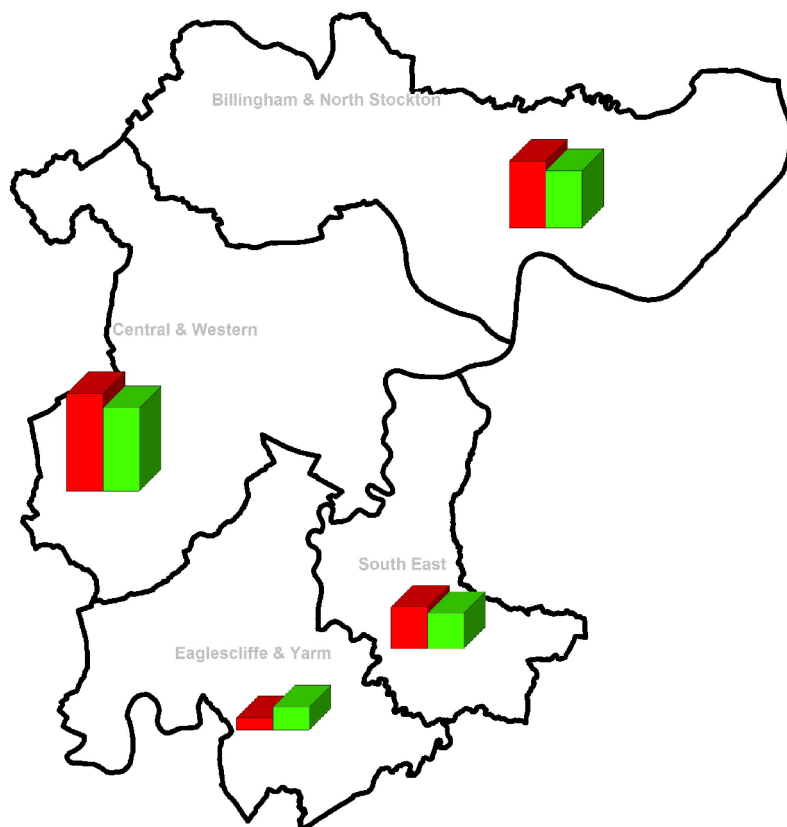
Most football pitches are marked out as full size. On key sites it is possible to work out the number of matches played on a regular basis, and identify the number of pitches. Information from clubs' surveys and other local sources will often indicate whether given sites are also used for training, curriculum, or other

significant recreational use. Working out appropriate Team and Match Equivalents- even if they are rough estimates- will at least help to take into account the impact of non-match activities on the wear and tear of a pitch.

Based on information available to this study, it is felt that the issue of capacity will be most problematic in the following situations:

- On school sites where grass pitches are also used for matches and, sometimes, training. The most obvious examples will be Conyers School; Eaglescliffe School (Allens West); Northfield School and Sports College (Sportsdrome); Norton School; Our Lady and St. Bede School; Thornaby Community School. This should mean that, to avoid over use, the school pitches should only really be hosting one full size match at the weekend by community teams. Anything beyond this and the pitches are likely to suffer unduly.
- In terms of football the situation on some sites might be aggravated by the lack of access to synthetic surfaces for training purposes.

The Study has attempted to identify where teams are most likely to train and factor this into a very rough assessment of 'actual' v 'ideal' levels of use of grass pitches. Details of how assumptions have been applied to individual clubs and sites are integral to the underlying databases, but generally follow the above principles. The following map represents an aggregation of the estimates to a sub area level.



The 'red bars' represent the notional ideal weekly capacity of sites to absorb 'match hour equivalents'. The 'green bars' represent an assessment of the actual numbers of match hour equivalents being played. The estimates take into account potential squad training as well as curriculum use (as explained). It will be seen that for three out of the four sub areas there is a significant difference in favour of the ideal capacity. In the Eaglescliffe & Yarm Sub Area the ideal capacity is outstripped by the actual use. The Sub Area profiles (Appendix 5) highlight that there are certain sites which are used very intensively. When training is also factored in this will add to the overall wear and tear.

This exercise suggests the main issue affecting football pitch supply in the Borough is not so much the availability of pitches at times of peak demand, but rather the quality of some of the pitches (and associated facilities) resulting from protracted and heavy use.

Although TALP mentions the need to take into account matters relating to pitch capacity and wear and tear. It does not identify ways in which this should be incorporated into the modelling tools provided. The above is an attempt to address this matter sensibly.

3.4 Imported and Exported Demand

Although the prime focus of this study has been the local authority area of Stockton Borough, teams from neighbouring areas may potentially use facilities within the local authority and vice versa.

However, the Stockton Borough area is geographically separated from northern Middlesbrough by the River Tees and from western and southern Middlesbrough by the A19 Trunk Road corridor. Traditional league boundaries have been maintained with Stockton being included as part of the Durham League area and Middlesbrough included in North Yorkshire. There is potential for an import of demand for general leisure facilities from eastern Middlesbrough into Thornaby and some team players are likely to be drawn from the same area but numbers are not expected to be significant. The list of leagues provided earlier in this report as being represented by teams in the borough suggests that teams based in the borough will travel outside the borough to play many away matches. However, there is little evidence of teams *whose members are drawn from the borough* travelling to play with clubs based outside the borough. It might be noted that two clubs playing in the Stockton Sunday League use sites outside the Borough (both in Redcar and Cleveland Borough). Possible exceptions may also arise in the case of players performing at a relatively high level who would normally be drawn to clubs with wider catchments than is the case for grass routes clubs.

3.5 Quality considerations

As part of the strategic assessment a quality audit has been conducted of pitches and changing facilities. The results of this audit are considered in the various Sub Area Profiles (**Appendix 5**), and shown on **Map3**. Some more general comments can be made here, namely that in terms both pitches and changing accommodation there were few facilities in secure community use considered to fall below the 'satisfactory' level, with a good proportion being rated as 'good' or better. Facilities at schools used by community teams were also assessed, and with a broadly similar outcome. Exceptions to this general pattern are noted in **Appendix 5 and Maps 3**.

3.6 Future Demand for football

Future Demand for Pitch Sports facilities (and sports facilities in general) is comprised of several causal factors:

- Natural demographic changes within the population (especially in relation to the team playing age groups);
- Population change driven by planned developments (via the Statutory Development Plan);
- The Impact of Sports Development and related campaigns;
- The release of any 'latent' or 'frustrated' demand to play sport; and,

The interaction of these factors will have a considerable effect on the demand for outdoor sports opportunities within the local authority area over the coming years. However, some factors will have a far more profound impact than others. Each is considered in turn below.

3.7 The Impact of Sports Development and related campaigns, and the release of Latent and Frustrated Demand

Other than natural and planned population change other factors can and/or should affect the future provision of outdoor sports opportunities. The influence of local and national sports development campaigns may also have an impact in raising participation in pursuit of identified 'targets'.

The impact of social trends and changing norms on participation levels is almost impossible to identify in any considered way. Fad, fashion and changing technology will play their part here. In terms of the latter, the onset of synthetic surfaces has dramatically changed the sports facility 'landscape'. Sports crazes come and go and are occasionally cyclical. Uptake in participation can often be linked to international sports success (witness upturns in rugby and cricket resulting from World Cup and Ashes successes). Equally, participation can go down. Long terms watchers of sports participation trends will be familiar with these patterns and would probably advise that the only sensible solution is to plan for and protect sufficient open space to cater for fluctuating patterns of participation.

3.8 Natural and Planned Demographic Change

In analysing current levels of provision and demand we have used the most up to date sources of population data we could obtain at a local (ward) level. These turned out to be the Mid-2007 Population Estimates for 2009 Wards in England and Wales by Quinary Age and Sex. However, they are not directly compatible with 'future' population data available for the local authority area as a whole, as provided by 2008-based Sub national Population Projections for England (SNPP), published on 27 May 2010. The latter give an indication of future trends in population for the period 2008-2033, and for similar age groups as the Mid-2007 Estimates, go up to 2031. The SNPP does not take into account 'planned growth' but only factors related to fertility, mortality, and migration rates.

Using the SNPP data in the below chart, the following conclusions might be drawn:

- a) a projected increase of an estimated 1.4k persons in the 5 to 9 age group (largely covering the age playing mini soccer for the very young);
- b) a projected increase of an estimated 2.2k persons in the 10 to 44 age group (largely covering the age ranges for full size football); and,
- c) the 'natural' growth in the population will be largely accounted for by increases in the elderly, who tend not to play football.

AGE GROUP	2008	2011	2021	2033	Total Change 2008-2033
0-4	11.6	12.1	12.2	11.8	0.2
5-9	10.8	11.1	12.4	12.2	1.4
10-14	12.2	11.6	12.6	12.7	0.5
15-19	13.1	12.6	11.2	12.6	-0.5
20-24	12.7	12.7	11.1	12.3	-0.4
25-29	11.2	12.6	12.9	12.5	1.3
30-34	11.1	11.4	14.3	12.2	1.1

AGE GROUP	2008	2011	2021	2033	Total Change 2008-2033
35-39	13.5	12.2	13.6	13.5	No change
40-44	14.6	13.9	11.6	14.6	No change
45-49	14.4	14.8	11.9	14.3	-0.1
50-54	12.8	13.6	13.5	11.9	-0.9
55-59	11.7	11.8	14.2	10.6	-1.1
60-64	11.2	12.1	12.7	12.3	1.1
65-69	8.2	8.9	10.7	12.7	4.5
70-74	7.2	7.3	10.4	11.6	4.4
75-79	6.1	6.1	7.2	9.3	3.2
80-84	4.0	4.4	5.2	7.3	3.3
85-89	2.4	2.5	3.4	5.5	3.1
90+	0.9	1.2	2.2	4.0	3.1
All ages	189.8	192.8	203.4	213.8	24

In themselves, these increases are likely to have a small knock effect on the future demand for football provision. For example, even using some of the 'best' TGRs found in the Borough, (1 team per 211 persons for mini soccer; and, 1 team per 396 persons for full-size football, both found in the Billingham & North Stockton Sub Area) these increases would only produce an additional notional 6.6 mini soccer teams and 5.5 full size football teams by 2033 spread across the borough. This would have very limited implications for additional space. For example, 2 full-size football teams would justify a single full size pitch on either new or existing space. The requirement for full-size pitches would therefore be between 2 and 3. (If they were designed as full-size they could then be remarked for adult or junior use as required over the years). The mini soccer teams would have limited space implications because of the small-sided nature of the game and the normal practice of sharing space on other pitches. Even if a factor (say an additional 10%) was included to cover potential upswings in relative demand, the impact in terms of further additional teams generated would not be great.

However, it is likely that the overwhelming majority of the projected growth will be 'development-led'.

The potential scale and location of proposed new development is shown on the thematic **Maps 5**. As will be seen, although development is likely to be distributed over sites throughout the local authority area, the large majority will be in the urban area. This will create pressures for access to outdoor sports opportunities.

As part of this strategic assessment 53 sites have been identified where proposed housing is already or is likely to be sanctioned. The total number of houses estimated is 9433. These sites range from those that can host around 10 dwellings to the very large allocations. It is impossible at this stage to predict the exact scale of planned new development, occupancy rates, or the demographic character of new occupants. However, using some assumptions it is possible to 'model' future scenarios based on the anticipated location and scale of new development.

For example, assuming: a) an occupancy rate of 2 people per household; b) c. 45% of the new occupants are between the age range of 11-44 years; and c) the new occupants can all be treated as a net gain in the local population (as opposed to simply changing house locally) this amount of development may itself yield a total of around 8,500 residents (male and females) in the 11-44 age group. Using the 'best' local TGRs (1 minisoccer team per 211 persons in the age group, and 1 full-size team per 396 persons in the age group found in the Billingham & North Stockton Sub Area) this would generate an additional notional 21 full size teams- enough to justify an additional 10 + pitches (based on two teams sharing). If a more modest TGR (such as the 1 full size team per 898 persons found in the Eaglescliffe & Yarm Sub Area) is used this would still generate a notional 9.5 additional teams (enough to justify at around 5 full size pitches).

Clearly, the assumptions need to best reflect projected circumstances. For example assuming that the houses would be occupied by residents entirely new to the area is probably going to be unreasonable. However, the principles remain the same. Similar projections can be made for other pitch sports using information available to the study. However, in terms of effective planning to cater for increased demand it is better to convert these figures into a notional requirement for land, which can then best be converted into 'standards of provision' and other appropriate planning guidance. On the largest allocations new pitch provision might be provided 'on or near site' in order to be reasonably accessible to residents as users.

However, there will be the prospect of providing some opportunities 'off-site', either through new provision; or else through improvement to existing provision. To illustrate this point, the **Maps 5** show football sites (not necessarily all in Secured Community Use) relative to the potential housing sites. Some of the existing sites might help meet increased demand. **Maps 5** shows that there are several existing football sites that could help to meet the needs of these new developments if their capacity and quality could be improved, including several education and local authority venues. The Sub Area Profiles (**Appendix 5**) provide further detail.

3.9 Consultation

A programme of local consultation has been undertaken to help inform the study involving a :

- a) dialogue (meetings) with grounds maintenance and sports development representatives of the Council;
- b) questionnaire survey of local schools covering matters of supply, quality and community use;
- c) questionnaire survey and focus group meeting covering Stockton Sunday League- the most significant user of public sector pitches;
- d) questionnaire survey of other league secretaries; and,
- e) dialogue with relevant governing body of sport representatives

The results of a) and b) above have been integrated into the technical analysis in the report and c) – e) are covered in the remainder of this section.

3.9.1 Consultation with Stockton Sunday League

The Sunday League is the biggest user of public sector pitches in the Borough and as such it was felt very important to engage in a direct and in-depth dialogue with the League. This was achieved through securing and invitation to the leagues AGM (to which attendance by all clubs is required). At this meeting a questionnaire was distributed for completion prior to undertaking a 40 minute focus group session.

Focus Group. The purpose of the session was to give the clubs an opportunity to feed their views directly into the study to help identify specific issues on individual sites as well as general key issues, problems and opportunities as a complementary exercise to the questionnaire survey. These are summarised below.

- Problems with insufficient parking at many sites
- Some sites have no or very poor changing and showering facilities
- General grounds maintenance of sites not to the standard clubs would like – need for more specialised equipment and expertise
- Hartlepool cited as being a possible model for the future i.e. higher quality at fewer sites
- Cost and fees of hiring pitches discouraged the formation of more teams
- Potential to raise more funds from public health for improvements
- School pitches were not used fully and there should be wider community use of such
- Poor pitch quality on some school sites though, so some investment would be needed if they were to be made publicly available
- Need for better security at sites – some suffer from vandalism and anti-social behaviour
- Particularly poor quality facilities at Darlington Back Lane; The Tilery not so good also.
- Pitches and facilities good at Robert Atkinson and High Grange – these are the kinds of facilities we should aspire to in Stockton
- Over use of some pitches on some sites by juniors for matches, training and casual use means pitches often in very poor condition for league games
- Need for more training pitches so that damage to match pitches reduced
- Need for removable goal posts and equipment to discourage damage to goal mouth areas by excessive casual, training and junior use – consider applying to Football Foundation for such.
- Council system for booking pitches works well but would be good if Council allowed for bookings pre-season to allow for more training and preparation
- Recognition of some useful Council support for active clubs working to improve their facilities through external grant-aid
- General satisfaction with administration of Sunday league arrangements

Many of these points mirror problems and issues realised elsewhere in this report, such as the over use of pitches; desire for greater use of school sites; and, issues with changing facilities at certain venues. However, additional concerns relate to the cost of pitches and the lack of parking opportunities at certain venues. The meeting also offered some constructive suggestions, such as removable goal posts.

Questionnaire survey. Questionnaires were completed and received back from all clubs in the league. A spreadsheet provided as background information records the detailed returns. However, the comments of clubs on the respective sites on which they play are extremely useful and are summarised on a site-by-site basis below.

34 Stockton Sunday League clubs filled out a questionnaire playing at 18 different grounds.

Allens West (currently 1 junior, 1 full-size pitch)

- 1 to 2 additional pitches could be accommodated, but current provision is adequate
- No junior teams use the ground
- Over 20% of matches were cancelled last season due to pitch conditions
- Playing surface is poor
- Club would like to relocate

George & Dragon Yarm FC - Club Comments:

- Currently have to pay £30 per match to use the pitch; however the pitches are in a terrible state. The winter gets so bad we have to play our home games on the opposition's pitches.
- The pitches at Allens West are not quite full size, so not suitable for adult football really
- Tried to relocate last year, pitches in Yarm are either fully booked or were not allowed to use them, i.e. Elementis pitches in Eaglescliffe

Billingham Community Centre (1 full-size pitch)

- Another pitch could be accommodated
- No junior fixtures
- Good playing surface, no matches were cancelled last season
- No changing or shower facilities
- Club would like to relocate

Billingham Cons FC – Club Comments:

- Some of the land was sold for redevelopment; the pitch is now too close to the new houses, consequently irate locals when balls go into gardens, etc.
- SDC removed the showers from the community centre last year and converted them into offices without consultation

Conyers School (1 mini, 1 junior, 1 full-size pitch)

- Junior teams use the pitches – adequate provision for junior league requirements
- Good facilities all round and a good playing surface – no matches cancelled

Crathorne Arms FC – Club Comments:

- Club receives funding from the FA

- Would like to increase teams and expand facilities

Darlington Back Lane (1 full-size pitch)

- Current pitch provision is not sufficient, 2 additional pitches could be accommodated
- No junior fixtures
- 20% of games last season were cancelled due to pitch condition
- No changing /shower facilities
- No car parking

Sun Inn AFC – Club Comments:

- Club train at North Shore Academy
- Club would like to relocate

The Education Centre (1 full-size pitch)

- Current pitch provision is not sufficient, additional pitch could be accommodated
- No junior fixtures
- Less than 10% of fixtures last season were cancelled
- Playing surface is excellent and car parking
- No changing/shower facilities

Malleable FC – Club Comments:

- Club would like to use Tilery for training
- Would like to expand and refurbish facilities

Grangefield Park (1 full-size pitch)

- 1 additional pitch could be accommodated
- 10% of games cancelled last season due to pitch conditions
- No changing or shower facilities
- Pitch not used for training

Stockton Arms FC - Club Comments:

- All council pitches should as a minimum provide changing facilities

Grangefield Community Centre (2 full-size pitches)

- The pitches are used by 4 adult Sunday teams, 1 Saturday adult team and several youth teams
- Current pitch provision is not sufficient , Eaglescliffe Bazookas have suggested 2 more pitches could be accommodated

- Junior teams use the pitches
- 10 – 15% of matches were cancelled last season, the playing surface is below average
- Pitches not used for mid week training, 2 of the 3 teams would use local facilities or Thornaby Pavilion
- Parking is an issue, frequent cases of players getting parking tickets

Eaglescliffe Bazookas FC - Club Comments:

- A lot of away pitches in the area do not have changing provision

Norton George & Dragon FC - Club Comments:

- Use Norton School as well
- We are a Norton pub team but are unable to play in Norton as there are no acceptable pitches since Norton School closed

Thomas Sheraton FC - Club Comments:

- Use Grosvenor Rd or Grangefield School also

Harcourt Road (2 full-size pitches – *this site is outside the Borough and in Redcar and Cleveland Borough*)

- Junior fixtures are played on the pitches, additional junior provision is needed on-site
- An additional pitch could be accommodated
- Playing surface is good, 10% of matches cancelled last season
- No changing and shower facilities
- Poor parking
- Not used for training

South Bank AFC – Club Comments:

- Club would like to be able to use affordable local facilities for training
- Receives financial assistance from local authority
- Would like to expand and refurbish current facilities
- Schools are pricing out clubs

Harold Wilson Playing Fields (3 full-size pitches)

- No junior fixtures played on the pitches
- Current provision seems sufficient
- Approximately 15% of matches were cancelled last season
- Only Griffin FC use the pitches for training

Griffin FC – Club Comments:

- Issues with the cost of hiring facilities

Stainsby FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to expand current facilities

The Eagle FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to increase members and teams

Thornaby Dubliners FC – Club Comments:

- Harold Wilson has been improved over the past year and we currently have a good relationship with SBC. However our pitch has floodlights that could be adjusted to enable us to have training sessions in the evenings - we have requested this with no progress

Thornaby Village FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to increase membership
- Feels there is a real shortage of all-weather pitches for matches and training

High Grange Playing Fields (2 full-size pitches)

- Current provision seems sufficient, would be no room for extra pitches
- Unsure whether junior fixtures are played on the pitches
- 10% of games were cancelled last season
- Poor drainage in the showers
- Below average car parking
- Pitches are not used for training as there is no lighting and no goalposts in summer

Billingham Station FC – Club Comments

- Use Northfield Sportsdrome for training
- Dog/horse fouling is a major problem and the goal posts are dangerous - metal latches on side

Wolviston Wellington FC – Club Comments

- Would like to increase members
- Have issues with the cost of hiring venues

Mandale Linear Park (1 full-size pitch)

- Current pitch provision is ok
- No junior fixtures
- Playing surface is good
- No changing/shower facilities

Dubliners FC – Club Comments:

- Use Sporting Central for training

- Would like to increase membership, but have issues with funding and shortage of volunteers

Middlesbrough Football Community Centre (1 full-size pitch- *this site is outside the Borough and in Redcar and Cleveland Borough*)

- Current pitch provision is ok
- No junior fixtures
- Less than 10% of games cancelled last season
- Excellent playing surface and facilities

Billingham Ranger FC – Club Comments:

- Problems with funding

Port Clarence Community Pitch (1 full-size pitch)

- 2 additional pitches could be accommodated at the site
- No junior fixtures
- 10% of games cancelled last season
- No changing/shower facilities

Port Clarence FC – Club Comments:

- Club receives financial assistance from the local authority

Rievaulx Avenue (2 full-size pitches)

- 2 additional pitches could be accommodated, one below and to the side of existing pitch and one behind the changing facilities
- There is a youth team who use the pitch but not connected to the clubs below
- Parking is a real problem – cars often getting parking tickets
- Problems with other teams using the pitches for training but not paying so to do
- Between 15 and 20% of games cancelled last season
- Generally good facilities

Billingham The Kings FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to be able to use an indoor facility for training

The Merlin FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to relocate but shortage of senior pitches
- Club found it very hard to get a pitch this season

The Swan Billingham FC – Club Comments:

- Use Northfield or Bede College for training
- Pitch repairs would be helpful and decent drainage

Robert Atkinson Community Centre (2 full-size pitches)

- Current pitch provision is ok
- No junior fixtures
- Less than 10% of games cancelled last season
- Generally good facilities and playing surface
- Pitches not used for training

Mandale FC – Club Comments:

- Use Littleboy Park or Tees Barrage for training
- Would like to increase membership, but lack of funding

Thornaby Aerodrome Club FC – Club Comments:

- Use Sporting Central for training
- Would like to increase membership, but lack of funding

Thornaby Cricket Club FC – Club Comments:

- Use TCS for training

Teesside Sports Complex (3 mini, 3 junior, 3 full-size pitches)

- Current pitch provision is good
- Junior teams also use the pitches
- 20% of games cancelled last season
- Below average changing and shower facilities
- Pitches not used for training

Rosegale N&SA FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to increase number of teams, but shortage of venues and funding a problem

Tilery Sports Centre (2 junior, 4 full-size pitches)

- 6 adult teams use the pitches at Tilery, also used by junior teams
- An additional pitch could be accommodated where the old AWP was
- The pitches and changing facilities could be improved
- Between 10 and 20% of matches were cancelled last season

Hardwick Social Club FC – Club Comments:

- Shortage of venues for matches and training
- Cost of hiring is an issue

Norton Unicorn FC – Club Comments:

- Also use Norton School and Norton CC for training

Perrys FC – Club Comments:

- Would like to use a training venue anywhere near Norton
- The club is running at a loss, need financial help in the form of grants, fund-raising

Stockton West End FC – Club Comments:

- Have junior teams, Tilery is unable to accommodate all junior fixtures
- Also use Blakeston School and Northfield School
- Use the Tilery pitches for training 6 hours a week
- Fielding less teams than last season
- Would like to relocate

The Mitre FC – Club Comments:

- No comments

Yarm Road Playing Field (1 full-size pitch)

- 2 additional pitches could be accommodated
- No junior fixtures
- Less than 10% of games cancelled last season
- No changing/shower facilities
- Not used for training

Londonderry Arms FC – Club Comments:

- Use Conyers Astroturf for training
- Fielding less teams this season
- Receives financial assistance from the local authority and National Governing body
- Would like to increase membership, but there is a lack of funding

Oxbridge FC – Club Comments:

- Lack of changing facilities is a problem

Comment: perhaps the most striking observation from the above comments is the view that several sites could accommodate additional pitches. On the face of it this might be one way of reducing the overuse of existing pitches such as, for example, by the marking out of additional junior pitches and/or else encouraging the use of these other areas for training.

3.9.2 Consultation with the Teesside Junior Football Alliance

The Junior Football Alliance also makes a heavy demand on football pitches within the Borough. A consultation with individual clubs within the Alliance was not considered to be advisable because of sensitivities around the disclosure on information involving children and young people. However, consultation with the league secretary has highlighted the following concerns and facts about the league.

- The league has 90 participating clubs, split into 580 teams, the majority play in Durham County and North Riding County Football Association areas. Approximately 9,000 junior players, aged between 6 years and 18 years of age, competing in specific age groups this season. (Not all of these team and players will be based in Stockton Borough. An indication of the numbers of clubs in the Borough with representation in the Alliance is provided by the clubs/teams database accompanying this study).
- The league secretary believes that participation in junior and youth football has been increasing over recent years.
- The league secretary is of the view that any clubs without their own facilities who rely on council pitches are poorly served. The secretary is also of the view that those clubs whose pitches are in poor condition and/or are sold off to property developments without first ensuring a replacement area is secured to continue to provide sport and recreation for the players are even more poorly served.
- The secretary believes that modification of provision is needed in many cases, additional playing surfaces, changing facilities with adequate water supply. The marking out and upkeep of pitches is vital. Security to prevent dog-fouling and "sharps" being left on playing areas would also be a great advantage, but perhaps too costly to consider.
- Finally, the secretary is of the view that more 3G (Third Generation) artificial turf pitches so that the weather, usually adverse during winter months in the region, does not totally obliterate fixtures on a weekly basis.

3.9.3 Consultation with the governing body

Stockton Borough straddles two County Football Association areas. Most of the Borough falls with the administrative area of Durham FA, although Thornaby and Ingleby Barwick are covered by the North Riding FA.

Generally, the main concerns of the Durham FA relate to the general quality of pitches and changing facilities. It has also expressed concerns about school capital projects leading to the loss of pitches in some areas. It believes there is an increasing demand for both junior and senior football, but that there are particular groups within the community poorly served, especially women and girls; and the disabled. Open-age changing accommodation is also seen as an issue.

The most important facilities within the Borough used by clubs within the Durham FA area include:

- Harold Wilson Playing Fields
- Conyers School
- Teesdale Park
- T.I.B.S Juniors FC
- Northfield School
- Rievaulx Park
- Stockton Town FC
- Norton & Stockton Ancients FC
- What was the Tilery site (new North Shore Academy)

In terms of gaps and/or deficiencies in facilities the Durham FA believes there to be problems in respect of:

- General access issues and quality of school pitches
- Quality of changing provision on pitch sites

It feels that the following improvements are required at grounds and facilities in the Borough:

- Teesdale Park, the home of Thornaby FC, requires a new clubhouse to upgrade the current facility
- Lack of facilities in South Stockton to house clubs wishing to play within the National League System pyramid
- General upkeep of National League Club grounds, increased 3G provision, improvements in pitch quality (Blakeston School, Rievaulx Park, Egglecliffe school, Leven FC) and general improvements in changing accommodation

In the south of the Borough, the North Riding FA also sees an increasing demand for both junior and senior football, but again with women, girls and the disabled being currently poorly served. It views the most important facilities in this part of the Borough as:

- Harold Wilson Playing Fields
- Conyers School
- Teesdale Park
- T.I.B.S Juniors FC

It believes there is a shortage of grass pitches in the part of the Borough under its administration and that limited all-weather training facilities mean the current ones are over-subscribed and at times cost-prohibitive to clubs. In particular, a lack of marked grass pitches at Conyers School, means that matches have to be moved from this venue from April onwards due to the school marking an athletics track, and this causes displacement of local clubs onto pitches in Middlesbrough. (The unsecured nature of pitches at Conyers School for community use has been noted elsewhere in this report).

The main improvements the county FA would like to see in the area are in respect of:

- Teesdale Park, the home of Thornaby FC, which requires a new clubhouse to upgrade the current facility.
- To facilities in south Stockton, to house clubs wishing to play within the National League System pyramid.

Part B: Other Pitch Sports and Synthetic Turf Pitches

4. Existing situation for other pitch sports and STPs

4.1 General information on participation

A digest of information on national and local participation patterns in the outdoor sports covered by this study as well as other relevant information is contained in **Appendix 2. Maps 2** and **Appendix 3** also explain and portray the key market segment groups covering pitch sports, and their significance and distribution in the Borough. The potential for standardised and nationally collated data sets not to adequately reflect local circumstances is discussed in Section 2 in Part A, when dealing with football.

It is worth noting that the 'Kevs, Jamies, Tims, and Bens' who are the main adult socio economic groups playing pitch sports live in large numbers in the Borough.

4.2 Cricket teams locally

The following leagues are represented by teams playing locally in the Borough.

- Cleveland League
- Durham County Women's League
- Durham Senior League
- Langbaugh League
- Middlesbrough Midweek League
- North East Premier League
- North Yorkshire & South Durham League
- North Yorkshire Area Junior League
- North Yorkshire Area Junior League

Based on information gathered by this study, the following represents a count of all cricket teams identified broken down by, age group, and sub area.

Club	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	League
Billingham Balti House	Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	Billingham & North Stockton	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Billingham Synthonia	Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	Billingham & North Stockton	3	2		Cleveland League, North Yorkshire & South Durham League, North Yorkshire Area Junior League
Court Deli & Butchers	Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	Billingham & North Stockton	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Cowpen Bewley	Wolviston Back Lane	Billingham & North Stockton	1			Cleveland League
Jap Parts UK	Norton Cricket Ground	Central & West	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Maltby	Francis Park	South East	2	5		North Yorkshire & South Durham League
Norton	Norton Cricket Ground	Central & West	4	4		Durham Senior League, North Yorkshire & South Durham League, Langbaugh League, Durham County Omens League, North Yorkshire Area Junior League
P & P Maintenance	Wolviston Back Lane	Billingham & North Stockton	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Preston on Tees	Durham Lane Ind Est, Eaglescliffe	Eaglescliffe & Yarm	1			North Yorkshire & South Durham League
Seal Sands	Norton Cricket Ground	Central & West	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Specsavers Stockton	Norton Cricket Ground	Central & West	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Stafford Place	Stafford Place, Thornaby	South East	2			Langbaugh League, Middlesbrough Midweek League
Stockton	The Grangefield Ground	Central & West	3	4		North East Premier League, Durham County Omens League, North Yorkshire Area Junior League
Stockton Sports Partnership	Norton Cricket Ground	Central & West	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Teesside University	The Grangefield	Central & West	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League

Club	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	League
Staff	Ground					
The Oxbridge Hotel	Norton Cricket Ground	Central & West	1			Middlesbrough Midweek League
Thornaby	Mandale Bottoms	South East	3	4		North Yorkshire & South Durham League, North Yorkshire Area Junior League
Wolviston	Armstrong Park	Billingham & North Stockton	3	4		North Yorkshire & South Durham League, North Yorkshire Area Junior League
Yarm	Leven Road Ground	Eaglescliffe & Yarm	4	4		North Yorkshire & South Durham League, Middlesbrough Midweek League, North Yorkshire Area Junior League

4.2 Rugby teams locally

The following leagues are represented by teams playing locally in the Borough.

- Durham/Northumberland League
- National League North
- UBS Candy league
- Tees Valley Merit and Social Leagues

Based on information gathered by this study, the following represents a count of all rugby (union) teams identified broken down by, age group, and sub area, and which are run by three clubs.

Club	Ground	Senior Teams	Colts Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	League
Billingham	Billingham Rugby Club	3	1	4		National League 3 North, UBS Candy league, Tees Valley Merit and Social Leagues
Yarm	Durham Lane Ind Est, Eaglescliffe	3	1			Durham/Northumberland League, Tees Valley Merit and Social Leagues
Stockton	Teesside Sports complex	3		4		Durham/Northumberland League, Tees Valley Merit and Social Leagues

4.3 Hockey teams locally

The following leagues are represented by teams playing locally in the Borough.

- Durham Clubs League
- North East League
- North League

Based on information gathered by this study, the following represents a count of all hockey teams identified broken down by, age group, and sub area, and which are run by five clubs.

Club	Ground	Sub Area	Senior Teams	Junior Teams	Ladies Teams	League
Stockton	Eaglescliffe School	Eaglescliffe & Yarm	6	3	2	North League, North East League, Durham Clubs League
Stokesley	Thornaby Community School	South East	2	0	1?	North East League
Billingham Synthonia	Northfield School	Billingham & North Stockton	1	2	0	North East League
Norton	Teesside Sports Complex	Central & West	3	1	2	North East League, Durham Clubs League
Wilton	Thornaby Community School	South East	2			North East League

The Wilton Hockey Club is a small men's club being formerly based at the ICI Wilton complex, but with the requirement for use of a synthetic surface, moved eventually to the facility at Thornaby Community School. Historically, the club's membership has been drawn from the Middlesbrough and Redcar areas.

4.4 Team Generation Rates

The table below provides the estimated Team Generation Rates (TGRs) for Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey over defined age groups. (The comparable local TGRs for football are also provided for comparison). TGRs can be defined as the number of people it takes within a given population to generate a 'team' based on information available about local teams and population. They can help to plan for future needs as will be explained later in this report. For the purpose of calculating these TGRs the Wilton Hockey Club has been excluded as it is felt that its membership is largely derived from outside the study area.

Mini teams for very young players are often mixed gender and it is extremely difficult to assess with any precision the proportions of such teams that are male and female. It will be seen that the relevant TGRs below assume single gender composition of teams. In reality, there is likely to be a balance of representation in favour of young male players.

Male	Relevant population	Teams	TGR	Notes
Cricket Adult Male 18 to 55	48929	36	1359	A joint TGR covering both these age groups would be 911
Cricket Junior 11 to 17	6643	25	265	
Rugby Adult Male 18 to 45	36572	9	4063	A joint TGR covering both these age groups would be 3928
Rugby Junior Male 13 to 17	6643	2	3321	
Rugby Mixed Mini 8 to 12	6080	8	760	Assumes all male teams
Junior Boys Hockey 11 to 15	6643	3	2214	A joint TGR covering both these age groups would be 3055
Men's Hockey 16 to 45	39185	12	3265	
Female		Teams	TGR	
Football MS Mixed 6 to 9	4203	34	123	Assumes all female teams
Football Junior Female 10 to 15	7294	5	1459	
Football Adult Female 16 to 46	40363	1	40363	
Junior Girls' Hockey 11 to 15	6286	3	2095	Assumes all female teams

Male	Relevant population	Teams	TGR	Notes
Women's Hockey 16 to 45	39706	3	13235	
There are currently no female adult cricket or rugby teams in the Borough				

4.5 Use of facilities at schools

Unlike for football, there is little evidence of club based rugby, hockey or cricket being played on school pitches (except for the use of STPs on school sites and some use of school facilities during the cricket season for training). There is therefore no major local concern over community use by these sports adding to the general wear and tear on the school pitch stock.

4.6 Pitch provision

As with football, the following categorisation has been employed related to the availability of pitches for community use.

Category	Definition	Supplementary information
A(i)	Secured community pitches	Pitches in local authority or other public ownership or management
A(ii)		Pitches in the voluntary, private or commercial sector which are open to members of the public
A(iii)		Pitches at education sites which are available for use by the public through formal community use arrangements
B	Used by community, but not secured	Pitches not included above, that are nevertheless available for community use, e.g. school/college pitches without formal user agreements
C	Not open for community use	Pitches at establishments which are not, as a matter of policy or practice, available for hire by the public

In terms of assessment using the PPAM categories B, and C have been excluded (as required by the Sport England Method). Critically, this means that several school sites, which are significant providers of community sports opportunities, have been excluded from the calculations. This is because such schools do not have formal user agreements in respect of their grass pitches (this is not uncommon – most community access is de facto).

Availability	Pitches			
	Cricket	Senior Rugby	Junior Rugby	STP
A1,A2,A3	11	5	2	6
B	2	8	1	
C	3	3	1	

This provision (in terms of numbers of sites) breaks down into roughly the following ownership classification. As will be seen education provision is large, although except for STPs is not generally used by community teams. Provision by sports clubs, the Borough Council, and community organisations is therefore important.

The following sites are the most significant for cricket, rugby and hockey and which are in secured community use (A1, A2, A3)

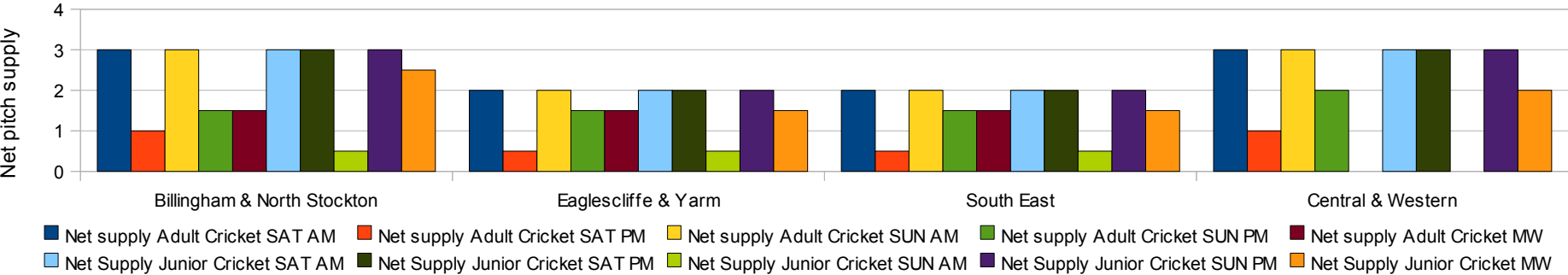
Name	Sector	C	SR	JR	STP	Availability	Sub area
Low Grange	Local Authority	1				A1	Billingham & North Stockton
Francis Park	Sports Club	1				A2	South East
Stockton Sports Centre	Local Authority				1	A1	Central & Western
Norton Sports Complex	Community Organisation	2	1	1	1	A2	Central & Western
Durham Lane Ind Est, Eaglescliffe	Sports Club	1	1			A2	Eaglescliffe & Yarm
The Grangefield Ground	Sports Club	1				A2	Central & Western
Yarm Cricket Club, Leven Road	Sports Club	1				A2	Eaglescliffe & Yarm
Mandale Bottoms	Sports Club	1				A2	South East
Armstrong Park	Sports Club	1				A2	Billingham & North Stockton
Stafford Place, Thornaby	Sports Club	1				A2	South East
Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	Sports Club	1				A2	Billingham & North Stockton
Billingham Rugby Club	Sports Club		3	1		A2	Billingham & North Stockton

5. Supply and demand for cricket, rugby, hockey and STPs

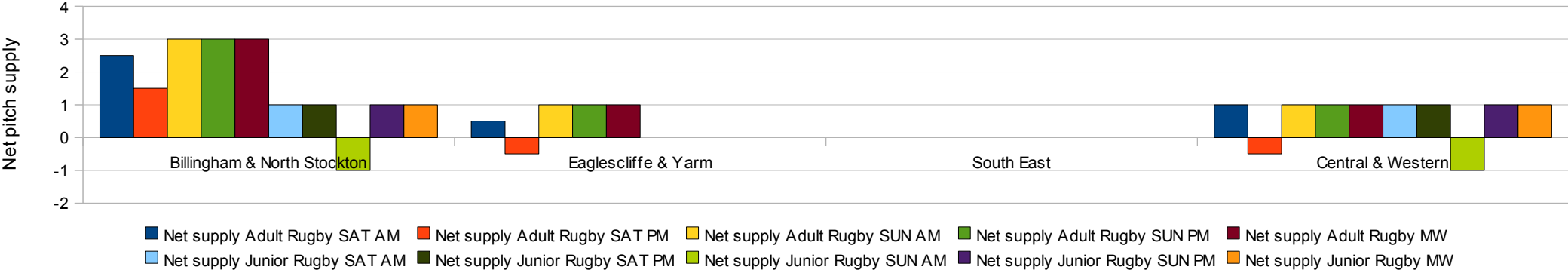
5.1 General

The following two charts summarise the overall supply of and demand for rugby and cricket pitches within the Borough. Only pitches in secured community use (A1-A3) are taken into account. The charts apply the Sport England method to the various sub areas, by adult and junior teams over times of demand. The charts show where demand is being met and by what margin (above the zero line); and what isn't (below the zero line). The latter can be a difficult notion to grasp but is explained in section 3 (Part A) under the similar exercise conducted for football.

Net pitch supply for cricket



Net pitch supply for rugby



5.2 Key observations

The most obvious point is that there is a net deficit of rugby pitches relative to demand on Saturday afternoons in both the Eaglescliffe and Yarm, and Central and Western sub areas. No evidence from the club questionnaire survey suggests a lack of pitches (see later in this section). There is some evidence of teams using facilities outside the Borough on occasion, such as pitches in Darlington, although this appears to be when home pitches are out of use. The adult 3rd teams tend to play on a social basis, and whilst this is still within a structured league, it may mean that there is greater flexibility over where and when matches are played. This matter, however, perhaps requires more investigation.

In terms of cricket, there does not appear to be an issue in respect of the supply of facilities., and no evidence of this arising from the club questionnaire survey.

5.3 Quality considerations

The club questionnaire survey suggests that there are issues with the overuse and quality of rugby pitches in particular (see later in the section).

5.4 Net pitch supply for hockey

These days, competitive hockey is very much reliant on the existence of synthetic turf pitches (STPs) and with specific requirements in terms of surface, dimensions and lighting. As highlighted in the previous section, there are four hockey clubs in the borough, with three of them based at school sites. The main venues for hockey are: Teesside Sports Complex, Northfield School, Thornaby Community School, Eaglescliffe School all of which are sand based facilities. Only the pitches at Northfield and Norton meet the required dimensions for competitive hockey - the required size for a hockey pitch is 101.4m x 63m (inclusive of run-off).

The club survey has yielded no concerns about the availability of pitches for hockey in the locality. Unlike football, the use of synthetic pitches for hockey allows clubs and leagues to arrange games to be played in sequence on a given day, without the wear and tear associated with over-use of grass pitches. Weekend use of school based synthetic pitches does not tend to clash with the often high demand for such facilities for small-sided football. The major issue which often affects hockey clubs is access to facilities for mid week evening training, where there is often a clash with the demand from small-sided football which tends to also place heavy demand on synthetic facilities at these times. Because they are designed specifically for football, hockey is not able to make use of the 3G surfaces at the Stockton Sports Centre or Conyers School.

Realistically, the supply of hockey pitches cannot therefore be examined in isolation from the overall supply of STPs.

5.5 Provision of STPs

For the above reason Sport England have prepared a technical report on the supply and demand for STPs within the Borough. The report and accompanying maps is reproduced at **Appendix 7** and the key findings summarised here.

There are six STPs within the Borough. The six are located across six separate sites (SRC Sports Centre, Conyers School, Egglecliffe School, Northfield Sports Drome, Norton Sports Complex, and Thornaby Community School/St. Patrick's RC Comp). All of the pitches are floodlit. The pitches at SRC and Conyers are 3G surface, while the remainder are sand based. Only the pitches at Northfield and Norton meet the required dimensions for competitive hockey - the required size for a hockey pitch is 101.4m x 63m (inclusive of run-off).

- The level of unmet demand for the usage of STPs in Stockton is approximately 1,298 visits per week in the peak period.
- This amount of unmet demand equates to 1.75 pitches.
- There are generally two reasons that demand is not met; firstly the local pitch might not have any spare capacity across the hours it is open in the peak periods, or, secondly there might not be an available pitch within reasonable travelling distance
- In Stockton's case 91% of unmet demand is down to lack of available capacity, and only 9% is because there is no locally accessible pitch. This is higher than both the national figure (88%) and the regional average (83%)
- While levels of car ownership are higher in Stockton than the regional average, they are still below the national. As such unmet demand is usually more sensitive to the distribution of facilities.
- It can however still be seen that where lack of capacity was the reason for unmet demand, this was in spite of the majority of those people having access to a car (and therefore able to reach a wider range of STP provision)
- Unmet demand is most noticeable in an arc around inner central Stockton / north Thornaby.
- Aggregate unmet demand (which looks at the prime locations to address unmet demand) shows that the best location for new provision would be inner central Stockton, and between Stockton and Middlesbrough

5.6 Future Demand for cricket, rugby and hockey

As with football (see Part A) future demand for cricket, rugby and hockey is comprised of several causal factors:

- Natural demographic changes within the population (especially in relation to the team playing age groups);
- Population change driven by planned developments (via the Statutory Development Plan);
- The Impact of Sports Development and related campaigns;
- The release of any 'latent' or 'frustrated' demand to play sport; and,

The interaction of these factors will have a considerable effect on the demand for outdoor sports opportunities within the local authority area over the coming years. However, some factors will have a far more profound impact than others. These factors are explained further in Part A, Section 3 and, in particular, the influence of structural changes in the population.

Using population data described in Part A the following conclusions were drawn of relevance to future demand:

- a) a projected increase of an estimated 1.4k persons in the 5 to 9 age group (largely covering the age playing mini soccer for the very young);
- b) a projected increase of an estimated 2.2k persons in the 10 to 44 age group (largely covering the age ranges for most of the pitch sports); and,
- c) the 'natural' growth in the population will be largely accounted for by increases in the elderly, who tend not to play football.

In themselves, these increases are likely to have a small knock effect on the future demand for cricket, rugby and hockey. For example- circa 2 mini rugby teams, circa 2 adult and junior cricket teams, circa 1 adult and junior rugby team, and not more than 1 additional hockey team spanning the junior and adult age groups. This would have a relatively insignificant impact in terms of demand for extra space, especially when bearing in mind that a minimum of 2 teams are required to generate a demand for an additional pitch. Even if a factor (say an additional 10%) was included to cover potential upswings in relative demand, the impact in terms of further additional teams generated would not be great.

However, as with football, it is likely that the majority of the projected growth will be 'development-led'.

The nature, scale and status of this development is further explained in Section 3 (Part A) para 3.8, as well as on Maps 5. This will create local increases in demand for facilities.

For example, assuming: a) an occupancy rate of 2 people per household; b) c. 45% of the new occupants are between the age range of 11-44 years; and c) the new occupants can all be treated as a net gain in the local population (as opposed to simply changing house locally- the need to amend this assumption to better fit local circumstances was stated in 3.8, notwithstanding the principle of the overall approach) this amount of development may itself yield a total of around 8,500 residents (male and females) in the 11-44 age group. Based on the TGRs explained in Section 4 this would generate an additional notional:

- 9.3 male cricket teams spanning the senior and junior age ranges
- 2.1 male rugby team spanning the senior and junior age ranges
- 1.5 male hockey teams spanning the senior and junior age ranges
- 0.5 female football teams spanning the senior and junior age ranges
- 0.5 female hockey teams spanning the senior and junior age ranges

In addition to the above, the development would generate demand from young age groups for mini versions of the game.

In practical terms the additional demands from cricket and rugby will generate the equivalent demand for new venues, or at least the opening up or expansion of an facilities. Based on two teams sharing and alternating home and away games there may be a requirement for around 4 cricket pitches and 1 rugby pitch. Rugby provision within the Borough is very much near capacity use, and it is clear there is insufficient space on existing cricket sites available to the community to meet this future demand. For hockey the situation is not clear-cut. The theoretical increase in hockey teams will compound demand on existing STPs both for competition and training, and would suggest the need to consider providing an additional STP at an appropriate specification. The location for this venue might be informed by the findings of the Sport England report which itself suggested a central Stockton/north Thornaby location.

5.8 Questionnaire survey findings

The Borough Council distributed a questionnaire to local cricket, rugby and hockey clubs to assess their views on local supply and demand, with the results summarised below.

5.8.1 Cricket

Five cricket clubs responded to the questionnaire survey (28%).

Billingham Synthonia CC (Billingham Synthonia Cricket Ground)

- 3 adult and 3 junior teams
- More teams than last season
- Use home ground for training various nights for different age groups
- Own their own ground; let other clubs and school teams use their facilities
- Overall facilities are good, but wickets are very poor due to the age of the square and need relaying in the very near future
- Would like to have a permanent practice net facility

Thornaby CC (Thornaby Cricket Ground)

- 3 adult and 4 junior teams
- Use home ground for training and Norton indoor school and Macmillan College indoor nets in the winter
- Own their own ground; others use the facilities particularly during the week, friendly games have been arranged with clubs other than Thornaby.
- Overall facilities are good except for drainage
- Ground suffers from poor drainage, is low lying and therefore suffers from water logging in rainy conditions. Pitch is bounded by Northumbria Water drainage beck which overflows onto pitch during heavy rain. Discussions with Northumbria Water to solve this have proven unsuccessful so far

Maltby CC (Francis Park)

- 3 adult and 5 junior teams
- More teams than last season, extra competitions with teams in both NYSD and Langbaugh League
- A number of supporters have a range of disabilities. Access between car park and pavilion can be a problem for wheelchair users in wet weather
- Training Venues: U11/U13 All Saints School, Ingleby Barwick (Fridays starting 4 February 2011), U15/U17 All Saints School, Ingleby Barwick (Tuesdays starting 8 February 2011). Seniors – to be confirmed (possibly Conyers School)
- There is limited availability of indoor facilities
- Open Access Policy: limited use due to number of club fixtures. Some friendly cricket games have been played. Regional women's cricket games have been hosted, as well as County Schools fixtures. Some football on the outfield in the winter.
- Overall facilities are good
- Would like to run a ladies team but starting a women's team from scratch is difficult. Some discussions have taken place about basing a County Girl's squad at Maltby
- Would like footpath access between car park and pavilion

Stockton CC (Grangefield Ground)

- 3 adult, 4 junior teams and a ladies team
- Use home ground for training in the evenings Monday to Friday
- Own their own ground; Teesside University hires the ground for midweek league matches and other clubs use the Indoor Nets
- Overall facilities are acceptable
- The indoor and outdoor nets both require updating and extending

Wolviston CC (Armstrong Park)

- 3 adult and 4 junior teams
- Train at home ground during the season. During winter juniors practice at Northfield School and seniors at Norton Indoor Cricket Centre
- Own their own ground; The ground is provided free of charge for events such as school cricket festivals and school events and is available to hire for other teams and corporate events
- Overall facilities are good
- The ultimate aim of WCC and one which would greatly benefit the Club is to have a brick clubhouse built to replace the current wooden one

5.8.2 Rugby

Two of the three rugby clubs responded to the questionnaire survey.

Billingham Synthonia RUFC (Greenwood Road)

- 3 adult, 1 colt and junior and mini teams.
- Train mid-week at home ground
- Home ground is part owned and part leased from the Borough Council
- Bad weather severely affects quality of pitches.
- Aspirations for 1. AWP IRB approval 2. Indoor sports hall 3. disabled path around pitches 4. additional changing rooms 5. spectators stand

Yarm RUFC (Wass Way)

- 3 adult, 1 colt and junior and mini teams
- Train mid-week at home ground
- Their ground is rented and is shared by a cricket club and a school
- The club house is modern but the pitches are poorly drained
- The main improvement sought is to install pitch drainage.

Both teams state they would like to encourage greater numbers of children and females in particular into the game.

5.8.3 Hockey

Three clubs responded to the questionnaire survey.

Stockton Hockey Club (Egglescliffe School and Northfield School)

- Main ground is Egglescliffe School – a sand based astroturf
- The club also uses Northfield School with a very similar surface
- The club has 6 Men's and 2 Ladies teams along with junior teams
- The club also has to use Northfield school as well, as the single pitch at Egglescliffe cannot accommodate all Saturday League Hockey requirements
- Egglescliffe School is sufficient for training purposes
- The overall quality of pitches used is good
- Future plans of the club are to have a full men's, ladies and youth integration and achievement of English Hockey's 'Club First' status. Improved quality of training facilities
- The cost of playing hockey is becoming a challenge in the absence of external financial assistance. The club believes it offers a valuable opportunity for youth development and progression. The goodwill of Egglescliffe School is helpful, but the club is finding it increasingly difficult to raise appropriate finance.

Norton Hockey Club (Norton/Teesside Sports Complex)

- The club have 6 adult teams and 2 or more junior teams
- Current pitch provision for matches is borderline, and may become inadequate because of the age of facilities, and the heavy demands of competing usage. The pitch needs replacing but it is proving difficult to secure funding for it during the present climate. The pitch at the Sports Complex has been extremely well maintained by the ground staff which has extended the life of the pitch so far to approx 17 years or more where normally this type of pitch will last only maximum 12 years
- The current pitch provision is considered sufficient for training at present
- Future plans of the club are to continue to try and secure money for a new pitch

Billingham Synthonia Hockey Club (Northfield School)

- The club's main ground is at Northfield School where there is one astroturf pitch
- The club currently only has one adult team
- Current pitch provision is considered to be sufficient for both matches and training
- The overall quality of the pitch is considered to be 'average to good'
- Future plans of the club is hopefully to survive and expand, especially with junior teams
- The club believes that the cost of pitch hire can sometimes be too expensive which prevents training, as members cannot afford match fees and training fees in the same week
- The club feels there is a lack of venues providing for indoor hockey/training – the local hockey league is struggling to find a venue to run their indoor league

5.9 Governing body observations

The views of the governing bodies of those pitch sports represented in the areas were requested. The Rugby Union were not in a position to contribute, but comments were received from England Hockey and Durham Cricket Board.

5.9.1 English Hockey

The governing body suspects that there is a relatively high level of play in schools. A number of schools competitions for girls are run by the Cleveland School girls Hockey Association, but boys hockey is less popular than girls (though still above average in Stockton for the area) This is mainly due to 3 independent schools (Red House, Teesside High and Yarm) and Egglecliffe school delivering a lot of hockey. The Stockton area also has quite a bit of mini hockey at primary school level.

The governing body records only two clubs in the Borough- Stockton and Norton. Norton are 'accredited', and Stockton have just begun the accreditation process. Both clubs have strong men's sections but the women's teams struggle to get and keep new players (particularly as they lose a lot of 14-17 years girls from the sport generally). The governing body therefore has no knowledge of three other clubs based in the Borough.

It feels that demand in recent years has remained the same or perhaps grown slightly, and that disabled sections of the community are not well provided for in respect of access to the sport.

In terms of specific facility issues the governing body has, like other consultees, mentioned the age of the synthetic pitch at Norton (Teesside Sports) Complex ".... is 17 years old and has lasted longer than most pitches. It desperately needs resurfacing. Its current use is at capacity...."

England Hockey is also aware that Teesside School would like to create a synthetic pitch on its campus.

5.9.2 Durham Cricket Board

The County Board runs a 'focus club' system, which covers the clubs that the Board believes have shown a real commitment to the development of cricket. It is primarily the data and information from those clubs which have been provided by the Board. The focus clubs in Stockton are, Billingham Synthonia, Norton, Stockton and Wolviston.

The latest figures are showing that numbers are increasing within participation, volunteering, coaches and members. The figures are slightly misleading as a lot of the increases are due to younger player's participation, which brings their parents in as coaches and volunteers. However the nature of the modern day volunteer is that they have a lot less time available to give than in previous years and they usually only stay with the club while their child is playing. Therefore although we are seeing encouraging numbers of people getting involved, they are without doubt staying involved for a much shorter time than in the past, meaning that recruitment is now a constant problem for clubs. The other main problem at present is the reduced number of adults playing the game.

The constant drive for more participation etc. has resulted in a huge problem for the clubs to have enough available time on their grounds to accommodate all of the matches. This is particularly the case for Stockton who are trying to run a women's team and a girl's team.

Training facilities are an ongoing problem, with clubs not being able to provide enough quality off field practice facilities to allow practice to happen whilst a match maybe taking place on the main field. Indoor facilities are also an issue within Stockton, especially with the lack of any quality 4-lane centre. Norton CC have their own facility which is 3-lane and in desperate need of upgrading. Most of the newer facilities at schools are 2-lane, which makes it difficult to train with big numbers.

The Board views that club facilities are problematic:

- Billingham Synthonia - Desperate for off field Practice facilities, both turf and non-turf.

- Norton – Indoor cricket facility is in dire need of upgrades.
- Stockton – Require off field non turf practice facility and an upgrade to their one lane indoor facility.
- Wolviston – Desperate for a new clubhouse and changing facility and practice facilities.

The Board acknowledges Stockton Cricket Club as a highly pro active club, running successful junior teams at all age groups, and both a women's and a girl's team, and they continue to try and provide a playing facility that can be used by Durham CCC for first class matches which "puts Stockton onto a national stage."

5.9.3 Rugby Football Union (RFU)

The RFU believes that participation in the sport is on the increase, especially junior participation. It does not feel that any groups are especially poorly served; Stockton received some funding recently which was used for disability groups to participate on Saturday mornings which proved successful. The RFU would, however, like to increase ladies/girls participation, Stockton RFC have indicated they would like to start up a girls and ladies team but would need to improve their changing facilities to get it off the ground. Locally, rugby coaching is excellent, there is a good number of qualified coaches and referees in the area and also a good workforce of volunteers and parents willing to help.

It feels that Yarm Rugby Club need a new site, as their current ground is leased and they have to use a porta-cabin for changing, etc. Stockton Rugby Club use a multi-sports site, they have a good clubhouse but the changing facilities are poor

Overall, the RFU feels that changing facilities are a problem, this affects girls/ladies participation due to no separate changing. Pitch availability is good across the clubs except in bad weather as there are issues with poor drainage. There is no real access to a good 3G/4G astro pitch, Billingham RFC would be the best site to accommodate a new facility. As Stockton RFC use a multi-sports site, the open access policy to a new astro pitch would cause availability issues, i.e. main users would be 5 aside football. Another possibility is to build on a school site and then clubs would need to hire the facility

Billingham RFC are considering starting a wheelchair rugby team, this would need to take place in a large indoor hall.

Part C: Recommendations

6. Principles

6.1 General

This section establishes and discusses some important principles, which should inform the future planning of football in the borough. Specific findings and recommended actions will be found at various points elsewhere in the document and reflected in the **Full Action Plan (Section 7)**.

Mend before Extend: There is a lot that is good about pitch sport provision in the borough. But there are also some things requiring attention. The mapping analyses undertaken clearly show that additional pressures may be created from the needs of new residents in the proposed growth areas. At least some of the major outdoor venues are conveniently placed relative to the growth areas. It would be appropriate to examine how new needs might in part be met by improvements to the capacity and quality of *existing venues* within the borough. Where this is determined as the best approach it would be legitimate to use developer contributions arising from the growth areas for this purpose. A '*Mend before Extend*' principle should be employed to ensure that such improvements have been made in good time to meet the needs of new residents, but with the added benefit of addressing some of the long-standing problems that have been expressed through this study.

Conflict resolution: Pitch sports can often be seen as 'cuckoos in the nest', dominating public parks and spaces. Particular problems can develop when sports clubs (primarily football and cricket) want to take a step up in standard and establish 'roots' in the form of facilities and additional teams. Clubs' aspirations for facility development, use and management may not coincide with the borough council's duty to retain overall community access to what is essentially public space. However, the aim of the borough council is always to strike an appropriate balance with their stock of parks and spaces in meeting a multiplicity of needs, of which sport is just one and certainly not the most important if counted in numbers of users alone. Because of this the best prospect for clubs seeking to develop might be to links with schools and non-council provision (see below).

The education sector: The contribution made by schools and the education sector in general to the borough council's stock of open space is considerable. But it maintains a 'low profile'. Its principal function is to help in the delivery of the curriculum and whilst there is a significant level of community use for football, such use is not assured through formal agreements. Widespread community use of school facilities has been strongly advocated over the years. In reality, progress to this goal has been piecemeal both in the borough and elsewhere. The reasons for this are manifold but stem from concerns over management and security, cost and funding, design, wear and tear and abuse, fears of litigation. Some of these concerns are generally misplaced, but others are entirely justifiable. The schools capital programme locally offers scope with some schools to plan and design community sports use - both for indoor and outdoor use concurrently - as an integral function of the school, thus radically addressing many of the traditional concerns. Evolving national policy on sport sees a greater focus on bodies such as the Youth Sport Trust, Governing Bodies and the Education sector in delivering strategic sports objectives. Links between schools and clubs are integral to the success of these policies. The local schools capital programme represents the major opportunity for implementing this approach, and what better way of achieving this than having clubs physically integrated with schools? Because the needs of school and community generally arise at different times there would be no innate potential for conflict.

Over the next few years there will be unprecedented pressures to reduce public spend. Local authority leisure budgets - being discretionary - will be prime candidates for retrenchment. Traditional local authority sports budgets are therefore in grave danger, and in this light the schools capital programme may represent the only opportunity for creating, sustaining and nurturing sports participation in a structured way beyond the basic community level, especially when linked with another new approach to sports provision (see below).

Sustaining and nurturing sport: Away from the television, Premiership Football etc, football is most definitely not a money spinner. Public investment in football is justified by the perceived good it can do in other ways relating to physical and emotional health, social integration, and community well-being. Much of this benefit is impossible to value/quantify financially. This is problematic especially when taking into account that sport is essentially a discretionary area of local authority spend, and therefore vulnerable to cutback.

As discussed, in the medium to longer-term developer contributions from the growth areas might be used to help regenerate the existing ageing and declining provision at some locations. However, in many ways this will be a 'one off fix' to mend the physical infrastructure of sport at the *basic community level*. It will probably not help to put in place a hierarchy of opportunities enabling progression by participants commensurate with ability and ambition. It is unlikely that developer contributions can fund provision to be used only by a relatively very small section of the community. Achieving a good hierarchy will require the practical support of many sectors, especially governing bodies and local clubs working in conjunction with the Borough Council in general; the Education Authority in particular; and, local agencies such as the Local Sports Partnership. The Borough Council can play its part as an 'enabler' in this process but the financial obligations - the annual subsidies, maintenance and sport development - placed on the Council should be kept to an absolute minimum. Sport England believes this can be achieved by using various income streams - commercial and other - to create a 'dowry', which ensures the long-term financial stability of the sports hub. The **Sustainable Community Sports Hub Toolkit (See Appendix 8)** explores the drivers and characteristics such a sports hub will have, as well as its potential benefits and risks. This concept might be explored as a model for helping to develop the upper echelons of the hierarchy of local sports opportunities, in conjunction with some of the site/sport specific recommendations made in the Action Plan. Such venues might be focussed on established schools or clubs where intensive facilities might be best located to optimum benefit.

7. Action Plan

Action Point	Description
<i>General</i>	
	Marking/remarking of additional football pitches where there is spare capacity. Especially with regard to segregating junior and adult provision
	Consider whether small, single pitch Borough council venues have continued viability as units, especially if the above action is taken.
	Develop a programme for better integration of community use of key school venues, with their development and improvement following a 'sports hub' concept.
	Consider the need for an additional synthetic turf pitch to meet identified needs. It should be suitable for competitive hockey, but also if possible to meet the needs of other sports for training and small-sided competition. This should be located in a central part of the Borough.
	Work closely with the Borough Council planning service to establish an appropriate new or improved pitch provision in areas of rapid change in respect of residential development. Also seek to ensure that the importance of sports pitches and ancillary facilities as 'community facilities' is also properly recognised in the calculation and allocation of developer contributions arising from new developments
	In conjunction with local rugby clubs examine ways in which the marginal supply/demand provision might be rectified, perhaps through training provision on a synthetic surface. This would take some pressure off already heavily used grass surfaces.
	At least one indoor 4-lane cricket training venue would be very welcome, to take pressure off outdoor facilities, and allow for all-year round training.
<i>Sub Areas</i>	
Billingham and North Stockton	
	Ensure that the existing provision for football at Northfield School and Sports College (Sportsdrome) becomes secured for community use, given its status as an important venue for community teams.

	<p>Better access to school pitches is a priority together with an improvement in quality and a consideration of rationalisation to consolidate use on a smaller range of better equipped multi pitch sites. Opportunities include improvements to Rievaulx Stadium to address current issues of parking and quality; improving pitch quality and securing better community use at Billingham Campus and at Northfields. This could release certain single pitch sites. The pitches at Bedford Terrace, High Grange, and Clarences/'Bendy Rec' would also very much benefit from improvement.</p> <p>There is poor pitch drainage quality at Billingham Synthonia RUFC's ground at Greenwood Road which should be rectified.</p> <p>The wickets need to be re-laid at Billingham Synthonia CC's cricket ground.</p>
Central and Western	
	<p>The football provision at Our Lady and St Bede School caters for junior community teams should be placed in secured community use, given its importance to community teams.</p> <p>Other opportunities include - securing community use of school sites. Blakeston is a Sports College but its 2 pitches are poor have open access and there is no community use. With fencing, improved drainage and remarking the site could be more intensively used and be available for community use.</p> <p>The quality of pitches and facilities at the Tilery should be improved.</p> <p>There is felt to be scope to rationalise pitch provision if more pitches were brought into public use and lesser quality small (single pitch) sites with no facilities such as at Yarm Road, the Education Centre (Junction Road), and Darlington Back Lane for other open space uses or, where appropriate, for development.</p> <p>A desirable and longer term solution would be the development of a multi-pitch adult site within Norton or Central Stockton (within the Central and Western Sub Area) to compliment multi-pitch junior provision at the New North Shore Academy site.</p> <p>There is a large amount of new development proposed in the sub area, which will generate demand for additional pitches. New provision could be made in an accessible location, but developer contributions could also be collected to help towards the improvement/expansion of facilities elsewhere and within convenient reach. These could include at at</p>

	<p>Stockton Sports Centre, Primrose Hill, and Blakeston School, and the new North Shore Academy is also well placed in relation to major potential development areas- a 3G pitch might be an appropriate form of provision for widest possible utility.</p> <p>The existing synthetic turf pitch at Teesside Sports Complex will require replacement/overhaul in the near future.</p> <p>Improvements at Stockton Rugby Club's Facilities at the Teesside Sports Complex would improve prospects for establishing girl's/women's teams.</p>
Eaglescliffe and Yarm	
	<p>Football pitches at Conyers and Eaglescliffe Schools, as well as Kirklevington Prison should be secured for community use given their importance as venues used by community teams.</p> <p>Opportunities include securing community use of school facilities, particularly at Conyers together with improvements to pitch quality there and at Egglecliffe school to improve changing facilities to facilitate community access . There is the potential for the release of the currently unused and remote Saltersgill site which could generate S106 funds to help carry out pitch and access improvements.</p> <p>The drainage of Yarm RUFC's pitch at Wass Way should be improved.</p>
South East	
	<p>Football pitches at Thornaby Community School should be brought into secured community use given their importance to local teams.</p> <p>Given their proximity to planned development improved provision might be considered at the Harold Wilson Sports Centre, All Saints School, Littleboy and Teesdale Parks.</p>