



STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

2015 - 2025

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Stockton. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2025. The purpose of the PPS is to help us to prioritise and target resources where resources are limited.

The Strategy will provide a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2025. The purpose of the PPS is to help us to prioritise and target resources where resources are limited. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy.
- ◀ Inform the protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the City;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches across the City;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximise support for playing pitch facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of playing pitches.

Structure

The Strategy has been developed from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within Stockton to provide:

A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches (including ancillary facilities).

- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance and development of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan (where action is deemed necessary).

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The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Stockton, which should be implemented from 2015 to 2025. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be identified.

The recommendations that come out of this strategy may inform local planning policy and can support the local planning evidence base so there is a policy mechanism to support delivery and secure provision/investment where the opportunity arises.

There is a need to build key partnerships between the Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements/future Community Infrastructure Levy). This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

Context

The rationale for undertaking the study is to identify current levels of provision in the area, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and to compare this with current, and likely future levels of demand. The supply and demand analysis will help identify the need for new pitch facilities, and also suggest where there are too many facilities, perhaps in the wrong location. The analysis will help to underpin future planning policy and allocation, and help to support bids for external funding.

The development of new residential areas, population growth and changing expectations of leisure activities and opportunities all have implications for future provision of playing pitches. Equally, the plans of other providers will have an influence on the future location, mix and scale of playing pitch provision in the Stockton-On-Tees Borough.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised Playing Pitch Assessments and Strategies which identified current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures, and specifically residential proposals on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer, wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Identify inequalities in supply and demand across the five areas of the Borough
- ◀ Identify priority sites for development and improvement in relation to external funding opportunities.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public sector cuts.

The Stockton-On-Tees Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy covers the overall Borough area and considers in certain cases the overlap of supply and demand with adjoining areas.

A major driving factor for this Pitch Assessment and Strategy is the need to identify a hierarchy of investment priorities for pitch improvement and development. This will need to encompass an assessment of use and quality of sites and whether they are "fit for purpose".

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Vision

Therefore, this study has been developed on the basis of the above strategic drivers in order to ensure that it reflects the Council's wider ambitions. A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Stockton Playing Pitch Strategy:

'To provide an accessible, high quality and sustainable network of outdoor sports facilities, which provide opportunities for all residents to access good sport, physical activity and recreation facilities'.

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PART 2: AIMS

It is recommended that the following Strategy Aims are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy:

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

The three main themes of the strategy also reflect Sport England's planning aim and objectives for sport; namely:

Figure 1: Sport England Planning for Sport objectives



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PART 3: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations.

Football pitches

Key issues - grass

- ◀ Over half (54%) of all pitches available for community are assessed as standard quality with just over a third (37%) assessed as good quality. The remaining 9% of pitches are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Of the clubs who completed the survey, 51% rate pitch quality as good with 39% rating it as standard. The remaining 10% of clubs that report pitch quality as poor are referring to Darlington Back Lane (Site ID: 17), the Tilery Site (Site ID: 77) and Yarm Road Recreation Ground (Site ID: 9909).
- ◀ There are two sites (four pitches) that are overplayed by a total of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There are eleven clubs that report latent demand and, therefore, are having to turn away players they cannot accommodate. In total, this equated to eight adult teams, 25 youth teams and 29 mini teams.
- ◀ All clubs that currently lease sites within the borough have long term security of tenure. That said, TIBS FC reported that although its lease from SBC has approximately 20 years remaining, the lease that was agreed in 2009 is yet to be signed.
- ◀ There is a total of 24 match sessions of actual spare capacity across the borough, of which 18 are on adult pitches. There are a further 28 match equivalent sessions available on pitches that are available for community use but currently have no recorded play.
- ◀ There is an oversupply of adult match sessions to meet total current demand (11.5 match sessions). When future demand is taken into account (six match sessions), there is aggregate spare capacity of 5.5 adult match sessions to meet total future demand.
- ◀ There are insufficient youth pitches available to meet total current demand (-5.5 match sessions). This is further exacerbated when future demand is taken into account (22.5 match sessions) with an aggregate of deficiency of 28 youth match sessions to meet total future demand.
- ◀ There are insufficient grass mini pitches available to meet total current demand (-15 match sessions). This is further exacerbated when future demand is taken into account (20.5 match sessions) with an aggregate of deficiency of 35.5 mini match sessions to meet total future demand.

Scenarios - grass

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality/utilising spare capacity** – although spare capacity exists at a number of sites in Stockton-on-Tees, this capacity is not available in the peak period. As such, improving pitch quality will not alleviate the current deficiencies of mini/youth match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Furthermore, given the cost of doing such work for all poor and standard quality pitches as well as the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. *The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football.*

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- ◀ **Utilising unavailable school pitches** – there are currently 13 pitches (five adult pitches and seven youth pitches) located at educational sites that are currently not available for community use. As such, an additional seven youth match equivalent sessions would be made available in the peak period should such pitches become available for community use.
- ◀ In summary, accommodating shortfalls needs to be addressed through a combination of moving competitive mini soccer onto 3G pitches and utilising mini soccer grass pitches for youth pitches (see 3G pitch section).

Recommendations – grass

- ◀ Existing quantity of football pitches (on active sites) to be protected albeit some reconfiguration at youth and mini formats is required.
- ◀ Retain spare capacity on adult pitches (on active sites) as strategic reserve to help protect/improve quality.
- ◀ *In a phased approach, establish all mini soccer to be played on 3G pitches and explore options to reconfigure mini grass pitches to youth pitches to address shortfalls.*
- ◀ Improve poor quality pitches and prioritise investment in multi pitch sites and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Work with schools and academies to maximise and secure access to pitches on sites which are currently unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Consider the future value of one and two pitch sites and where appropriate, fully mitigate loss and reinvest into the development of hub sites.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

Key issues – 3G

- ◀ Clubs report a lack of access to affordable floodlit training facilities, particularly AGPs with a 3G surface. A total of 17 clubs report demand for additional 3G facilities within Stockton-on-Tees.
- ◀ There are currently four full size 3G AGPs in Stockton-on-Tees although it is expected that an additional 3G AGP is to be built at Stockton Sixth Form College in conjunction with Stockton Town FC in the near future.
- ◀ Based on the number of teams in each analysis area, there is a potential need for five full size 3G pitches within Stockton-on-Tees. The development in conjunction with Stockton Town could see the addition of a 3G pitch which is likely to be located in the Central & Western Analysis Area. This could help to reduce shortfalls in that area if the pitch was available for community use.
- ◀ From 2014/15 only 3G pitches with a valid performance test and listed on the FA Register can be used for competitive play. Please note this is the responsibility of the pitch provider and has an associated cost of £1,500. There are currently only two AGPs, located at Conyers School (Site ID: 15) and North Shore Academy (Site ID: 43), that are FA approved and, therefore, included on the FA Football Turf Pitch Register 2014/15.

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Scenarios – 3G¹

- There are currently 24 5v5 teams and 27 7v7 teams playing within Stockton-on-Tees. In order to accommodate all mini football, three 3G pitches are required (based on programming explained in the assessment report) to accommodate all current play.
- If all mini play was to be transferred from grass pitches to 3G, the 19 mini pitches currently available for community use and used in Stockton-on-Tees would no longer be required. Should the net playable area of sites be sufficient, pitches could be remarked to youth size (9v9 or 11v11) to create additional capacity during the peak period with a further seven mini pitches that are currently available for community use but not used that could also be remarked to youth size. The aggregate deficiency of 28 youth match sessions to meet total future demand can, therefore, be accommodated via the remarking of mini pitches to youth pitches. This will be explored further in the Strategy Action Plan.

Should the Borough move to a model of all mini football being played on 3G AGPs, as is recommended, the current supply of ('used' and 'available but unused') pitches can accommodate all of the shortfalls identified, as reconfiguring current pitches would provide the necessary current and future capacity. Furthermore, there is sufficient spare capacity on adult pitches to act as strategic reserve and provide additional spare capacity.

None of the lapsed or disused sites will therefore be required for football. In order to further emphasise this point the modelling below identifies the impact of the Borough having five AGPs for competitive football, and therefore the ability to accommodate future demand.

As highlighted through the programming in the assessment report (page 42) each AGP can accommodate eight 5v5 teams and 12 7v7 teams. It is estimated that the future demand in mini teams will be approximately 10 teams in each format (5v5 and 7v7); requiring one further AGP based on the programming below:

Time	AGP 1	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	1 x 7v7 and 2 x 5v5	1/2 and 2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

When the fifth AGP is provided the pitch would not be required for mini football and could instead be used to accommodate, for example, adult football. The programming for Sunday mornings could operate as follows:

Time	AGP 1	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	1 x full size	1/2
10.30am – 11.30am	1 x full size	1/2
11.30am – 12.30pm	1 x full size	1/2
12.30pm – 1.30pm	1 x full size	1/2

Since the assessment was carried out the sand based AGP at Northfield Sportsdrome has been converted to 3G. This pitch could further add to the capacity of AGPs in the Borough but further work is required to fully understand the community use availability and capacity to accommodate competitive matches.

¹ Please refer to Appendix One for the full football scenario of programming 3G pitches for competitive play.

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Transferring adult teams to the fifth AGP would further reduce the requirements for grass pitches. If adult teams were considered for transfer to AGP it would be most appropriate to transfer those teams currently playing on one pitch sites, considered as lower value. If the programming principles (i.e. kick off times) were accepted by the league and teams transferred, the following sites would no longer be required for adult football:

I.D.	Site	Analysis Area	Number of pitches
14	Clarences	Billingham North & Stockton	1
17	Darlington Back Lane	Central & Western	1
24	Grangefield Recreation Ground	Central & Western	1
35	Littleboy Park	South East	1
79	West Street Playing Field	Central & Western	1
9909	Yarm Road Playing Field	Central & Western	1

The following sites are currently not used and as with the sites above, if the programming principles are accepted by the leagues and teams transfer to play on 3G the following sites will not be required for football:

I.D.	Site	Analysis Area	Number of pitches
N/A	Norton School	Central & Western	3
N/A	Blakeston School	Central & Western	2
N/A	Bluehall Recreation Ground	Central & Western	3

The pitches above however should be considered in the context of strategic reserve and such sites should only be removed once it is clearly demonstrated that demand is being met elsewhere.

Recommendations – 3G

- ◀ Explore options to provide full size 3G pitches to meet current and future demand, taking into consideration current proposals and optimal strategic location to effectively service all analysis areas.
- ◀ Seek to focus future investment in key sites, to include improvement of changing facilities and creation of new 3G AGPs.
- ◀ Retain some use of sand AGPs for football training in order to ensure continued sustainability of existing provision.
- ◀ Ensure that new 3G pitches are tested and subsequently FA registered. In addition, ensure that future 3G pitches are used to maximum potential to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.

Cricket pitches

Key issues

- ◀ The audit of cricket pitches in Stockton-on-Tees identifies 11 pitches to be of good quality and a further four pitches to be standard quality. The remaining two pitches, located at Preston-on-Tees Cricket Club (poor drainage) and All Saints Academy (disused), are identified as poor quality.
- ◀ Of the 11 pitches identified as good quality, eight are club pitches and three pitches are located at educational sites.
- ◀ There are no Council owned cricket facilities in Stockton-on-Tees.
- ◀ Pitch ownership and management across Stockton-on-Tees is varied. Although seven clubs own their respective grounds, three clubs lease their grounds with one club

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renting pitches at other clubs. Indeed, Norton CC and Oxbridge CC have unsecured security of tenure.

- ◀ All responding clubs report that they have access to changing facilities. Clubs quality ratings of changing facilities are varied with four clubs rating changing facilities as good quality and four clubs rating changing facilities as acceptable. The two remaining clubs, report that changing facilities are poor.
- ◀ The audit identifies 11 clubs in Stockton-on-Tees with a total of 62 teams (33 senior and 29 junior). There are currently two women's cricket teams in Stockton-on-Tees based at Norton Cricket Club and Stockton Cricket Club. Nevertheless, both Maltby and Yarm cricket clubs report aspirations to introduce women's cricket in the future.
- ◀ There is currently no LMS operating in Stockton-on-Tees.
- ◀ An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for cricket pitches in Stockton-on-Tees is Sunday. Indeed, of the 62 teams (all ages) in Stockton-on-Tees, consultation with clubs indicates that 30 teams (48%) play on a Sunday with 20 (32%) teams playing on a Saturday. The remaining 12 teams (20%) play midweek.
- ◀ Six sites (grass wickets) have potential spare capacity in Stockton-on-Tees. Nevertheless, only three pitches that are available for community use have actual spare capacity, equating to a total of three pitches in the peak period (Sunday), to accommodate senior cricket.
- ◀ Four pitches are overplayed by a total of 98 match sessions per season and have no capacity to accommodate additional play. That said, none of the four clubs identified overplay as a significant issue during consultation. For the purposes of supply and demand analysis, 1.7 pitches (with 12 grass wickets) are required to meet demand expressed from overplay across Stockton-on-Tees.
- ◀ Overall in Stockton-on-Tees, there is an aggregate spare capacity of 1.3 pitches in Stockton-on-Tees to meet both current and future demand. It should be noted, however, that there is a shortfall of pitches (one pitch) in the Central and Western Analysis Area due to overplay alone.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Addressing overplay** – overplay expressed is not considered to be a significant issue as most of the play is both recreational teams and educational establishments hiring club facilities.
- ◀ **Improving quality** – ensuring that quality is maintained/ improved as required to meet league requirements is essential.

Recommendations

- ◀ Work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard and poor quality and to ensure any potential overplay is accommodated.
- ◀ Work with clubs to ensure appropriate access to ancillary facilities supports provision of pitches/sites.
- ◀ Utilise spare capacity at club sites to accommodate possible future demand for LMS and junior/women/girls development.

Rugby union pitches

Key issues

- ◀ There are no 3G AGPs in Stockton-on-Tees that are World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant.
- ◀ Of the 32 pitches in Stockton-on-Tees, 22 pitches are assessed as standard quality with the remaining ten pitches being poor quality.
- ◀ All eight pitches at Billingham RUFC are assessed at M1/D2 (standard) with the two pitches at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex (Stockton RUFC) also assessed as M1/D1

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(standard). The pitch at Preston-on-Tees Cricket Club (Yarm RUFC) is assessed as M0/D0 (poor).

- ◀ Billingham RUFC reports that all training takes place of the Club's dedicated floodlit training pitch. Similarly, Stockton RUFC reports that all training takes place on the dedicated floodlit training area at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex. Yarm RUFC reports that between October and March, the Club hires the 3G AGP at Conyers School (not World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant). As such, there is currently no training taking place on match pitches.
- ◀ Although spare capacity exists on a number of pitches in Stockton-on-Tees, there is only 0.5 pitches (mini) available in the peak period located at Billingham RUFC. In addition, however, there are four pitches that are available for community use (in the peak period) that are currently not used.
- ◀ In total, four pitches are currently overplayed in Stockton-on-Tees by a total of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Overall in Stockton-on-Tees, there will be a shortfall of 11 match equivalents sessions per week to meet both current and future demand. It should be noted, however, that no future demand from clubs is accounted for as no club was able to quantify a potential increase in number of teams. If, for example, all three clubs were to increase the number of teams by four within each club, a further six match equivalent sessions per week would be required to accommodate such demand (12 teams).

Scenarios

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – improving pitch maintenance at all club sites (from standard to good) will result in an additional 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week which will accommodate the level of overplay expressed.
- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – improving pitch drainage at all club sites (based on the same maintenance) will result in an additional 5.25 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Improvements to pitch quality via both increased maintenance and drainage improvements would result in an additional 13.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Such improvements would, therefore, accommodate the shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions per week to meet both current and future demand.
- ◀ **Relocation of Stockton RUFC from Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex to Stockton Cricket Club/Grangefield Academy** – The relocation of Stockton RUFC would create additional football capacity at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex as consultation suggests that the rugby pitches would be remarked to football pitches to alleviate overplay at the site. Consultation with the RFU suggests that in order to accommodate the Club, Grangefield Academy has agreed to provide two full size rugby union pitches and a smaller training pitch with hybrid posts (to allow both football and rugby usage). This would provide the Club with similar provision to that at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex but no floodlit training area for winter training. That said, the Club and Academy are also in discussions to review pitch layouts to allow an additional full size rugby pitch with fixed floodlighting (subject to funding). This would, therefore, provide additional provision and alleviate overplay. That said, until floodlighting is available at Grangefield Academy, the Club plan to use the 3G AGP at North Shore Academy (for non-contact training) as well as the indoor sports hall at Grangefield Academy (if an agreement is made for this facility to remain on site) for all winter training.
- ◀ **Potential expiry of lease for Billingham RUFC** - would result in the Club losing access to one full size pitch and 4 x mini pitches. This would result in the site capacity reducing from 20 match sessions per week to 7.5 match sessions per week. This reduction in site capacity would result in significant overplay at the site (5.75 match sessions per week). The Club report that the 21 year lease with SBC (signed in 2003) has approximately nine years remaining and the has aspirations to renegotiate a new long-term lease with the Council.

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Recommendations

- ◀ Work with clubs to review quality issues on those pitches assessed as standard and poor quality in order to increase capacity.
- ◀ Consider provision of alternative pitches available for community use as a means of reducing overplay at club sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at club sites, where there is a need to do so, to allow clubs to accommodate women and girls rugby.
- ◀ Explore options and seek funding to provide fixed floodlighting at Grangefield Academy in order to provide Stockton RUFC floodlit training facilities.
- ◀ Facilitate negotiations between SBC and Billingham RUFC with regard to a new long term lease at the Club site to secure current number of pitches.
- ◀ Explore options and seek funding for 3G development at Billingham Rugby Club.

Hockey pitches (AGPs)

Key issues

- ◀ There are currently four full sized sand based AGPs suitable to accommodate competitive Hockey in Stockton-on-Tees. In addition, however, there are three half size sand based pitches that could potentially be used for hockey training.
- ◀ It should be noted that a full size sand based AGP is due to be installed at Yarm School by the end of 2015. Consultation with the school confirmed that, as yet, no decision has been made as to whether this facility will be available for community use.
- ◀ The three full size pitches that are assessed as standard quality were all built in 2004 and, therefore, will require a new carpet in the near future.) The pitch at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex is assessed as poor quality (built in 1995) and requires a new carpet.
- ◀ The audit identifies six clubs in Stockton-on-Tees with a total of 32 teams (21 senior and 11 junior).
- ◀ Changing facilities are provided at all four sites where full size sand based AGPs are located. Consultation with clubs confirms that all six clubs have access to changing facilities for both competitive play and organised training, all of which rate facilities as good quality.
- ◀ Consultation with Stockton Hockey Club confirmed aspirations for a community sports pavilion to be built at Egglecliffe School. The Club report that it is working in partnership with Egglecliffe School and other community groups who use the school facilities to investigate the potential for a pavilion on the site.

Scenarios

- ◀ At peak time for match play (Saturday) there is a requirement for 22 match sessions to accommodate all senior teams in Stockton-on-Tees. Based on a maximum of four available match sessions, this equates to the need for a minimum of three full size sand based AGPs (based on teams playing home and away).
- ◀ **Future demand** - A number of clubs confirmed during consultation aspirations to increase the number of teams, particularly at junior level via links and partnerships with local schools. That said, no club was able to quantify the potential number of additional teams in the future. Population growth alone (by 2037) is unlikely to result in additional demand equating to a full senior team. Nevertheless, population growth is expected to create an additional boys junior team.
- ◀ **Accommodating training** - there is currently sufficient availability of pitches within Stockton-on-Tees to accommodate current demand for both complete play and organised training.

Recommendations

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- ◀ Retain a sufficient level and continued sustainability of sand AGPs to accommodate current and future hockey demand amidst a number of intended 3G pitch developments.
- ◀ Maximise use of existing sand AGPs to accommodate training and competitive demand through effective programming.
- ◀ Explore funding options for future carpet replacement at all sites.
- ◀ Explore funding option to support the development of a community sports pavilion to be built at Eggescliffe School in conjunction with Stockton Hockey Club.
- ◀ Work with stakeholders in potential 3G pitch developments to fully determine capacity which may be made available through transfer of football demand.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain sand AGP pitch quality in the long term.

Tennis courts

Key issues

- ◀ Grangefield Academy confirmed that there will be eight new tennis courts located at the school upon completion of the new build (April 2016) and it is expected that the courts will become available for community use.
- ◀ Of the 41 courts available for community use, there are 12 club courts, 11 parks courts and the remaining 18 courts are educational courts.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use, 22 courts (54%) are assessed as good quality and 15 courts (37%) assessed as standard quality. The remaining four courts (9%), located at Littleboy Park (Site ID: 35), are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Survey responses were obtained from two out of the five clubs within Stockton-on-Tees. As such, no information with regard to Billingham Tennis Club, David Lloyd Club (Teesside) or Norton Tennis Club is available.
- ◀ Yarm Tennis Club has approximately 140 senior members and 130 junior members. Both senior and junior membership is said to have decreased in recent years and the Club is actively trying to increase membership. It has ten adult teams and several junior teams competing in the Cleveland League. The Club has LTA accreditation status and reports no issues with regard to court quality, access to courts or demand for additional facilities.
- ◀ Eggescliffe School Tennis Club has approximately five senior members and 115 junior members. The Club is predominantly a school team with the majority of members either teachers or pupils at the school. Access to the courts is restricted to school opening hours and, therefore, members are unable to access facilities beyond 6pm. That said, the Club report no issues with regard to court quality, access to courts or demand for additional facilities.
- ◀ No clubs within Stockton report any latent demand and all clubs confirm that the number of courts available at their club is adequate to meet the needs of members. As such, it would appear that there are a sufficient number of courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand for competitive and casual play.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.
- ◀ Maximise use of school courts to ensure that future demand for courts can be met.

Bowling greens

Key issues

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- ◀ All 12 greens located in Stockton-on-Tees are assessed (through use of a non-technical site assessment) as good quality. Indeed, of the eight clubs which responded to the survey, all clubs report the overall quality of their respective green to be good quality.
- ◀ All clubs which responded to the survey confirmed access to a pavilion/clubhouse on site. Indeed, six clubs report clubhouse facilities to be good quality and two clubs (Billingham Bowls Club and John Whitehead Park Bowls Club) report clubhouse facilities to be adequate.
- ◀ Thornaby Bowls & Tennis Club reports that it is to seek planning permission to build a new changing facility on site. The Club suggests it will fund the majority of the project from its own finances but may need to apply for funding or a loan from Bowls England. Village Park Bowling Club reports that the surrounding boards (around the green) need replacing and it is hoping that the Council will be able to complete this work on behalf of the Club.
- ◀ None of the remaining clubs which responded to the survey report any facility development plans or ground improvements.
- ◀ There are 13 clubs accessing bowling greens in Stockton-on-Tees with an average playing membership of 93 members per club (of the clubs which responded to the survey). That said, the level of membership varies from 36 members (Newham Grange Park Bowling Association) to 133 members (Ropner Park Bowling Association).
- ◀ Although a number of greens in Stockton-on-Tees are being played to capacity, the majority of clubs report plans to increase membership and suggest that any potential increases in membership would be accommodated on existing home greens. As such, it is assumed that there are a sufficient number of bowling greens across the Borough to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure that quality of greens and appropriate maintenance is applied to sites which are considered to be being played to capacity and beyond.
- ◀ Address spare capacity and maximise the availability of bowling greens for pay and play in order to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and the revenue generated by sites.
- ◀ Support clubs which plan to attract younger people through hosting events such as family days as well as establishing links with local primary schools.
- ◀ Where demand exists, ensuring that quality is sustained or improved.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 4: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed from the key issues cutting across all outdoor sports and categorised under each of the Strategy Aims. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs

Recommendations:

- a. Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.
- d. Where there are disposals of sites identified as surplus ensure that where appropriate a portion of the capital receipt is secured for improving the remaining pitch stock.

Recommendation a – Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy

Based on the outcomes of the playing pitch strategy enhance local planning policy and emphasise the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 73) and highlight Sport England's statutory consultee role on planning applications that affect playing field land.

NPPF paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Future local plan policy should seek to protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community such as the strategic sites and key centres should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme (www.fieldsintrust.org).

Lapsed and disused – pitches that were formerly playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

It is important to understand that where a pitch is identified as being lapsed, underused or of poor quality this does not necessarily mean that the facility is surplus to requirements. Equally where proposed development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches. The Playing Pitch Strategy may, if appropriate, be used to inform a Development Management decision. However, all applications are assessed by the Council on a case by case basis.

Sport England's playing field policy only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all sports, the site concerned has no special significance to sport and the development involves measures to address any deficiencies in terms of quality or accessibility identified by the PPS.

Playing Pitch Strategy guidance similarly states that loss of such sites without appropriate replacement should not be considered except in very limited circumstances where the assessment has clearly shown:

1. That there is an excess of accessible provision with secured community use in the study area, and;
2. The particular provision at a site to be surplus to requirements identify any is not of special interest to sport.

It may be appropriate to dispose of some existing or lapsed playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Strategic Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e).

It is recommended that the Council, in partnership with Sport England and the pitch sport NGBs explores legitimate disposal of lapsed sites in order to generate investment into the remaining stock.

Any planning applications as such would have to show that new playing field land was being created on a Strategic Site that represented at least equivalent replacement for the playing field(s) being lost.

For further information please refer to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exception E4 which can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/123579/policy-exception-4.pdf>

In terms of mitigation it is important, where possible and appropriate for a particular sport, that this takes place in an area that is accessible to the playing field that is lost to avoid a scenario where a redundant playing field is lost in an area which has deficiencies and is replaced on the other side of the authority.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be dedicated to community use to help address any unmet community needs. Closed school playing fields should be considered in the first instance for becoming community playing fields for meeting the needs identified in the Strategy before being considered for other uses.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The following should be considered when assessing the suitability of conversion of former school playing fields for community use:

- ◀ Location and willingness of LA/club or other party to take on ownership/lease/maintenance
- ◀ Size
- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Physical accessibility
- ◀ History of community access
- ◀ Availability of ancillary facilities

Recommendation b – Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs through a range of solutions and partnership agreements

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or the County Sports Partnership (CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)². Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

As well as improving the quality of well-used, local authority sites, there are a number of sites which have poor quality (or no) ancillary facilities. It is recommended that security of tenure should be granted to the clubs playing on these sites (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so the clubs are in a position to apply for external funding to improve the ancillary facilities.

There are a number of sites in Stockton where security of tenure for the club/user needs to be secured (on private or industrial playing fields for example). This also often refers to education sites where formal community use agreements are not in place. NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools, particularly academies where the local authority may not have direct influence. For further information on this, please refer to Objective g.

In addition there are a number of examples in Stockton where long term leases could be put into place for the continued use of a site. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations in order that they may be able to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities.

² <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City wide significance) but which offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p> <p>An NGB/Council representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club.</p>

The Council can further recognise the value of Clubmark/Charter Standard by adopting a policy of prioritising the clubs that are to have access to these better quality facilities. This may be achieved by inviting clubs to apply for season long leases on a particular site as an initial trial.

The Council should establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. As an example outcomes may include:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ◀ Commitment to quality standards.
- ◀ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields.

Community Asset Transfer

The Council should continue to work towards adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take ownership of their own facilities; it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: http://www.sportengland.org/support__advice/asset_transfer.aspx

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendation c – Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so

Education sites

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Stockton pricing policies at facilities can be barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially academies, to open up 3G provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of schools and colleges to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited. The Assessment Report identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Many sites are underutilised, especially for competitive play for football.
- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ◀ There are a number of school sites where a community use agreement is in place but it is not clear whether the agreement is being upheld.
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Schools toolkit and Sports organisations toolkit.
(www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning)

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This need to be examined against these issues:

- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors including sport and leisure is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities. Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ To better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Ensure community use agreements are upheld
- ◀ Identify and pilot one school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ As part of any agreement secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum. Once this has been achieved provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.

Although there are a growing number of academies and college sites in Stockton, which the Council has no control over the running of, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

Recommendation d - Where there are disposals of sites identified as surplus ensure that where appropriate a portion of the capital receipt is secured for improving the remaining pitch stock.

There may be opportunities to dispose of sites that are identified as surplus to requirements. Sites of this nature that are sold should have a portion of capital receipt secured for sport in order that other sites that are needed can be enhanced and improved.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendation:

- e. Improve quality
- f. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites.
- g. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Recommendation e – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. These are explored in more detail below.

Addressing quality issues

Generally where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, review/improve maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring existing maintenance of good quality pitches continues is also important.

Based on an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database, provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to these outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

For the purposes of the Quality Assessments, this Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. In Stockton, for example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, a good maintenance regime coupled with good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking. For rugby union, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, an adequate maintenance regime coupled with adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear, goalposts may be secure but in need of minor repair. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets. For rugby union, drainage is natural and adequate.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, poor levels of maintenance coupled with inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior. For rugby union, drainage is natural and inadequate.

Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:

www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

Addressing overlay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take:

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union*	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

* Please note that the RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.

There are also a number of sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways in so much as poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

Increasing pitch maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of poor drainage. In some instances ensuring there is an appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase pitch capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes.

It is recommended that NGBs work together to seek opportunities at club sites to establish maintenance equipment banks which can be shared between local clubs. This could also extend to the sharing of good practice and expertise.

For example, the FA and ECB have together recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots football clubs with the simple aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

In relation to cricket, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards that are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. Please note that PQS assessments are also available for other sports.

Recommendation f – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) for the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

Recommendation g – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities.

In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Playing Pitch Steering Group.

Some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important, however, that the Council therefore seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock.
- i. Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.

Recommendation h - Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations.

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the future demand for provision identified in Stockton can be overcome through maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of:

- ◀ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◀ The re-designation of pitches for which there is an oversupply.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

While maximising the use of existing pitches offers scope to address the quantitative deficiencies for most sports, new or additional cricket squares on public or private fields, as well as improving existing wickets is required to meet the levels of demand identified for cricket both now and in the future.

There may be a requirement to protect some senior football pitches as this provides the flexibility to provide senior, junior or mini pitches (through different line markings/coning areas of the pitch). However, further work should be undertaken on this as an action for the Council/NGBs. Furthermore the re-designation of adult pitches that are not currently used may lead to a deficiency of adult pitches in the medium to longer term as younger players move up the ages. It is likely that for some sports, particularly football, that the provision of new pitches and facilities will be required in the future to support the predicted future demand.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends, and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports facilities. Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e., it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities. However, it is important to note that these may be subject to change.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand is likely to continue in Stockton for both grass and non turf wickets for both junior and adult participation.	High peak time usage for good quality grass pitches at club sites will continue, spare capacity at some sites could be utilised for overplay.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches. Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.	Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the Borough is maximised and that community use agreements are in place. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Bowls	No expected increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Tennis	It is likely that future demand for access to tennis courts in Stockton will remain static.	Tennis courts can generally accommodate current demand and anticipated future demand. However, the poorer quality courts, especially parks courts, will require future investment in order to retain usage, even for recreational play. Increasing court capacity through floodlighting and/or increasing the quality of parks provision could build in future capacity to accommodate growth.

Recommendation i - Identify opportunities to add to the overall pitch stock to accommodate both current and future demand

The Council should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Furthermore any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.

Some sites in Stockton also have the potential to accommodate more football pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

PART 5: ACTION PLAN

Introduction

The site-by-site action plan list seeks to address key issues identified in the accompanying Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. Recommendation e below explains the hierarchy of priorities on the list. It is imperative that action plans for priority projects should be developed through the implementation of the strategy.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding.

Recommendation e - Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

Stockton has some of 'key centres', which are sites that are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mostly to football pitch hire. However, the Council should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

In the context of developing a tiered model approach to the management of sports facilities Stockton has a large number of multi-team junior clubs which place a great demand on the pitch stock. There are therefore a number of sites which are still owned and maintained by the local authority, but are actually booked by the clubs for the entire season. The sites are then recognised as the 'home ground' of the club. Such sites are fundamentally different from those which can be hired on a regular basis because they are in effect, 'allocated' to a certain club and management responsibility, in terms of allocating teams to pitches, is transferred to the individual club.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Tiered site criteria

Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more grass pitches. Including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

Hub sites are of City wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport but have a focus for football and acting as central venue provision. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

FA hub sites case study

Like many local authorities Sheffield City Council is under significant pressure to not only provide sports facilities for local residents but to also enhance existing provision, whilst at the same time attempting to manage huge budget reductions. Following successful delivery of the Sheffield PPS, KKP, in partnership with the FA and Sheffield City Council, has taken a radical look at how the game of football is played within the City and how a more sustainable model of provision, both in quality and quantity, could be achieved against this challenging financial backdrop.

The main outcome from the work was a focus on switching mini and youth football (U7-U12) from grass to artificial pitches and programming AGPs in such a way that they are used for longer and more often than the current capacity of grass pitches allows. KKP has created a programming formula that can be replicated across other local authorities; this reduces the need for grass provision and associated maintenance costs, as well as improving the quality of pitches for all players.

Key centres although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider). However, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

From a football perspective, these sites already seek to accommodate the growing emphasis on football venues catering for youth football (especially mini-soccer) matches. The conditions recommended for mini and youth football are becoming more stringent. This should be reflected in the provision of a unique tier of pitches for mini and youth football solely that can ensure player safety, as well as being maintained more efficiently. It is anticipated that both youth and mini-football matches could be played on these sites. Initial investment could be required in the short term and identified in the Action Plan.

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Strategic sites and Key Centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

Local sites refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with more than one pitch. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

Reserve sites could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with The FA.
- ◀ Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

Action plan

Partners

The column indicating Partners refers to the main organisation that the Council will liaise with in helping to deliver the actions. The next stage in the development of the action plan will be to agree a Lead Partner to help deliver the actions.

Site hierarchy tier and priority level

Strategic sites have a **high** priority level as they have borough wide importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment.

Key centres are a **medium** priority and have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Low priority sites are club or education sites with local specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Costs

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets in which these sit are:

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Timescales

The action plan has been created to be delivered over a ten year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

Aim

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

BILLINGHAM & NORTH STOCKTON SUMMARY

Football – grass pitches

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch Size	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	7	-	1.5	0.5	5	3	2
Youth	3	-	0.5	4.5	-2	7	-9
Mini	1	-	-	3	-2	3.5	-5.5

- ◀ Spare capacity expressed on adult pitches should be retained for future Borough wide demand.
- ◀ There are insufficient youth and mini pitches available to meet total current and future demand.
- ◀ Shortfalls in youth and mini provision are attributed to both latent and future demand.

Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ No shortfall in provision with one full size 3G located at SRC Sports Centre (Site ID: 59).

Cricket

- ◀ There are two clubs located within the Billingham & North Stockton Analysis Area.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity of one pitch in the Area.

Rugby union

- ◀ Billingham RUFC located in the Area.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of match three match equivalent sessions due to overplay.
- ◀ Nevertheless, there is also rugby provision at educational sites which is available for community use but not currently used.

Hockey

- ◀ One full size AGP servicing hockey in the area based at Northfield Sportsdrome (Site ID: 45). The AGP has spare capacity during the peak period.
- ◀ Billingham Synthonia Hockey Club based in the Area.

Tennis

- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.

Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand. Although a number of greens are being played to capacity, the majority of clubs report plans to increase membership and it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

BILLINGHAM & NORTH STOCKTON ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ³	Timescales	Aim
7	Billingham Rugby Club	Rugby union	Private	Four senior pitches and four mini pitches, all of which are assessed as M1/D2 (standard). No spare capacity at peak time for adult pitches but minimal spare capacity identified during the peak period for mini pitches. The dedicated floodlit training pitch is overplayed by 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week and the Club report aspirations for a 3G pitch on site. One senior pitch and four mini pitches are marked on land leased from SBC. The Club report that the 21 year lease with SBC (signed in 2003) has approximately nine years remaining and the Club has aspirations to renegotiate a new long-term lease with the Council. Changing facilities are rated good quality but new floodlighting is required on the Club's 1 st team pitch.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Facilitate negotiations between SBC and Billingham RUFC with regard to a new long term lease at the Club site to secure current number of pitches. Explore options and seek funding for 3G development and new floodlighting on the 1 st team pitch.	RFU SBC	Key Centre	H	M	Enhance
9	Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club	Football	Private	One youth (11v11) pitch and one mini (5v5) pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by two Billingham Junior FC teams (u13s & u8s). Minimal spare capacity (youth 11v11) and spare capacity (mini 5v5) identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One pitch (12 grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Pitch is significantly overplayed by 40 matches per season. Changing provision available and rated as good quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain overplay. Support Club to investigate funding opportunities to install additional non turf practice facilities.	ECB		L	S	
9904	Billingham Synthonia Juniors FC	Football	Private	One adult, three youth (11v11 / 9v9) and two mini (7v7 / 5v5) pitches, all assessed as standard quality. Private site used by Billingham Synthonia Juniors FC. No spare capacity at peak time. No changing provision on site.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Explore funding options for access to appropriate changing room provision.	FA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect
10	Billingham Town Football Club	Football	Leased Club	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. The pitch is only used by the Club's 1 st team to retain pitch quality although spare capacity is identified in the peak period. Club plays at Step 6 of the football pyramid structure. Site is leased from SBC.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
12	Central Avenue Stadium (Billingham Synthonia FC)	Football	Private	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. The pitch is only used by the Club's 1 st team and 2 nd team although spare capacity is identified in the peak period. Club plays at Step 6 of the football pyramid structure.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect

³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ⁴	Timescales	Aim
14	Clarences (Bendy Rec)	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to remark youth pitches on site and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied to sustain quality. Seek to maximise use.	FA	Local	L	S	Provide
37	Cowpen Bewley Cricket Club	Football	Leased Club	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by two Billingham Junior FC teams (u9s & u10s). No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (12 grass wickets) assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Changing provision available and rated as acceptable quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Explore future options to accommodate demand/shortfalls from other Areas/sites.	ECB		L	S	
28	High Grange	Football	Local Authority	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are currently used by five adult teams. Minimal spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
9906	John Whitehead Park	Tennis	Local Authority / Club	Four courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Courts are used by Billingham Tennis Club and available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	SBC	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		Two greens assessed as good quality (available for pay and play). One green is leased to Billingham Bowls Club (103 members) and the other green is leased to John Whitehead Park Bowls Club (100 members). Both clubs have 10 year lease agreements that expire in 2018. John Whitehead Park Bowls Club has recently applied for Sport England Inspired Facilities funding to install an artificial surface and cover with a dome. Clubhouse facilities are said to be adequate and require refurbishment.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities for installation of artificial surface and clubhouse refurbishment.	SBC		L	S	
N/A	Low Grange	N/A	Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site may not be required for the provision of playing pitches	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-
41	Metcalfe Park (Wolviston FC)	Football	Private	Two adult pitches assessed as good quality. Pitches are used by Wolviston FC and Wolviston Juniors FC. Spare capacity identified in the peak period. 1 st team plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
45	Northfield Sportsdrome	Football	Education	Two adult, three youth (11v11 / 9v9) and one mini (7v7) pitch, all assessed as good quality. Pitches are used by Billingham Town FC and Billingham Juniors FC. Spare capacity identified in the peak period on all size pitches. There is also one floodlit adult pitch that is not available for community use in order to retain pitch quality for school use.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Hub Site	L	S	Protect Enhance Provide

⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ⁴	Timescales	Aim
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Available for community use but not used.	Not current local demand for community use. Retain for school use.	RFU		-	-	
		AGP		One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as standard quality (refurbished in 2011). Available for community use Mon-Fri 6pm-10pm, Sat 9.30am-4.30pm and Sun 9.30am-12.30pm (29 hours in the peak period). Approximately 52% spare capacity during the peak period. Consultation suggests usage is predominantly football.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet. Seek to maximise community use of the AGP. Potential to convert to 3G (as limited hockey usage) and develop as a football Hub Site.	EH		M	M	
50	Pentland Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Explore opportunities to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	School SBC	Local	L	M	Protect
57	Rievaulx Stadium	Football	Local Authority	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are currently used by five adult teams. No spare capacity at peak time. Changing provision available but rated poor quality by users.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Explore opportunities and seek funding to refurbish changing provision.	FA	Local	M	M	Enhance
59	SRC Sports Centre	Football	Education	One adult and two youth (9v9) pitches, all assessed as good quality. Pitches are used by Stockton Teesside YFC, Billingham Rangers Juniors and SRC Youth FC. No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M1 / D1 (standard). Available for community use but not used.	Not current local demand for community use. Retain for school use.	RFU		-	-	
		AGP		One full size 3G AGP (floodlit) assessed as good quality. Available for community use. Number of hours available in the peak period and current usage/spare capacity unknown.	Ensure 3G pitch is registered and subsequently included on the FA Football Turf Pitch Register. Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet. Seek to maximise community use of the AGP.	FA		M	M	
61	St. John the Evangelist RC Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Explore options for community use in order to help address local shortfalls. Improve quality.	FA	Local	L	M	Protect Enhance
62	St. Michaels Catholic Academy	Football	Education	Two adult pitches assessed as poor quality. Currently not available for community use.	Consultation with SBC confirms that the Academy will offer community use following the completion of building works via a community use agreement. Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve pitch quality. Potential for Rugby to be marked on site to provide additional capacity for Billingham RUFC.	SBC FA RFU	Local	L	M	Provide Enhance

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ⁴	Timescales	Aim
		AGP		Approximately half size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use. Also has tennis court markings.	Explore opportunities and seek funding for a replacement carpet. Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet. Work with the school to ensure AGP is available for community use.	-		M	M	
9925	Synthonia Bowls Club	Bowls	Private	One green assessed as good quality. Club failed to respond to the survey so capacity unknown.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-	Local	L	S	Protect
80	Wolviston Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One pitch (16 grass wickets and one non turf wicket) assessed as good quality. No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket. The non turf wicket is not used for competitive matches. Changing provision available and rated as acceptable quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Ensure changing room provision is adequate for current /future needs.	ECB	Local	L	S	Protect
N/A	Northfield School (Marsh House Avenue)	N/A	Education / Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site. Discussions taking place with prominent local football club about utilising the site as their home base (to include the built assets)	Work with the football club to bring the site into use.	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CENTRAL & WESTERN SUMMARY

Football – grass pitches

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch Size	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	6.5	1	1	1.5	3	1.5	1.5
Youth	0.5	-	-	2	-1.5	11	-12.5
Mini	1	-	-	10.5	-9.5	11	-20.5

- ✦ Spare capacity expressed on adult pitches should be retained for future Borough wide demand.
- ✦ There are insufficient youth and mini pitches available to meet total current and future demand.
- ✦ Shortfalls in youth and mini provision are attributed to both latent and future demand.

Football – 3G pitches

- ✦ No shortfall in provision with one full size 3G located at North Shore Academy (Site ID: 43).

Cricket

- ✦ There are three clubs located within the Central & western Analysis Area.
- ✦ There is a shortfall of one pitch in the Area which is attributed due to overplay alone.

Rugby union

- ✦ Stockton RUFC located in the Area.
- ✦ There is a shortfall of match three match equivalent sessions due to overplay.
- ✦ Nevertheless, there is also rugby provision at educational sites which is available for community use but not currently used or not available for community use.

Hockey

- ✦ One full size AGP servicing hockey in the area based at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex (Site ID: 47). It is presumed that the AGP has spare capacity during the peak period.
- ✦ Norton Hockey Club based in the Area.

Tennis

- ✦ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand. Although a number of greens are being played to capacity, the majority of clubs report plans to increase membership and it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

CENTRAL & WESTERN ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier/priority	Cost ⁵	Timescales	Aim
11	Bishopsgarth School	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one youth (11v11) pitch and one mini (7v7) pitch, all assessed as poor quality. Pitches are used by Hardwick Youth FC. There is also one mini (5v5) pitch assessed as poor quality that is available for community use but not used and one adult pitches assessed as standard quality that is not available for community use (school use only). No access to changing provision on site and community use is unsecured.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Support eh Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to improve pitch quality. Facilitate discussions between the Club and school in order to provide Club with access to changing provision and access to main gate to enable emergency access.	FA SBC Club	Local	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Four courts assessed as poor quality (hard surface) Not available for community.	No current demand for community use but improve court quality and retain for school use.	SBC		M	L	
N/A	(Former) Blakeston School Site	N/A	Education/ Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-
N/A	Bluehall Recreation Ground	N/A	Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-
17	Darlington Back Lane	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is currently used by three adult teams. No spare capacity at peak time. No changing provision on site. Low quality site planned for housing development.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches	SBC SE FA	-	M	S	-
9921	David Lloyd (Teesside)	Tennis	Private	Seven courts (floodlit) assessed as good quality (artificial surface). Private club membership only.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
N/A	(Former) Education Centre	Football	Local Authority	Disused/ lapsed site. Previous football provision on site	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches					

⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier/priority	Cost ⁶	Timescales	Aim
9923	Elm Tree Social Club	Bowls	Private	One green assessed as good quality. Club failed to respond to the survey but internet research suggests approximately 45 members.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-	Local	L	S	Protect
25	Grangefield Academy	Football	Education	One adult and one youth (9v9) pitch, both assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	If community use is established on the other pitches explore opportunities for football pitches to be made available.	FA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Potential usage in the future by Stockton Cricket Club as part of the relocation of Stockton RUFC to Grangefield Academy / Stockton CC.	ECB		L	S	
		Rugby union		One senior pitch and one mini pitch, both of which assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Although consultation with the Academy suggested that the pitches were not available for community use, Stockton RUFC is soon to relocate from Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex (Site ID: 47) to Grangefield Academy. Consultation with the RFU suggests that Grangefield Academy has agreed to provide two full size rugby union pitches and a smaller training pitch with hybrid posts (to allow both football and rugby usage). This would provide the Club with similar provision to that at Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex but no floodlit training area for winter training. That said, the Club and Academy are also in discussions to review pitch layouts to allow an additional full size rugby pitch with fixed floodlighting (subject to funding). This would provide additional provision and alleviate overplay. That said, until floodlighting is available at Grangefield Academy, the Club plan to use the 3G AGP at North Shore Academy (for non-contact training) as well as the indoor sports hall at Grangefield Academy (if an agreement is made for this facility to remain on site) for all winter training.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve pitch quality. Facilitate discussions between the Club and Grangefield Academy to ensure the Club has access to adequate provision. Explore options and seek funding for fixed floodlighting to enable winter training.					
24	Grangefield Recreation	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is currently used by three adult teams. No spare capacity at peak time. No changing provision on site. Low quality site	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches	FA	-	L	S	-
9915	Green Gates Academy (Primary)	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Consider future potential to open up for community use depending in strategic need.	School SBC	Local	L	M	Protect

⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier/priority	Cost ⁷	Timescales	Aim
31	Ian Ramsey CoE Academy	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as poor quality. Currently not available for community use.	Consultation with SBC confirms that the Academy will offer community use following the completion of building works via a community use agreement. Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve pitch quality. Explore potential for additional pitches to be marked on site following the completion of building works. Potential for Stockton Rangers FC to use the site.	FA	Local	L	M	Enhance Provide
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Currently not available for community use.		RFU		L	M	
42	Newham Grange Park	Bowls	Local Authority / Club	One green assessed as good quality (available for pay and play). The green is leased to Newham Grange Park Bowling Association (36 members). The expiry date of the lease is unknown.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	SBC	Local	L	S	Protect
		N/A	Local Authority	Disused site previous football provision on site.	Explore opportunities to bring back into use to meet youth/mini football shortfalls. Alternatively mitigate loss through investment in Hub Site developments.	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-
43	North Shore Academy	Football	Education	Two adult pitches and one youth (9v9) pitch assessed as good quality. Stockton West End FC has a contract agreement with the Academy for exclusive use of pitches. Adult pitches have minimal spare capacity in the peak period but the youth (9v9) pitch has no spare capacity at peak time. 1 st team plays at Step 7a of the football pyramid structure.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Potential to develop as a Hub Site (also link to Tilery Site -Site ID: 77).	FA	Hub Site	L	S	Protect Enhance
		AGP		One full size 3G AGP (floodlit) assessed as good quality (included on FA Football Turf Pitch Register 2014/15). Available for community use Mon-Fri 5.30pm-9.30pm, Sat 9.30am-4.30pm and Sun 9.30am-12.30pm (25.5 hours in the peak period). No spare capacity during the peak period.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet.	FA		M	M	
		Tennis		Four courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	-		L	L	
N/A	(Former) Norton School Site	N/A	Education / Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-

⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ⁸	Timescales	Aim
47	Norton (Teesside) Sports Complex	Football	Private (Norton Sports Charity)	Two adult, three youth (11v11 / 9v9) and two mini (7v7 / 5v5) pitches, all assessed as standard/good quality. Club site for Norton and Stockton Ancients FC. 1 st team plays at Step 6 of the football pyramid structure. Adult pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session (total) per week with the youth (11v11) pitch having minimal spare capacity during the peak period. All other pitches have no spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Explore opportunity to mark additional pitches on site following the relocation of Stockton RUFC to Grangefield Academy (Site ID: 25). Potential Hub Site/Central venue if successful development of girl's football at the Site.	FA	Hub Site	L	S	Protect Enhance Provide
		Cricket		Two pitches (18 grass wickets and eight grass wickets) both assessed as good quality. No actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Changing provision available but rated poor quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Support eh Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision.	ECB		M	M	
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches assessed as M1 / D1 (standard). The pitches are used by Stockton RUFC and are overplayed by three match equivalent sessions per week. Nevertheless, consultation with the RFU suggests that the Club is soon to relocate to Grangefield Academy (Site ID: 25).	No future demand for rugby at the site. Use pitch space for additional football pitches to meet current and future demand.	-		L	S	
		AGP		One full size 3G AGP (floodlit) assessed as poor quality. Built 1995 so new carpet is required. Available for community use Mon-Fri 8am-10pm and Sat-Sun 8am-6pm (34 hours in the peak period). Current usage/spare capacity unknown.	Should the AGP become unusable, seek to relocate all usage in the short term. Explore opportunities and seek funding for a replacement carpet. Consider as potential to convert to 3G. Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet. Seek to maximise community use of the AGP.	EH		M	M	
		Tennis		Three courts (floodlit) assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Courts are used by Norton Tennis Club. Not available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	-		L	L	
		Bowls		One green assessed as good quality. Norton Bowling Club failed to respond to the survey so capacity is unknown.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-		L	S	
49	Our Lady & St. Bede School**	Football	Education / Club (Stockton Town FC)	Three adult, two youth (11v11) and three mini (7v7 / 5v5) pitches, all assessed as good quality. Pitches are used by Stockton Town FC. 1 st team plays at Step 7 of the football pyramid structure. Spare capacity identified in the peak period for adult pitches but all youth and mini pitches have no spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA Education	Local	L	S	Protect

⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ⁸	Timescales	Aim
53	Primrose Hill	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is currently used by two adult teams. Minimal spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
56	Red House School	Football	Education	One adult and three mini (7v7 / 5v5) pitches, all assessed as standard quality. Available for community use (unsecured) but not used.	Retain for school use but potential for site to be used for community use in the future depending in strategic need.	SBC FA	Local	L	M	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	-		L	L	
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Available for community use but not used.	Retain for school use but potential for site to be used for community use in the future depending in strategic need.	SBC RFU		L	M	
		Tennis		Three courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	-		L	L	
9907	Ropner Park	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to remark youth pitches on site and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied to sustain quality. Seek to maximise use.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Three courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	SBC		L	L	
		Bowls		Two greens assessed as good quality (available for pay and play). The greens are leased to Ropner Park Bowls Association (133 members) with the 10 year lease due to expire in 2018.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	SBC		L	S	
9924	Stockton Bowling Club	Bowls	Private	One green assessed as good quality (available for pay and play). The Club currently has 86 members.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-	Local	L	S	Protect
70	Stockton Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One pitch (16 grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Pitch is significantly overplayed by 20 matches per season. Changing provision available but rated poor quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain overplay. Overplay can be accommodated without the need for additional pitches/wickets. Support the Club to investigate funding opportunities in order to refurbish changing provision and install additional non turf practice facilities. Stockton RUFC will soon relocate to Grangefield Academy (Site ID: 25) but will use the Cricket Club as its base. If deemed successful, could be used as a case study for future sports/sites.	ECB	Local	M	M	Protect Enhance
71	Stockton Sixth Form College	Football	Education	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are available for community use but only used by Stockton Town FC on an ad hoc basis during fixture congestion.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. One pitch will be lost due to the future 3G development on site in conjunction with Stockton Town FC.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
9918	The Glebe Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (11v11) pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Consider future potential to open up for community use to help meet shortfalls.	School SBC	Local	L	M	Protect

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ⁸	Timescales	Aim
9911	The Grangefield Centre	Football	Private	Four adult pitches and one youth (9v9) pitch, all assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by Stockton Red Lion FC and Stockton Rangers FC. Spare capacity identified in the peak period for adult pitches but youth pitch has no spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Private	L	S	Protect
9914	Tilery Primary School	Football	Education	One adult, two youth (9v9) and one mini (7v7) pitch, all assessed as standard quality. Available for community use (unsecured) but not used.	Retain for school use but potential for site to be used for community use in the future depending in strategic need.	School SBC	Education	L	M	Protect
77	Tilery Site	Football	Local Authority	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are currently used by six adult teams. No spare capacity at peak time. No changing provision on site.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to retain quality and current usage. Consultation with North Shore Academy suggests that the Academy is interested in managing the site on a long term lease.	FA Education	SBC	L	S	Protect
9922	West End Bowling Club	Bowls	Private	One green assessed as good quality. The Club currently has 65 members.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-	Club	L	S	Protect
79	West Street Playing Fields	Football	Parish Council (Stillington & Whitton)	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is currently used by one adult team. Minimal spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Parish Council	L	S	Protect
9913	Whitehouses Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Consider future potential to open up for community use depending in strategic need.	School SBC	Education	L	M	Protect
9909	Yarm Road Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is currently used by three adult teams. No spare capacity at peak time. No changing provision on site. Low value site.	When AGP provision is sufficient to accommodate mini/ youth football this site will not be required for the provision of playing pitches	SBC SE FA	-	M	M	-

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

EAGLESCLIFFE & YARM SUMMARY

Football – grass pitches

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch Size	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	2	-	0.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Youth	-	0.5	-	1	-1.5	2.5	-3
Mini	-	-	-	3.5	-3.5	4	-7.5

- ◀ Spare capacity expressed on adult pitches should be retained for future Borough wide demand.
- ◀ There are insufficient youth and mini pitches available to meet total current and future demand.
- ◀ Shortfalls in youth and mini provision are mainly attributed to both latent and future demand.

Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ No shortfall in provision with one full size 3G located at Conyers School (Site ID: 15).

Cricket

- ◀ There are two clubs located within the Eaglescliffe & Yarm Analysis Area.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity of one pitch in the Area.

Rugby union

- ◀ Yarm RUFC located in the Area.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of one match equivalent session due to overplay.
- ◀ Nevertheless, there is also rugby provision at educational sites which is available for community use but not currently used or not available for community use.

Hockey

- ◀ One full size AGP servicing hockey in the area based at Egglecliffe School (Site ID: 20). The AGP has spare capacity during the peak period.
- ◀ Stockton Hockey Club based in the Area.

Tennis

- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.

Bowls

- ◀ No facility/club identified in the area.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

EAGLESCLIFFE & YARM ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier/priority	Cost ⁹	Timescales	Aim
15	Conyers School	Football	Education	Two adult and four mini (7v7 / 5v5) pitches assessed as good quality and one youth (11v11) pitch assessed as standard quality (poor drainage). Pitches are used by multiple clubs/teams. Spare capacity identified in the peak period for adult pitches but all youth and mini pitches have no spare capacity at peak time.	Improve drainage on the youth pitch and look to convert one adult to a youth pitch in order to help address local shortfalls. Develop as a football Hub Site.	FA	Hub Site	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Available for community use but not used.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality.	RFU		-	-	
		AGP		One full size 3G AGP (floodlit) assessed as good quality (included on FA Football Turf Pitch Register 2014/15). Available for community use Mon-Fri 6pm-9pm, Sat 10am-5pm and Sun 11am-6pm (25 hours in the peak period). Approximately 20% spare capacity during the peak period.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet.	FA		M	M	
		Tennis		Six courts assessed as standard quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	-		L	L	
9902	Durham Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Leased Club	Two youth (9v9) pitches assessed as poor quality (poor drainage). Pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Pitches are leased by Leven AFC Youth from Eaglescliffe Parish Council (lease has approximately ten years remaining). No changing provision on site.	Improve pitch quality/drainage in order to address overplay and create capacity to help meet local shortfalls identified.	FA	Local	M	M	Enhance
20	Egglescliffe School	AGP	Education	One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as standard quality. Built 2004 so new carpet will be required within the next couple of years. Available for community use Mon-Fri 6pm-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm and Sun 9am-4pm (28 hours in the peak period). Usage during the peak period - 62% Hockey and 38% Football. Approximately 25% spare capacity during the peak period.	Explore opportunities and support Inspired Facilities bid for a replacement carpet. Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet. Seek to maximise community use of the AGP.	EH	Education	M	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Five courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Courts are used by Egglescliffe School Tennis Club. Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	SBC		L	L	

⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier/priority	Cost ¹⁰	Timescales	Aim
21	Egglescliffe School Grass Pitches (Allens West)	Football	Education	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality.	FA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Pitches are used by Yarm RUFC (six mini teams) for competitive fixtures. No spare capacity at peak time. Changing provision available and rated standard quality. Yarm RUFC reports that an agreement in principle with regard to a 25 year lease for Allens West has been agreed with Egglescliffe School and, subject to negotiation concerning lease arrangements, will be signed in the near future. The Club received a £75,000 Sport England grant in 2013 to improve drainage and pitch quality at the Club site (Preston-on-Tees Cricket Club) but refused as the pitch would be unavailable for at least 12 months. Should the Club sign a 25 year lease for Allens West, it is to reapply to Sport England, with the support of the RFU, for the funding to be used at the Allens West site.	Facilitate negotiations to ensure a long term lease is signed as soon as possible. Support the Club in seeking funding in order to improve pitch quality.	RFU Education SBC		M	M	
9912	Elamentis (Eaglescliffe Elementis JFC)	Football	Private	One adult and two youth (11v11 / 9v9) pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are used by Eaglescliffe Elementis JFC. Spare capacity identified in the peak period for the adult pitch but youth pitches have no spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
9916	Junction Farm Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve quality and explore options to open up for community use to help address local shortfalls.	SBC FA	Local	L	M	Protect
33	Layfield Primary School	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) and one mini (7v7) pitch, both of which are assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but not used.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to improve quality and open up for community use to help address local shortfalls.	SBC FA	Local	L	S	Protect
52	Preston-on-Tees Cricket Club (Yarm RUFC)	Cricket	Private	One pitch (nine grass wickets) assessed as poor quality due to drainage. Pitch quality is exacerbated due to rugby usage during winter months (pitch encroaches onto large proportion of cricket outfield). Actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Changing provision available and rated as acceptable quality.	Seek funding to improve pitch drainage and install additional non turf practice facilities. Potential future site to accommodate overplay from other sites if quality is improved.	ECB	Club	M	M	Enhance Protect
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Pitch is leased to Yarm RUFC although the onsite clubhouse is owned by the rugby club. The pitch is used for all senior and junior competitive fixtures and is, therefore, overplayed by one match equivalent session per week. Yarm RUFC is listed as site 9901 in the Assessment Report.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain / improve pitch quality. Seek to transfer some play to Allens West site (Site ID: 21) should the Club obtain a long term lease in order to alleviate overplay.	RFU		L	S	

¹⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier/priority	Cost ¹⁰	Timescales	Aim
N/A	(Former) Saltergill Special School Site	N/A	Education / Local Authority	Disused/lapsed site. Previous football provision on site. Site set for housing development with pitches proposed to be re provided on site consisting of 1 x 5v5, 1 x 7v7 and 1 x 9v9.	Further explore potential use by Leven AFC Youth via a community use agreement. Given shortfalls like for like replacement required as mitigation to help address youth and mini pitch shortfalls in the Area.	SBC SE FA	Local	H	M	Provide Enhance
72	Teesside High School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch/court maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-	Local	L	S-L	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.						
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M0 / D1 (poor). Not available for community use.						
		AGP		Approximately ¾ size sand filled AGP assessed as standard quality. Not available for community use.						
		Tennis		Two courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.						
81	Yarm Cricket Club	Cricket	Leased Club	One pitch (18 grass wickets) assessed as standard quality and played to capacity. Changing provision available and rated good quality.	Ensure pitch quality and changing room provision is of an appropriate standard for current/future usage. Support Club to investigate funding opportunities to install additional non turf practice facilities.	ECB	Local	M-H	L	Protect Enhance
9920	Yarm School	Tennis	Education	Three courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	-	Local	L	L	Protect
9910	Yarm School (Aislaby Road Playing Fields)	Football	Education	One youth (11v11) pitch assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Where demand exists (initially football) explore options for community use in order to help meet shortfalls identified in the Area.	SBC FA	Local	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch (non turf wicket) assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.						
		Rugby union		Two senior pitches assessed as M1 / D1 (standard). Not available for community use.						
83	Yarm School (Green Lane Playing Fields)	Cricket	Education	One pitch (12 grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	Retain for school use and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	-	Local	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		Four senior pitches and five mini pitches, all assessed as M1 / D1 (standard). Not available for community use.						
9919	Yarm Tennis Club	Tennis	Private	Nine courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Available for community use.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	-	Local	L	L	Protect

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

SOUTH EAST SUMMARY

Football – grass pitches

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch Size	Actual spare capacity	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	2.5	-	0.5	-	2	1.5	0.5
Youth	0.5	-	-	1	-0.5	2	-2.5
Mini	-	-	-	-	0	2	-2

- ◀ Spare capacity expressed on adult pitches should be retained for future Borough wide demand.
- ◀ There are insufficient youth and mini pitches available to meet total current and future demand.
- ◀ Shortfalls in youth provision are mainly attributed to both latent and future demand whereas shortfalls in mini provision are attributed to future demand.

Football – 3G pitches

- ◀ No full size 3G pitch located in the Area.

Cricket

- ◀ There are two clubs located within the South East Analysis Area.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity of 0.3 pitches in the Area.

Rugby union

- ◀ No clubs/demand identified in the Area.

Hockey

- ◀ One full size AGP servicing hockey in the area based at Thornaby Academy (Site ID: 74). The AGP has spare capacity during the peak period.
- ◀ Stokesley, Thornaby and Wilton hockey clubs are based in the Area.

Tennis

- ◀ There are enough courts that are available for community use to accommodate both the current and future demand.

Bowls

- ◀ Adequate provision to service current demand. Although a number of greens are being played to capacity, the majority of clubs report plans to increase membership and it is not anticipated that future demand will result in the need for more greens.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

SOUTH EAST ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ¹¹	Timescales	Aim
2	All Saints Academy	Football	Education	One youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by one Leven AFC Youth team (u11s). There is also adult pitch and one youth (11v11) pitch that are assessed as standard quality and available for community use but not used. Spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Improve pitch quality and maximise use. Potential site to accommodate a 3G pitch and be developed as a football Hub Site (link to Ingleby Barwick development).	FA	Hub Site	M-H	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Disused (previous pitch with non turf wicket).	No current demand for non turf wicket provision in the area. Consider pitch for alternative use.	ECB		L	L	
		Tennis		Four courts assessed as poor quality. Courts are marked on playground area and not available for community use due to quality.	No current demand for community use. Seek to improve quality and retain for school use.	-		M	M	
9917	Barley Fields Primary School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Available for community use (unsecured) but not used.	Retain for school use.	School SBC	Local	L	M	Protect
26	Harold Wilson Centre	Football	Local Authority	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are currently used by five adult teams. Spare capacity identified in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality.	FA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect
35	Littleboy Park	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch is used by one adult team. Minimal spare capacity identified in the peak period. Changing provision available but rated poor quality by users.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Retain spare capacity in order to protect pitch quality. Explore opportunities and seek funding to refurbish changing provision.	FA	Local	M	M	Enhance Protect
		Tennis		Four courts assessed as good quality (hard surface). Courts are used by Thornaby Bowls & Tennis Club and available for community use.	Investigate funding opportunities to improve court quality and seek to maximise use.	LTA		M	M	
		Bowls		One green assessed as good quality (available for pay and play). The green is leased to Thornaby Bowls & Tennis Club (119 members) with the 10 year lease due to expire in 2018.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	SBC		L	S	
39	Maltby Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One pitch (12 grass wickets and one non turf wicket) assessed as good quality. Pitch (grass wickets) is significantly overplayed by 28 matches per season (the non turf wicket is not used for competitive matches). Changing provision available and rated as good quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain overplay. Overplay can be accommodated without the need for additional pitches/wickets. Support Club to investigate funding opportunities to install additional non turf practice facilities.	ECB	Local	L	S	Protect
40	Mandale Mill	Football	Education	Two youth (9v9) pitches assessed as good quality. Available for community use (unsecured) but not used.	Retain for school use but potential for site to be used for community use in the future depending in strategic need.	School SBC	Local	L	M	Protect
55	Queen's Campus	AGP	Education	Approximately half size sand filled AGP	Ensure sinking fund is in place for the	-	Local	M	M	Enhance

¹¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ¹¹	Timescales	Aim
	(Durham University)			assessed as good quality. Not available for community use.	future replacement / refurbishment of the carpet.					
58	Robert Atkinson Pitches	Football	Local Authority	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.	Explore opportunities to remark youth pitches on site and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied to sustain quality. Seek to maximise use.	FA	Local	L	S	Provide
65	St Patricks RC Comprehensive School	Football	Education	One adult and one youth (11v11) pitch, both assessed as standard quality and played to capacity. Pitches are used by TIBS FC (four teams).	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
69	Stafford Place Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One pitch (eight grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Actual spare capacity identified in the peak period for senior cricket. Changing provision available and rated as good quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain current usage.	ECB	Local	L	S	Protect
73	The Village Primary School	Football	Education	One mini (7v7) pitch assessed as poor quality. Available for community use (unsecured) but not used.	Explore potential to establish community use to help meet shortfalls identified.	School SBC	Local	L	M	Protect
74	Thornaby Academy	Football	Education	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Pitches are currently used by six adult teams and played to capacity. There is also one youth (9v9) pitch assessed as standard quality that is available for community use but not used.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Key Centre	L	S	Protect Enhance
		AGP		One full size sand filled AGP (floodlit) assessed as standard quality. Built 2004 so new carpet will be required within the next couple of years. Available for community use Mon-Fri 4pm-10pm and Sat-Sun 9am-5pm (34 hours in the peak period). Usage during the peak period - 53% Hockey and 47% Football. Approximately 50% spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek funding options for a replacement carpet. Seek to maximise community use of the AGP.	-		M	M	
		Tennis		Three courts assessed as poor quality. Courts are marked on playground area and not available for community use due to quality.	No current demand for community use. Seek to improve quality and retain for school use.	-		L	M	
76	Thornaby Cricket Club	Cricket	Private	One pitch (18 grass wickets) assessed as good quality. Pitch is overplayed by ten matches per season. Changing provision available and rated as acceptable quality.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to maintain quality and sustain overplay. Overplay can be accommodated without the need for additional pitches/wickets.	ECB	Local	L	S	Protect

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Hierarchy tier	Cost ¹²	Timescales	Aim
9903	TIBS FC	Football	Leased Club	One adult, one youth (9v9) and four mini (7v7 / 5v5) pitches, all assessed as good quality. Adult and youth pitches have no spare capacity at peak time but mini pitches have minimal spare capacity in the peak period. Site is leased from SBC with approximately 20 years remaining. Please note that a 25 year lease was agreed in 2009 but is yet to be signed. Club has serious concerns with regard to car parking on and around the site.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage. Facilitate discussions between SBC and TIBS FC with regard to ensuring the lease is signed as soon as possible.	FA SBC	Local	L	S	Protect
9908	Teesdale Park (Thornaby FC)	Football	Leased Club	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. 1 st team plays at Step 6 of the football pyramid structure. Club also has access to one adult and one youth (9v9) pitch on site, both of which are assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity identified in the peak period. Site is leased from Carlton Developers with approximately 19 years remaining.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	FA	Local	L	S	Protect
78	Village Park	Bowls	Local Authority	One green assessed as good quality (available for pay and play). The green is leased to Village Park Bowling Club (60 members) with the 10 year lease due to expire in 2018.	Ensure appropriate green maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality and current usage.	SBC	Local	L	S	Protect

¹² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Stockton. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Stockton can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

The production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence. The role of the steering group should not end with the completion of the PPS document

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of developing the PPS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the steering group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the steering group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the steering group.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date.

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The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

Ideally the PPS could be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:

- ◀ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
- ◀ How the PPS has been applied and the lessons learnt
- ◀ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◀ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◀ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

Once the PPS is complete the role of the steering group should evolve so that it:

- ◀ Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area
- ◀ Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- ◀ Shares lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- ◀ Ensures the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- ◀ Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;
- ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside the regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

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These meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could be fed into these meetings. The NGBs will also be able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area. Discussion with the league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which it may be useful to attend to pick up any specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.


It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 9: Apply & deliver the strategy		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
Step 10: Keep the strategy robust & up to date		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

STOCKTON-ON-TEES PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The recommendations within this Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis. They reflect key areas to be addressed over its lifetime. However, implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations.

National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.

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- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The FA National Game Strategy (2011 – 2015)

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Better players
- ◀ Running the game

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- ◀ Workforce
- ◀ Facilities

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015)

The recently launched National Facilities Strategy sets out the FA's long term vision for development of facilities to support the National Game. It aims to address and reflect the facility needs of football within the National Game. The National Game is defined as all non-professional football from Steps 1-7 of the National League System down to recreational football played on open public space. The role of facilities will be crucial in developing the game in England. One of the biggest issues raised from 'the Big Grassroots Football Survey' by that of 84% respondents, was 'poor facilities'.

The FA's vision for the future of facilities in England is to build, protect and enhance sustainable football facilities to improve the experience of the nation's favourite game. It aims to do this by:

- ◀ Building - Provide new facilities and pitches in key locations to FA standards in order to sustain existing participation and support new participation.
- ◀ Protecting - Ensure that playing pitches and facilities are protected for the benefit of current and future participants.
- ◀ Enhancing - Invest in existing facilities and pitches, ensuring that participation in the game is sustained as well as expanded.

The Strategy commits to delivering in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- ◀ Natural grass pitches improved – target: 100
- ◀ A network of new AGPs built – target 100
- ◀ A network of refurbished AGPs – target 150
- ◀ On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- ◀ Continue a small grants programme designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- ◀ Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

It also commits to:

- ◀ Direct other sources of investment into FA facility priorities
- ◀ Communicate priorities for investment across the grassroots game on a regular basis
- ◀ Work closely with Sport England, the Premier League and other partners to ensure that investment is co-ordinated and targeted

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Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)

'Grounds to Play' continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB's previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established County Cricket Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - ◀ The focus of this plan is on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than increasing participation;
 - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
 - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position a cricket club at the heart of a community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to its local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Cricket Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

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The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)

The recently launched RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

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England Hockey (EH)

'The right pitches in the right places'¹³

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

¹³

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

In addition to using the planning system to lever in contributions through Section 106 or CIL, it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought to deliver much of the action plan. Although seeking developer contributions in applicable situations and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should be investigated. Below is a list of current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement Fund • Sportsmatch • Small Grants • Protecting Playing Fields • Inspired Facilities • Strategic Facilities Fund http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.

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Awarding body	Description
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. Smaller Charities.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects over the next three years (2011-2014).

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's 'Inspired Facilities' funding programme will be delivered via five funding rounds and is due to launch in Summer 2011 where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

- ◀ Organisations that haven't previously received a Sport England Lottery grant of over £10k.
- ◀ Projects that are the only public sports facility in the local community.
- ◀ Projects that offer local opportunities to people who do not currently play sport.

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

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The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

Projects will need to demonstrate how the grant will deliver against Sport England's strategic priorities. The funding available is for the development of the capital infrastructure, which can contribute to the costs of new build, modernisation or refurbishment and purchasing of major fixed equipment as part of the facility development.

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Funder's requirements

Below is a list of funding requirements that can typically be expected to be provided as part of a funding bid, some of which will fall directly out of the Playing Pitch Strategy:

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

Indicative costs

The indicative costs of implementing key elements of the Action Plan can be found on the Sport England website:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

These costs are broken down into two areas:

- ◀ Facility capital costs
- ◀ Lifecycle costs

Facility capital costs

Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external works.

Naturally, varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.

The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by Planners and Developers when reviewing potential Planning Contributions to site developments.

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Facility life cycle costs

Life cycle costs are how much it costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.

It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (day to day repairs).

The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.

You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.