

Playing Pitch Strategy





NEWARK & SHERWOOD
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
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Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Newark & Sherwood. 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 2014 and 2019. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby pitches
- ◀ Hockey/Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Netball
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Athletics

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields;
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the District;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the District;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport.
- ◀ Informing the review of the Core Strategy to shape policy, inform protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.

1.1: Structure

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

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ A series of strategic objectives which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport objectives which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan (where action is deemed necessary).

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Newark & Sherwood, which should be implemented from 2014 to 2019. 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 must be translated into local plan policy so there is a policy mechanism to support delivery and secure provision/investment where the opportunity arises.

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There is a need to build key partnerships between the District 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 District Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements). 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.

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PART 2: KEY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

Using the key issues identified in the Assessment Report, the following priorities are identified for each sport and provide the context for the development of the aims and objectives within the Strategy.

2.1 Football

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 137 football pitches in Newark & Sherwood. Of these, 128 are available, at some level, for community use
- ◀ Most football pitches available for community use are assessed as being of standard quality (54) or good quality (44). 30 pitches are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ 215 teams were identified as playing on pitches within Newark & Sherwood.
- ◀ There is some current unmet demand across every pitch type.
- ◀ Newark Town FC is currently displaced as it accesses a pitch at Collingham FC due to a lack of suitable facilities within Newark. Should Collingham FC realise ambitions to revive a Saturday team, Newark Town FC would again be displaced which would result in unmet demand.
- ◀ There is some exported demand at mini level from teams accessing the Kickstart League outside of Newark & Sherwood, due to the central venue basis on which the league operates within the Mansfield area. This reduces some demand for pitches within Newark & Sherwood.
- ◀ There is a total of 49.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity across the District. There are 15 pitches within Newark & Sherwood that are available for community use but are unused (excluding school sites).
- ◀ Eight sites are overplayed by a total of ten match sessions per week and most of this is on adult pitches (eight match sessions).
- ◀ There is a shortfall of youth match sessions to accommodate future demand on youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches.

2.2 Cricket

- ◀ In total, there are 34 grass cricket grounds identified in Newark & Sherwood accommodating 116 teams (79 senior and 37 junior teams).
- ◀ Three pitches are assessed as good quality, 30 as standard and none as poor.
- ◀ Six sites in Newark & Sherwood are overplayed by a total of 121 match sessions per season and have no capacity to accommodate further play.
- ◀ 21 sites have recorded play and spare capacity, totalling 713 match sessions per season. However, it is not realistic to aggregate spare capacity across the whole district and spare capacity should be considered site by site.
- ◀ All pitches are available for community use except the pitch at Highfields School.
- ◀ If access to the NSK Ground is lost there would be a deficit of 12 matches that would need to be accommodated elsewhere in the local area.
- ◀ There is a lack of indoor training provision available locally. There are two indoor centres in Mansfield (one at Cuckney CC and one at the John Fretwell Centre) and one indoor facility at Trent Bridge. For most clubs, and for the ECB, training provision is considered to be a greater problem than accessing pitches in the summer.

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2.3 Rugby union

- ◀ There are three clubs based in Newark & Sherwood; Newark RFC, Ollerton RFC and Southwell RFC. Newark RFC and Southwell RFC own their home grounds, although the latter has a lease from Nottinghamshire County Council on one of its pitches
- ◀ Ollerton RFC hires use of Boughton Sports Fields from Boughton Church Diocese. Community use is therefore unsecured
- ◀ Mansfield RFC is the only other Club to play in the area, travelling into the District to use Joseph Whitaker Sports College as a secondary site
- ◀ In total, 15 senior rugby union pitches are located across eight sites in Newark & Sherwood. All but the two pitches at Wellow House School are available for community use. One pitch (at Newark Academy) is currently unused.
- ◀ All pitches are assessed as standard quality, with the exception of Boughton Sports Field which is of poor quality. The pitches at Newark RFC were assessed as good quality.
- ◀ There is actual spare capacity at Boughton Sports Field and Joseph Whitaker Sports College for one match equivalent session each at the weekend. There is spare capacity of three matches per week at Newark RFC.
- ◀ Southwell RFC is overplayed by 6.5 matches per week. The pitches are considered to be standard quality; however, they are heavily used for matches and training; in excess of the recommended capacity and there are drainage problems due to water migrating from adjacent fields.
- ◀ Overall in Newark & Sherwood there is a shortage of match equivalent sessions on senior pitches both now and subsequently in the future.

2.4 Hockey

- ◀ There are four sand based AGP suitable for competitive hockey within Newark & Sherwood.
- ◀ There are two hockey clubs within the District; Newark HC and Southwell Brincliffe HC. Brackenhurst HC also fields one mixed team which currently only plays friendly matches.
- ◀ Southwell Brincliffe HC has no plans to expand and has access to sufficient slots for its needs; however, access to the changing rooms at the home ground Minster School can be difficult during school holidays. The Club will therefore use changing facilities at Southwell RFC once the refurbishment is complete.
- ◀ Magnus Sports Centre pitch is over ten years old and will need resurfacing in the next one to two years.
- ◀ The pitch at the Lilley & Stone site is assessed as standard quality despite being 15 years old; however, the surface will need replacing if a club was to be permanently based there.
- ◀ Newark Hockey Club has expanded in recent years and continues to do so. The Club requires access to additional training slots.
- ◀ Providing floodlighting at Lilley & Stone could help to reduce shortfalls in demand for hockey slots, however the pitch would also need resurfacing if competitive hockey was to take place regularly at the Site. Furthermore, there could be issues surrounding planning permission for floodlighting.
- ◀ Re-providing the lost pitch at Newark Academy (Balderton) as 3G could take some football demand away from Magnus Sports Centre. This would allow additional slots for hockey (provided that the Centre chooses to allocate them for hockey) and allow Newark Hockey Club to expand. (Notwithstanding that the hockey surface needs to be replaced in the next one to two years).

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2.5 Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

- ◀ There are four sand based AGP suitable for competitive hockey within Newark & Sherwood and one full size 3G AGP in Newark & Sherwood at Joseph Whitaker School.
- ◀ There are two hockey clubs within the District; Newark HC and Southwell Brincliffe HC.
- ◀ Southwell Brincliffe United Hockey Club has no plans to expand and has access to sufficient slots for its needs; however, access at the home ground Minster School can be difficult during school holidays.
- ◀ Newark Hockey Club has expanded in recent years and continues to do so. The Club requires access to additional training slots
- ◀ Providing floodlighting at Lilley & Stone could help to reduce shortfalls in demand for hockey slots, however the pitch would also need resurfacing if competitive hockey was to take place regularly at the Site. Furthermore, there could be issues surrounding planning permission for floodlighting.
- ◀ Re-providing the lost pitch at Newark Academy (Balderton) as 3G could take some football demand away from Magnus Sports Centre. This would allow additional slots for hockey (provided that the Centre chooses to allocate them for hockey) and allow Newark Hockey Club to expand. (Notwithstanding that the hockey surface needs to be replaced in the next one to two years).
- ◀ On the basis there are 215 teams playing competitive football in Newark & Sherwood, there is a recommended need for four full size 3G pitches, currently there is one in the area.

2.6 Bowls

- ◀ There are 20 bowling greens in Newark & Sherwood provided across 18 sites.
- ◀ There are two disused greens at Welfare Trust Sports Field and Edwinstowe Bowling Club which are now derelict and unused and have been omitted from the analysis.
- ◀ All of the greens in Newark & Sherwood are assessed as good quality. There are no standard or poor quality greens.
- ◀ The District Council owns two bowling greens at Beaumont Gardens and Sherwood Avenue, Newark both of which are leased to and maintained by Newark Northern BC.
- ◀ There are 20 clubs using bowling greens in Newark & Sherwood with an average playing membership of 42. The majority of clubs suggest that an additional bowling green at their home green or in the area would not lead to an increase in club membership.
- ◀ Ollerton BC is part of plans to develop the Welfare Trust Sports Field site for housing, resulting in the loss of the currently used green and rejuvenation of the disused one, with the addition of a new clubhouse.
- ◀ Junior participation is almost none existent, with just one junior member across the District at Southwell Town BC.
- ◀ Southwell BC, Newark Northern BC, Farnsfield BC and Bilsthorpe BC are all large Clubs with over 50 members. Greens in use by these clubs may be played to capacity or in excess.
- ◀ Notwithstanding that there may be additional demand for bowling greens in the future; there is significant spare capacity at some greens which may suggest that there is an oversupply.

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2.7 Athletics

- ◀ There are two athletics tracks within Newark & Sherwood. Both have cinder surfaces and are assessed as poor. Both are unable to host competition.
- ◀ There is one club within the District; Newark Athletic Club. The club is growing year on year and currently has a membership of 260. However, the imminent loss of its current facility, due to the rebuilding of Newark Academy at the Grove, requires that a replacement facility be provided as the loss of facilities poses a real threat to sustainability.
- ◀ All athletes must travel outside of Newark & Sherwood in order to access adequate facilities for 'home fixtures'. Furthermore, due to a lack of throw facilities talented athletes move to clubs outside of Newark.
- ◀ Runners/running clubs are self-reliant and accommodated within Newark & Sherwood.

2.8 Tennis

- ◀ There are 67 tennis courts identified within Newark & Sherwood, 16 of which are located at Council owned sites.
- ◀ Caunton Tennis Club report that the quality of the courts is good and has just resurfaced three of its courts.
- ◀ Collingham Tennis Club intends on resurfacing the fourth court onsite which has some repaired surface damage.
- ◀ Sherwood Avenue offers pay and play community use via a ticketing meter. Club sites available for pay and play include Caunton, Farnsfield, Southwell and Winthorpe tennis clubs.
- ◀ Courts located at school sites tend to be of inferior quality. This is due to casual use from pupils or a need to update the surface.
- ◀ In general, Newark & Sherwood is well served for quantity of tennis courts, most of which are of good quality however there is anecdotal evidence to suggest a need for indoor courts within Newark & Sherwood.
- ◀ Newark Tennis Club has unsecured tenure of the site at Newark Academy Lilley & Stone. Use of seven grass tennis courts has already been lost and the hard courts are deteriorating in quality. The Club could be asked to leave the site at any time and would require an alternative venue. The Club is therefore seeking relocation to the proposed NSA sports hub site.

2.9 Netball

- ◀ There are 23 netball courts identified within Newark & Sherwood. All courts are located on education sites.
- ◀ Currently there are seven netball groups within Newark & Sherwood, six of which have been formed from the 'Back to Netball' programme. There is one formalised club, Fernwood Falcons, which travels to Lincoln to compete in a central venue league.
- ◀ All demand is currently accommodated with the existing supply of courts; however there is demand in the winter for floodlit and/or indoor courts.
- ◀ The Collingham team travel to Newark Academy to access courts due to a lack of courts within the area. It is believed that the Club could grow further if there were facilities within Collingham.
- ◀ Key sites that will need refurbishing in the future if participation continues to increase are Dukeries Academy and Newark Academy (Lilley & Stone).

PART 3: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

3.1 Context

As outlined by the Council in the preparation stages of the study, the key drivers for a new PPS are the development of:-

- ◀ Aims and objectives for improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport;
- ◀ Sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played;
- ◀ The need for evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision;
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy;
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications;
- ◀ Potential changes to the supply and demand due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites;
- ◀ Budgetary pressures to ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision;
- ◀ The need to develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies; provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work;
- ◀ Prioritisation of internal capital and revenue investment;
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
- ◀ Potential new sports hub to be created in Newark.
- ◀ Potential new sports hub to be created in Ollerton.
- ◀ Potential new sports hub to be created in Southwell.

3.2 Links to other strategies

The outcome for the Council is to see the provision of a range of good quality and accessible facilities, services and opportunities that:

- ◀ Reflect the unique nature of the District.
- ◀ Maximise the strengths of the voluntary sports sector.
- ◀ Increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Contribute to an overall improvement in health and wellbeing.

There are a number of related strategies developed by the Council which have been adopted and are used to inform this study:

- ◀ Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework – Core Strategy (March 2011), the Allocations & Development Plan Document (July 2013) and Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (December 2013)
- ◀ Newark & Sherwood Community Infrastructure Levy – September 2011
- ◀ Newark & Sherwood Sports Facilities Strategy 2013
- ◀ Newark & Sherwood Green Spaces Strategy 2007-2012

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3.3 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 Newark & Sherwood Playing Pitch Strategy:

To provide a network of good quality outdoor sports facilities that will help to improve the health and well-being of residents and increase participation in sport and physical activity in Newark & Sherwood.

PART 4: AIMS

The following Strategy aims are based on the key issues emerging from the Assessment Report. It is recommended that the following 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

PART 5: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the 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.

AIM 1

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

Objectives:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that sports facilities are protected through the implementation of 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.

Objective (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

Based on the outcomes of the playing pitch strategy, 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.

Spatial Policy 8, of the Newark & Sherwood Core Strategy, is in line with NPPF paragraph 74 and sets out the protection and promotion of leisure and community facilities (to include playing pitches). Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy that facilities (including pitches) are protected through the implementation of this policy.

Spatial Policy 8 states that the provision of new and enhanced community and leisure facilities will be encouraged, particularly where they address a deficiency and where they meet the identified needs of communities. The loss of existing facilities will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that:

- ◀ Continued use as a community facility or service is no longer feasible, having regard to appropriate marketing, the demand for the use of the site or premises, its usability and the identification of a potential future occupier; and
- ◀ That sufficient alternative provision has been made elsewhere which is equally accessible and of the same quality or better as the facility being lost; and
- ◀ There is sufficient provision of such facilities in the area.

The majority of facilities from the assessment report justify protection. The scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community, such as the strategic sites and key centres identified (see objective (e) of Aim 2), should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme (www.fieldsintrust.org).

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Where there is no need to protect facilities and the assessment shows scope for rationalisation, the following should be considered as a first stage when making any decisions about disposal:

- ◀ Is the facility surplus to requirements not only now but also in the future?
- ◀ Could the facility be used for another type of sport for which there is a deficit?
- ◀ Can current users be sufficiently accommodated at another appropriate site taking into consideration access, cost and locality?
- ◀ Consideration as to the quality of the facilities (including ancillary facilities).
- ◀ The long term sustainability of the facility.
- ◀ The level of current use and the impact on the spatial distribution of facilities across Newark & Sherwood of closing a facility.

It may be appropriate to dispose of some existing 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 meet the objectives of the Strategy and to develop the hierarchy of sites (see objective (e) of Aim 2).

The following criteria should be established as the basis for negotiations to mitigate the loss of playing field provision:

- ◀ Ensure that where playing fields are lost through alternative development or closure, that the type of provision of the same or improved standard is provided to meet demand identified.
- ◀ Where pitches are lost due to redevelopment of the site, compensatory re-provision or an equivalent or better contribution for re-investment into new pitches will be sought as appropriate in an alternative accessible location.
- ◀ Where opportunities exist to additionally increase pitch quality (and therefore pitch capacity to accommodate more matches) this should be a priority (please refer to the action plan to identify quality deficiencies in the appropriate area).
- ◀ All negotiations and mitigation packages should be raised and discussed in partnership with the relevant NGB and Sport England through the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group.

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 of the District which has deficiencies and is replaced on the other side of the District.

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 to meet the needs identified in the Strategy, before being considered for other uses.

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

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- ◀ 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

Objective (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)¹. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as 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 Newark & Sherwood 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 (c) of Aim 1.

In addition there are a number of examples in Newark & Sherwood 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 objectives. 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. To facilitate this, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds to allow this.

¹ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award. ◀ Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links. ◀ 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. ◀ Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified. ◀ Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (objective d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a District wide significance) but which offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate. ◀ As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club). ◀ Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site. ◀ An NGB/Council representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club.

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.

Club outcomes for lease agreements

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 Policy

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.

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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

Objective (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, regardless of ownership, i.e. academies, independent schools, etc. 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, but especially to train. In Newark & Sherwood 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 outdoor sports facilities to the community 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 needs to be examined against the following:

- ◀ 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/>

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It is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector, and 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:

- ◀ 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.

Sport England reports that housing growth often leads to an increase in school places. S106 contributions are then secured to pay for these places which usually result in an extension to a school, sometimes on playing field. If applicable, this should be identified early in the process and embraced in policy that any replacement of playing fields i.e. compensatory provision, due to school expansion should be negotiated directly with the relevant developer.

AIM 2

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

Objectives:

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

Objective (d) – Improve pitch 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

Priority in the short term (given limited resources) should be directed to overplayed, poor quality sites.

For the purposes of the Quality Assessments, this Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. In Newark & Sherwood, 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, 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.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, 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.

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, 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. 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:

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

Addressing overplay

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
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week
Rugby union*	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5 per week
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25 per week
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season
	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 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; which in the long run can lead again to poor quality pitches if they are not maintained properly.

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.

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For example, the FA has introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and has been working 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.

Objective (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. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

Objective (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are 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 objective 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 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.

Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs. Sport Nottinghamshire, the CSP, is also a source of advice, guidance and 'critical friend' for clubs and organisations seeking funding.

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence. However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health through, for example, the PCT. Sport England research suggests the following:

Economic impact:

- ◀ In 2010, sport and sport-related activity contributed £20.3 billion to the English economy – 1.9% of the England total.

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- ◀ The contribution to employment is even greater – sport and sport-related activity is estimated to support over 400,000 full-time equivalent jobs, 2.3% of all jobs in England.

Health impact:

- ◀ Physical activity, including sport, is linked to reduced risk of over 20 illnesses, including cardiovascular disease and some cancers.
- ◀ Taking part in regular sport can save between £1,750 and £6,900 in healthcare costs per person.

Social and cultural impact:

- ◀ Published studies show the positive effects of sport on education include improved attainment, lower absenteeism and drop-out, and increased progression to higher education. For instance, young people's participation in sport improves their numeracy scores by 8 per cent on average above non-participants.
- ◀ Other studies have found that sport programmes aimed at youths at risk of criminal behaviour can enhance self-esteem and reduce reoffending.

Objective (g) –Secure developer contributions

The Council adopted a CIL compliant Developer Contributions & Planning Obligations SPD in December 2013. It sets out which developments will be secured through Section 106 agreements and which will be secured through CIL. It is not intended that open space, including playing pitches, will be secured through CIL. As 70% of new development will be focused in and around Newark, and the majority of this will be on three strategic sites, it is appropriate that playing pitches are secured via the Section 106 method. In Ollerton the five large allocations must contribute (through land or finance) towards a strategic sports facility in the town.

The Playing Pitch Strategy should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and its subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches.

The following points should be used as a guide when securing developer contributions:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the Planning Committee, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance .
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved playing pitches on school sites should be subject to community use agreements. For further guidance please refer to Sport England:
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-use-agreements/>

AIM 3

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

Objectives:

- 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.

Objective (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 objectives (Part 2).

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 Newark & Sherwood 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.

There may be a requirement to protect some adult football pitches as they provide the flexibility to provide adult, youth 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.

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.

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.

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Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained or decrease slightly based on current trends and the move to small sided football, however, due to large increases in housing TGRs suggest an increase in demand across all age groups.	A need for more match equivalent sessions across all formats of the game. Potential need for additional 3G pitches.
	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	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. Strong junior sections.	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 football continues to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches especially for training will increase. Provision of 3G pitches which are IRB compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.	Ensure that access to provision is maximised where demand requires 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
Hockey	Continued potential to increase participation, especially in Newark.	Requirement to resurface sand based AGP.
Tennis	Potential participation increases, especially around events such as Wimbledon.	Support clubs to ensure that courts are properly maintained.
Athletics	Increase in participation if new facilities are provided.	Support facility development.
Bowls	Participation likely to remain constant or slightly increase if clubs increase members as many are keen to do.	Increased maintenance of greens will be required.
Netball	Increase in participation due to back to Netball programmes.	Outdoor court improvements at key sites.

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Objective (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.

PART 6: SPORT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Site specific actions falling out of the sport by sport objectives outlined below are detailed within the action plan.

FOOTBALL OBJECTIVE

Maximise use of sites (both grass and 3G) and seek to focus future investment in multi-pitch and hub sites.

Grass pitches

- ◀ Where pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand on sites which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Consider reconfiguring pitches to youth pitches in order to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise access to secondary schools and academies to address latent, displaced or future demand and to develop school-club links.
- ◀ Consider the future value of one/two pitch sites which are considered of low value to football and, where appropriate, reinvest into the development of central venue sites and hub sites.

3G pitches

- ◀ Ensure that existing 3G pitches are being fully utilised and available for community use at peak times, including weekends.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.
- ◀ Support the improvement of AGP surfaces (both 3G and sand based) that are used for football.
- ◀ Seek to provide additional AGPs to reduce shortfalls.

CRICKET OBJECTIVE

Reduce overplay through access to additional pitches and work to increase the quality of existing provision.

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision and seek to provide new fine turf or artificial pitches to reduce overplay.
- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for women's and girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve 'off pitch' practice facilities.
- ◀ Support the need for indoor cricket facilities within Newark & Sherwood.

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RUGBY OBJECTIVE

Work towards meeting identified current and future deficiencies and increase the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities as required.

- ◀ Improve the quality of pitches in order to address overplay of pitches at club sites.
- ◀ Update non technical pitch assessments during the autumn as clubs report difficulty hosting games, particularly Southwell RFC.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs have access to training areas which are either dedicated floodlit grassed areas or through the provision of an International Rugby Board (IRB) AGP.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise access to secondary schools and academies to address current and future demand and to develop school-club links.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at club sites where there is a need to do so.

HOCKEY OBJECTIVE

Maximise access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of existing provision.

- ◀ Work with England Hockey to ensure priority hockey sites are protected and their quality is sustained/improved.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain AGPs quality in the long term.
- ◀ Work with providers to maximise access to AGPs to accommodate both hockey training and competitive play.

OTHER SPORTS OBJECTIVE

Maximise access to existing provision and work towards improving the quality of provision.

Bowls

- ◀ Address potential 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, for example, local primary schools.
- ◀ Where demand exists, ensure that quality is sustained or improved, especially if memberships increase.

Tennis

- ◀ Improve court quality and prioritise investment to sites which are available for public/community use.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.
- ◀ Where demand exists seek to increase court capacity through installation of floodlighting.

Netball

- ◀ Retain current usage of outdoor netball courts and increase the quality of key sites for netball.

Athletics

- ◀ Support development of a new facility to replace the loss of the current facility at the Grove.

PART 7: ACTION PLAN

7.1 Introduction

The site-by-site action plan 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 supply. 7.2 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.

7.2 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.

Newark & Sherwood has a number 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 District-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both adult and youth matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and adult 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 Newark & Sherwood has a 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.

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Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Strategic sites	Key centres	Club or education sites	Reserve sites
Site location	Strategically located in the District. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	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.
Type of sport	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	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	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.
Ancillary facilities	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.

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Strategic sites, such as the proposed Sports Hub at NSK Sports Ground, are of district 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. 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

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.

Club/Education 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.

In addition to the above, **potential surplus sites** are those which could to be considered for disposal and which release reinvestment for further up the hierarchy.

7.3 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.

7.4 Action plan

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).

Partners

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisation(s) that Newark & Sherwood District Council (as well as parish, town and county councils) 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.

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CENTRAL AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	7	3.5	-	-3.5	0.5	-3
Youth pitches 11v11	1	1	-	0	1	+3
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	-	-	1	+1
Mini pitches 7v7	2	-	-	-2	1	-1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	-	1	+1

- ◀ No current shortfall of pitches.
- ◀ Future demand for youth 11v11, 9v9 and 5v5 pitches cannot be accommodated.
- ◀ Small amount of actual spare capacity expressed on adult pitches which should be retained to protect/improve pitch quality.

Cricket

- ◀ Much of the overplay is at The Priory Ground where Thurgarton CC play home games (by 34 matches per season). Farnsfield CC has 10 grass wickets of standard quality and is overplayed by a total of 19 matches per season.

Rugby union

- ◀ Two sites are overplayed by a total of six match sessions per week, mostly at Southwell RFC (5.5 sessions).
- ◀ There is unmet demand from Southwell RFC for an additional 0.5 match sessions, to accommodate a fourth senior team which the Club currently requires a pitch for. Future deficits are therefore seven match equivalent sessions.

Hockey

- ◀ One full size sand based AGP used by Southwell Brincliffe Hockey Club which can accommodate current hockey use although overall there is minimal further spare capacity available.

² In match equivalent sessions

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
1	Arthur Radford Memorial Ground, Fiskerton	Football	Club	One standard quality adult pitch with peak time capacity.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	FA	Club	S
		Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Spare capacity of 21 matches per season. Capacity for juniors at peak time.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	ECB		S
7	Bleasby C of E Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with peak time capacity, though unavailable for use.	No current local demand for community use.	School	Education	S
12	Caunton Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Spare capacity of 25 matches per season available at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	ECB	Club	S
		Tennis	Club	Two good quality macadam courts.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	LTA		
13	Caythorpe Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Spare capacity of 20 matches per season across the two pitches but none at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect/improve pitch quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to sustain all year round use due to overmarked pitches.	ECB	Key Centre	S
		Football	Club	Five standard quality pitches marked over cricket outfield. Adult, 5v5, 7v7 and Youth pitches with peak time capacity.		FA		S
14	Centenary Sports Ground	Football	Club	Three adult pitches overplayed by two matches per week. One 9v9 pitch with no spare capacity. All assessed as poor quality. Southwell City FC leased from Southwell Town Council and managed by the Club. Club has aspirations to progress within the football pyramid and as such has aspirations to develop the ground.	Improve pitch quality as a priority to accommodate overlay. Support Southwell City FC to further develop the site in order to meet requirements to progress through the football pyramid. Bids are currently with Nottinghamshire FA regarding proposed clubhouse and pitch developments.	FA Town Council	Strategic	M-L
26	Edingley Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Significant spare capacity of 40 matches per season available at peak times.	Explore opportunities to increase usage of the pitch to accommodate local overlay from Farnsfield CC.	ECB	Club	M
31	Farnsfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square with one artificial wicket and 10 grass wickets of standard quality. Square is overplayed by a total of 19 matches per season. The Club is one of the largest in the area in terms of number of teams and has numerous junior sides.	Explore opportunities for access to a second home ground at Edingley Cricket Club where there is significant spare capacity. Also explore options to increase the number of wickets at the home ground.	ECB	Club	M
35	Gunthorpe Playing Field	Football	Council	One poor quality adult pitch overplayed by 0.5 matches per week. Key site in the north of the Central Area.	Improve pitch quality in order to accommodate overlay. Ensure appropriate levels of maintenance are applied.	FA	Club	S
41	Hoveringham Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Spare capacity of seven matches per season, capacity available at junior peak time.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	ECB	Club	S
49	Laxton Sports & Recreation Field	Football	Club	One poor quality adult pitch overplayed by one match session per week.	Improve pitch quality in order to accommodate overlay. Ensure appropriate levels of maintenance are applied.	FA	Club	M
52	Lowdham Village Hall and Playing Fields	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch with no peak time capacity. One good quality 7v7 pitch with peak time capacity of 0.5. Poor quality changing facilities. Used by Lowdham Colts YFC.	Re-mark adult pitches to youth 11v11 size. Explore opportunities to improve changing accommodation to service all sports through a joint funding bid.	FA	Key Centre	M-L
		Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch used by Lowdham CC with spare capacity for juniors at peak time.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	ECB		S
57	Memorial Ground	Bowls	Club	One good quality flat green.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Club		S
		Football	Town Council	Five standard quality pitches. Two adult pitches (0.5) and 5v5 pitch (0.5) with some peak time capacity. Two 7v7 pitches with peak time capacity. Poor quality changing facilities. Home ground to Southwell City FC.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect/improve pitch quality. Explore opportunities to improve changing accommodation to service all sports through	Town Council FA	Strategic	M

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
		Bowls		One good quality flat green used by Southwell BC	a joint funding bid. Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance. Promote pay and play.	Town Council		S
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts, one available for pay and play via Southwell Leisure Centre.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance. Promote pay and play.	Town Council		S
58	Minster School	Football	School	One good quality adult pitch with no current use. One standard quality youth pitch which is overplayed when considering school use. Used by Southwell City FC. Changing facilities with external access.	Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to improve/sustain capacity.	FA	Education	S
		Rugby union		One senior pitch assessed as M1/D1 quality. Overplayed by 0.5 matches when considering school use. Used by neighbouring Southwell RFC.	Explore potential for a third pitch in conjunction with Southwell RFC to meet unmet demand expressed. Possible funding from outstanding Section 106 monies.	RFU		M
		AGP		One full size sand based AGP used by Southwell Brincliffe Hockey Club. Can accommodate current hockey use, minimal capacity available. Problems regarding access to the changing facilities out of school term time.	Support the Club to establish a relationship with the School whereby arrangements can be made at half term to ensure that the changing rooms are accessible. The Club will access Southwell Rugby Club new changing provision when completed.	EH		S
		Tennis/Netball		Six good quality macadam courts, including floodlighting. Somewhat underused by community due to locality of Southwell TC. Netball courts over marked, used by Back to Netball programme.	No current local demand for community use of tennis. Ensure quality is retained for netball.	School		S
71	Oxton Playing Fields	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality pitch with spare capacity of 30 matches per season available at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	ECB	Club	S
78	Southwell Rugby Club	Rugby union	Club	Two senior pitches. Pitch one owned by the Club. Pitch two leased from Nottinghamshire County Council with natural drainage. Pitches are overplayed by 5.5 match equivalents per week, largely due to training which takes place on the pitches and poor drainage. Currently in the process of building a new clubhouse due to be completed by the end of September 2014.	Update non technical pitch assessments in Autumn and seek to improve pitch quality (and therefore capacity) through drainage upgrade and improved maintenance. Also explore options for dedicated training area to relieve overplay. Planning has been accepted for two additional changing rooms with a view to the Club raising a second pot of funding to extend the building. Support the Club with this development.	RFU	Club	S-M
79	Sports Field Southwell Road	Football	Town Council	One standard quality senior pitch. Minimal peak time capacity.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	Town Council	Key Centre	S
		Tennis	Town Council	Two good quality macadam courts. Site secured from non-key holders.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	FA		S
84	The Acres Playing Field	Football	Council	Two standard quality senior pitches with peak time capacity for two matches.	Retain spare capacity on one pitch in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	Council	Club	S
85	The Priory Ground	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch overplayed by 34 matches per season. Home ground to Thurgarton CC. The pitch has nine grass wickets.	Investigate increasing the number of grass wickets on the square to cater for overplay and to accommodate all teams.	ECB	Club	M
87	Top Ground - Southwell Cricket Club (Brackenhurst College)	Cricket	University	Spare capacity of 15 matches per season. Outfield drains very poorly and gathers in big puddles due to undulating surface in rural location. One standard quality adult pitch marked onto edge of cricket outfield. Spare capacity at peak time outside of cricket season. Currently used for social football on	Improve pitch quality and retain spare capacity to protect/improve quality.	University ECB	Education	S
		Football			Retain spare capacity in order to protect/improve pitch quality. Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order	University FA		S

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
93	Wellow House School	Cricket	Independent School	campus. Three pitches with significant spare capacity. Minimal used as alternative pitch by Thoresby Colliery CC.	to sustain all year round use due to overmarked pitches. Maximise use if local demand exists for further community use and formalise use as appropriate.	ECB	Education	M
		Rugby union		Two senior rugby union pitches and one junior pitch. All assessed as standard quality and are used by the school for curriculum PE and fixtures.	No current local demand for community use.	School		S
99	Upton Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Spare capacity for 13 matches per season, capacity available at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	ECB	Club	S
100	Caunton Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Six macadam courts and one clay court, all rated as good quality. Tennis Performance Centre with aspirations to develop indoor provision. Three courts had surface refurbished in recent years. The number of courts available is sufficient to meet the demand when supplemented by two more courts available at Caunton Cricket Club.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance. Formalise use of the courts at Caunton Cricket Club for use by the tennis club.	LTA	Club	M
101	Farnsfield Bowling & Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Three good quality macadam courts, recently resurfaced in 2013.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	LTA	Club	S
		Bowls		One good quality flat green.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Club		S
102	Epperstone Village Hall	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with peak time capacity.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality.	Parish Council FA	Key Centre	S
		Tennis		Two good quality artificial turf surface courts with dual use availability for 5v5 football.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Parish Council		S

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

EASTERN AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	15.5	4.5	1.5	-9.5	4.5	-5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	-	1	+1	3	+4
Youth pitches 9v9	1.5	1	0.5	0	3	+3
Mini pitches 7v7	3	-	2	-1	3.5	+2.5
Mini pitches 5v5	3	-	2	-1	3.5	+2.5

- There is sufficient current capacity on all pitch types except for youth 11v11.
- Future demand cannot be accommodated on the current supply of youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 or 5v5 pitches.
- Actual spare capacity on adult pitches can accommodate overplay and unmet demand. Some spare capacity should be retained to protect/improve quality.
- Newark Town FC is currently displaced to Collingham FC.

Cricket

- Overplay totals just three match equivalent sessions, across two sites at Balderton Playing Fields (one match) and Newark Ransome & Marles Cricket Club (two matches). This level of excess usage is minimal and equates to one additional game on one or two wickets throughout the season. This should be able to be absorbed by the pitches in their current state.

Rugby union

- One club in the area at Newark RFC. There is no current capacity to accommodate additional mini teams despite spare capacity on the pitches. This is likely to be a programming and coaches/volunteers issue.
- There is some spare capacity of three match sessions per week on the senior pitches currently which will reduce to two matches in the future demand. (Future demand of one match session per week).

Hockey

- Newark Hockey Club requires additional access to sand based AGP slots. Provision of additional 3G in the area could create additional time for hockey on the AGP at Magnus Sports Centre if managed correctly. The AGP at Magnus Sports Centre will need refurbishing in the next one to two years.

³ In match equivalent sessions

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
2	Balderton Playing Field	Football	Parish Council	Three adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitches, all assessed as standard quality. Peak time capacity for all pitch types. Adult pitches often used for youth football.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect/improve pitch quality. Re-mark one pitch as Youth 11 v11. Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to sustain all year round use due to overmarked pitches.	Parish Council FA	Strategic	M
		Cricket	Parish Council	No capacity for further matches. Edge of outfield overlapped by some football pitches.	Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to sustain all year round use due to overmarked pitches.			S
		Bowls	Parish Council	One good quality flat green	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.			
4	Beaumont Gardens	Bowls	Council	One good quality flat green, used largely by several clubs.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Council	Club	S
16	Chuter Ede Primary School	Football	School	One 5v5 and one 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality, although unavailable for community use.	No current local demand for community use. Establish relationship with the school to consider use of the pitches for future demand.	School	Education	L
19	Coddington and Winthorpe Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One standard quality pitch. Spare capacity of 27 matches per season available at peak times.	Retain spare capacity in order to help protect/improve pitch quality. Potential that site could accommodate Newark Ransome & Marles CC play currently at NSK Ground.	ECB	Club	S
21	Collingham Football Club	Football	Club	Two senior pitches and one 5v5 pitch all assessed as good quality. New 60x40m 3G pitch under construction. Club has aspirations to develop whole site including clubhouse. Pitch used by Newark Town FC due to football pyramid requirements; however Collingham has aspirations to start a Saturday team which would displace Newark Town.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place to refurbish the 3G when required. Support club to develop its clubhouse and support any funding applications. Find alternative ground for Newark Town FC.	FA	Club	L
22	Date Field (Collingham CC)	Cricket	Club	One good quality square and one standard quality square, with no spare capacity across the site.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	ECB	Club	S
		Tennis		Four good quality macadam surface courts. all floodlit. One court has surface damage which has been filled in.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance. Support future Club funding applications to resurface the poor quality court.	LTA	Club	M
		Bowls		One good quality flat green	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Club	Club	S
23	David Sillery Pavilion	Football	Club	One adult pitch and one 5v5 pitch with no peak capacity. One 9v9 pitch which is overlapped by one match per week. All pitches assessed as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality and ensure appropriate maintenance plan is in place.	FA	Club	M
24	Devon Park	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitches overlapped by one match per week. Two 5v5 pitches, one 7v7 pitch and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. One 5v5 pitch with some spare capacity at peak time. Site leased to Newark Town FC which plays at Step 7 and subsequently has to play 1st team matches at Collingham FC as its home ground does not meet the specified requirements. Also potential threat of displacement from Collingham.	Improve pitch quality where possible but as importantly, continue with current level of maintenance to ensure quality is sustained. As Devon Park cannot be developed further, seek other options in the local area to provide a stadium pitch to at least Step 7 standard.	FA	Club	M

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
28	Elm Avenue	District Council	Football	One poor quality adult pitch with peak time capacity.	Improve pitch quality and re-mark as youth 11v11 pitch to meet future demand in the area.	County & District Council FA	Club	M
37	Harby Playing Fields	Parish Council	Football Bowls	One disused, football pitch onsite with no signs of recent play. One good quality flat green.	No current local demand for community use. Continue to maintain for informal use. Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Parish Council	Reserve Club	M S
39	Highfields School	Independent School	Rugby union Cricket Tennis/Netball AGP	One mini rugby pitch, no community use, mainly school use. One standard quality pitch, unavailable for community use. Two standard quality macadam courts marked over with two netball courts. Unavailable for community use. School currently investigating options to provide a new AGP at the Site.	No current local demand for community use. Further investigate options to build AGP on the site, ensuring community use availability.	School	Education	M
43	John Hunt Primary	School	Football	Three standard quality 7v7 pitches, with peak time capacity but unavailable for use.	Establish relationship with the school to consider use of the pitches for future demand. E.g. from Newark Flowserve.	School	Education	L
45	Kelham Hall	Private	Tennis	Three standard quality macadam courts, available for play.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Kelham hall Ltd.	Club	M
50	Lincoln Road Sports Facility	District Council	Football	Nine pitches all assessed as poor quality. Three adult and three 7v7 pitches with peak time capacity. One 9v9 pitch and two 5v5 pitches with no peak time capacity. High usage site. Home ground for Fernwood Foxes.	Improve maintenance in order to improve quality. Explore options to mark out additional youth/mini pitches so that pitches can be rotated and rested.	District Council Club	Key Centre	S
55	Magnus Sports Centre	School	Football Rugby union Cricket Sand AGP Tennis/Netball	One adult pitch and one 9v9 pitch, both of standard quality. Adult pitch is overlapped by one match per week. Neither pitch has capacity for more matches. Two senior pitches of M1/D1 quality. Mainly used by school for PE and fixtures. Available for community use but used infrequently as required as alternative pitch. One square of just three grass wickets, cut mainly for school use and fixtures. Outfield marked over football and rugby union pitches. Standard quality full size pitch, carpet laid in 2001 and due for replacement. Some rips and unevenness in carpet. Little capacity with football training and hockey demand competing.	Farndon Colts FC is the main user. Consider facilitating possibility for club to increase pitch maintenance at the site. Maintain relationship with Newark RFC in order to access pitches when required. If quality improved there is potential that the site could accommodate Newark Ransome & Maries CC play currently at NSK Ground. Would require extension of outfield, for which further feasibility work is required. Refurbish the sand based surface and when additional 3G provision is provided in the area ensure an increase in dedicated hockey time at the Site. Must consider in conjunction with the need to also resurface Newark Academy sand AGP at the Lilley & Stone site.	Club FA Club REFU Club ECB School Club EH School	Education Education Education	S S-M M M M-L
				Two disused macadam courts overmarked with two netball courts. Surface very uneven and unsafe including tears, not fit for use. School has aspirations for new hard court area in its place.	Support school to replace disused courts.	School		

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
56	Marsh Lane Playing Fields	Club	Cricket	Spare capacity for 24 matches per season with availability at junior peak time.	Ensure current level of maintenance is sustained in order to retain pitch quality.	Club Parish Council	Club	M
			Football	One standard quality adult pitch with peak time capacity. Limited maintenance carried out by Parish Council and poor drainage result in a number of games cancelled each season. Poor quality changing facilities. Club currently rent the pitch.	Seek to improve drainage and improve changing facilities where possible. Consider leasing the pitches to the Club in order that funding can be sought for pitch improvements.	Club Parish Council	Club	S-M
			Bowls	One good quality flat green which could accommodate more players.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance and support club to increase membership.	Club Parish Council	Club	S-M
59	Mount C of E Primary and Nursery School	School	Football	One standard quality 9v9 pitch, unavailable for community use.	Establish a relationship with the School in order to access the pitch to reduce potential future deficits of 9v9 pitches.	FA	Education	M
60	Newark Academy (Balderton Site)	Academy	Football	One adult pitch and one youth pitch, both of standard quality. Problems with moles at far end of pitches. Unavailable for community use. Aspirations for external access to changing facilities as part of new school development to enable community use.	Support external access to changing in order to allow community use for any potential future deficits in youth pitches.	Academy Town Council FA	Education	M
			Rugby Union	One senior pitch of M1/D1 quality, used mainly by academy. Little demand from community users, believed to be due to poor changing facilities within neighbouring Grove Leisure Centre. Aspirations for external access to changing facilities as part of new school development to enable community use.	Support external access to changing in order to allow community use for any potential future demand.	Academy Town Council RFU	Education	M
61	Newark Town Bowls Club	Club	Sand AGP	Full sized AGP is not fit for purpose and has been out of use for some time as it is now overgrown with weeds. Will be lost due to new school building. Demand in the Area for 3G.	Re-provide the lost pitch in the local area due to demand for 3G.	Academy Town Council EH	Education	S-M
			Athletics	Well used athletics track by Newark Athletic Club will be lost due to new school building.	Facility must be replaced in the local area and a suitable interim facility must be provided for the Club.	Academy Town Council EA Club	Education	S-M
63	Newark Ransome & Marles	Club	Bowls	One good quality flat green.	Continue to sustain current levels of maintenance in order to retain quality.	Club	Club	L
64	Newark Rugby Football Club	Club	Cricket	One pitch played to capacity at present. Potential for more matches having to be played here or loss of a team if access to NSK Sports Ground (Site I.D 67) is lost.	Continue to sustain current levels of maintenance at the home ground in order to retain quality. Consider feasibility of transferring current play from NSK to other sites such as Magnus Sports Centre or Coddington CC. If no feasible options are found a new square would need to be provided if the one at NSK was lost.	NSA ECB Club	Club	S
			Rugby Union	Five senior pitches of M2/D1 quality, with spare capacity of three matches each week on senior	Consider options for training off site. Ensure maintenance is sufficient so that overplay does	Club	Club RFU	S-M

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
				pitches. Nine mini pitches of varying sizes appropriate to age group, all of M2/D1 quality. Some spare capacity but not at peak time. Site on floodplain and prone to flooding and waterlogging. Changing facilities require upgrade.	not lead to a decline in pitch quality. Improve pitch quality where possible. Support the Club to improve changing facilities and support the Club with funding applications.			
67	North Muskham Village Hall and Playing Field	Football	Club	One adult pitch and one 7v7 pitch, both of standard quality. Capacity at adult peak time. Limited maintenance and problems with mole hills.	Increase maintenance. Seek advice to move moles to an alternative location. Consider reconfiguration of pitches away from areas of significant damage.	Club	Club	S
69	NSK Sports Ground	Football	Club	Six pitches assessed as poor quality. Two adult pitches overlaid by total of 2.5 matches per week. Spare capacity at junior peak time for 5v5 football. Changing rooms not fit for purpose, very poor quality. Problems with moles and surface damage needing to be repaired.	Improve quality of pitches and ensure sufficient maintenance is in place. Seek options to improve changing facility.	NSA FA Club	Strategic	S
		Cricket	Club	Spare capacity of 50 matches per season. Good quality square but outfield suffers from same moles problems as football pitches. Changing facilities very poor not fit for purpose. Inclusion of cricket pitch onsite not confirmed should site be developed into sports hub.	Consider feasibility of transferring current play from NSK to other sites such as Magnus Sports Centre, Coddington CC or Beckitts Field. If no feasible options are found, a new square would need to be provided if the one at NSK is lost. Alternatively, continue cricket at the Site and upgrade changing rooms with football.	NSA ECB Club	Strategic	S
75	Sherwood Avenue	Tennis	District Council	Three good quality macadam surface courts with floodlights. Pay and play available. Well used.	Ensure surface and lighting maintenance is continued in order to sustain usage levels.	District Council	Club	M-L
		Bowls	Club	One good quality flat green	Ensure surface maintenance is continued in order to sustain usage levels.	Club	Club	M-L
83	Sutton-on-Trent Sports Club	Football	Club	Three good quality pitches of adult, 7v7 and 9v9 sizes. Capacity at adult peak time. Poor quality changing facilities and dated clubhouse.	Consider options for improvements to clubhouse and changing facilities. Support the Club with funding applications. Important site for football in the North of the Eastern Area.	Club	Club	S-M
94	Newark Academy (Lilley & Stone)	Football	Academy	One standard quality adult pitch with capacity at peak time. Largely used by Newark College for midweek fixtures. Issues with quality of maintenance.	Increase level of maintenance where possible.	Academy	Education	S
		Sand AGP	Academy	Full size standard quality pitch. Carpet laid in 1999 but has been underused, most likely due to lack of floodlights for evening use. Little weekly usage.	Consider feasibility of installing floodlighting and carpet refurbishment which could reduce shortfalls in access to hockey slots. Must be considered in conjunction with new 3G provision in area and also the need to resurface Magnus Sports Centre.	Academy	Education	S
		Netball	Academy	Two standard quality macadam courts, key site for Back to Netball Programme.	As participation is likely to increase further through Back to Netball consider options to refurbish court surface.	Academy	Education	M
95	Flowsenve Sports & Social Club	Football	Club	Two adult pitches, one 9v9 pitch, three 7v7 and three 5v5 pitches, all of good quality. Several mini pitches are overmarked onto adult pitches. Logistical problems and a need to fit more pitches onsite but no room to do so. No current lease or security of tenure.	Consider options for use of a second site for mini soccer such as John Hunt Primary School (Site I.D. 43). Negotiate with the owners a way forward to secure the use of football provision either at the current site or elsewhere.	Club	Club	S
		Bowls	Club	Two good quality flat greens with spare capacity.	If finance allows continue to maintain two greens, however potential demand for only one green.	Club	Club	M

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Management	Sport	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
97	Newark Tennis Club	Club	Tennis	Three standard quality macadam courts. Expiration of lease and cessation of maintenance has made the seven grass courts unusable and the hard courts deteriorating in quality and in need of resurfacing.	Carry out feasibility into possible new locations for tennis club due to expiration of lease.	LTA Club	Club	S
98	Fernwood Tennis Club	Club	Tennis	Three good quality macadam courts, small clubhouse onsite. Some spare capacity.	Continue to maintain courts to a good standard in order that any increase from sessions such as Step Into Tennis does not impact on court quality.	Club	Club	M
106	Weston Cricket Club	Club	Cricket	Significant spare capacity of 53 matches per season	Support club to increase membership.	Club ECB	Club	S
110	Nonwell Playing Fields	Parish Council	Football	One standard quality adult pitch, unused at present with peak time capacity.	Continue to maintain pitch in order to provide for informal play.	Parish Council	Reserve	S
		Parish Council	Cricket	Significant spare capacity of 40 matches per season	Support club to increase membership.	Parish Council	Club	S
111	Winthorpe Community Centre	Parish Council	Tennis	Two good quality macadam courts, available for play and play.	Ensure quality is sustained with appropriate maintenance.	Parish Council	Club	M
-	Little Carlton (Beckitts Field)	Parish Council	Cricket	Newly refurbished facilities including a new kitchen and toilets as well as changing rooms, meeting area and storage. Disused cricket square on site.	Look at options to bring the site back into use for cricket and consider as an option for Ransome & Marles CC should cricket at NSK be lost.	Parish Council	Club	S
-	South Clifton Playing Fields	South Clifton & District Sports Association	Cricket	Disused cricket square which would require investment to bring back into use.	Consider cricket square for future demand, however it is likely to be costly to reinstate the square and is located remotely from the main town of Newark.	South Clifton & District Sports Association	Reserve	L
			Football	Disused adult football pitch. Pavilion with changing recently awarded a WREN grant to complete refurbishment.	Look at options to bring the site back in to use and re-mark to accommodate youth 11v11 and 9v9 to reduce deficiencies.		Club	S

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WESTERN AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	8	-	-	-8	2	-6
Youth pitches 11v11	1	-	-	-1	1.5	+0.5
Youth pitches 9v9	3	-	-	3	1.5	-1.5
Mini pitches 7v7	3.5	-	-	3.5	0.5	-3
Mini pitches 5v5	1	-	-	-1	0.5	-0.5

- ◀ Minimal actual spare capacity on youth pitches should be retained to protect/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Minimal future shortfall of youth 11v11 could be met by increasing quality and therefore pitch capacity.
- ◀ Convert some adult pitches to accommodate youth/mini future demand.

Cricket

Two sites are overplayed by a total of 65 match sessions per season; Edwinstowe CC and Thoresby Welfare Sports Ground. This is mostly due to the large number of senior teams at these clubs which totals nine across Saturdays and Sundays. Senior teams tend to play more matches in a season compared to junior teams, with the potential for one or more cup competitions to supplement them. Thoresby Colliery CC already uses an alternative square at Wellow House School to play third team matches on Saturday afternoons when required. Increased use of this ground may help to alleviate some overplay.

Rugby union

- ◀ There is actual spare capacity for one match equivalent session per week. A future increase in demand by 0.5 as expressed by Ollerton RFC can therefore be accommodated, however pitch quality is poor.

Hockey

- ◀ No current hockey demand in the Western Analysis Area.

⁴ In match equivalent sessions

NEWARK & SHERWOOD PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
5	Bilthorpe Miners Colliery Welfare	Football	Club	Two good quality adult pitches and two standard quality mini pitches of 5v5 and 7v7 sizes. Peak time capacity for adult football.	Continue to sustain maintenance levels in order to maintain quality.	Club	Key Centre	M
		Cricket	Club	Spare capacity for 38 matches per season. Football pitches marked onto cricket outfield.	Increase outfield maintenance due to football use. Support club to increase participation.	Club	Key Centre	S
		Bowls	Club	Two good quality flat greens well used.	Continue to maintain greens to accommodate demand and ensure quality is retained.	Club	Key Centre	M
8	Blidworth Colliery Welfare Bowls Club	Bowls	Club	One good quality flat green	Continue to maintain green to accommodate demand and ensure quality is retained.	Club	Key Centre	M
		Football	Club	One adult pitch with floodlighting, one youth pitch and one 9v9 pitch. Three 7v7 pitches marked onto cricket outfield and used in rotation. All pitches assessed as good quality. Good changing facilities. Many junior teams playing offsite in Kickstart League.	Continue to sustain maintenance levels in order to maintain quality.	Club	Key Centre	M
11	Boughton Sports Field	Cricket	Club	Spare capacity for 39 matches per season	Support club to increase junior participation.	Club	Key Centre	S
		Football	Church Diocese	One senior football pitch currently disused since team folded last season.	Continue minimum maintenance of pitch in order to provide for informal use.	Diocese	Reserve	S
17	Clipstone Miners Welfare Bowls Club	Rugby Union	Church Diocese	One poor quality senior pitch of M0/D1 standard. Uneven surface which has problems with moles, holes regularly have to be repaired. Ollerton RFC would like to take on lease at the Site.	Support the Club to agree a long term lease.	Club	Club	S-M
		Bowls	Club	One good quality flat green	Continue to maintain green to accommodate demand and ensure quality is retained.	Club	Club	M
25	Dukeries Academy/Leisure Centre	Football	Academy	Three good quality pitches of adult, youth 11v11 and 9v9 sizes. Currently only adult pitch is used by The Fox FC which reports that pitches are not cut and line marked regularly enough.	Ensure that maintenance is sufficient to provide good quality pitches for community use.	Academy	Education	S
		Sand AGP	Academy	Good quality full size pitch, new carpet laid in 2013. No current community demand for hockey.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment of pitch when required.	Academy	Education	L
		Netball	Academy	Two below average quality courts marked over two tennis courts. Area fenced but left unsecured and used as general playground area. Courts used for Back to Netball sessions.	If participation through the Back to Netball programme continues to grow the courts will need to be refurbished.	Academy	Education	S-M
27	Edwinstowe Cricket Club	Athletics	Academy	One poor quality cinder surface track with six lanes. Academy use only.	No current demand in the Area for community use of the track. Track would need to be upgraded if an athletics club was to be based at the School.	Academy	Education	S-L
		Cricket	Club	Pitch overplayed by 39 matches per season due to having two teams on both Saturday and Sunday. One artificial wicket onsite.	Increase maintenance in order to accommodate over play and/or consider options to increase number of fine turf wickets.	Club	Club	S-M
44	Joseph Whittaker School	Football	School	Two adult (good quality), one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitches (standard quality). Some spare capacity at peak time, used mostly by Rainworth Rangers.	Continue to maintain pitches to good standard to accommodate demand. Retain spare capacity in order to retain quality and to account for school use.	School	Education	S
		Rugby Union	School	One senior rugby union pitch used infrequently by Mansfield RFC (imported demand).	No local demand so continue to support imported demand.	School	Education	S
		AGP	School	Good quality 3G pitch used mostly for training. Majority of demand is imported due to location on	Ensure that Newark & Sherwood teams are prioritised, e.g. Rainworth Rangers and then	School	Education	S

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales
73	Rainworth Miners Welfare Sports Club	Football	Club	boundary of Newark & Sherwood. Two good quality adult pitches. Club plays at Step 5.	allocate spare capacity to teams outside of the District. Ensure quality of site is maintained in order that club continues to compete at Step 5.	Club	Club	M-L
86	Thoresby Welfare Sports Ground	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch and two more standard quality adult pitches. Two good quality pitches of 7v7 and 9v9 sizes are unused. Peak time capacity for all pitch types. Poor quality clubhouse facilities.	Explore options to accommodate some mini play from Sherwood Fields (Site I.D. 96). Explore options to improve clubhouse.	Club	Club	S
		Cricket	Club	Pitch overplayed by 26 matches per season. Poor quality clubhouse facilities. Football pitches marked onto edge of outfield.	Increase maintenance in order to accommodate over play and/or consider options to increase number of wickets (fine turf or artificial). Explore options to improve clubhouse.	Club	Club	S-M
90	Walesby Lane Sports Ground	Football	Club	One good quality adult football pitch with no peak time capacity.	Ensure current quality is maintained and support club to progress in football pyramid system.	Club	Club	M-L
91	Walesby Village Sports Field	Cricket	Club	Spare capacity for 30 matches per season.	Support club to increase junior participation	Club	Club	S
		Football	Community	Two adult pitches and one 5v5 pitch with peak time capacity. One 7v7 pitch with no peak time capacity. All pitches are good quality.	Consider re-configuring adult pitch to provide additional mini pitches.	Club	Club	S
		Cricket	Community	Spare capacity of 40 matches per season as the pitch is currently unused.	No current demand for cricket.	-	-	-
92	Welfare Trust Sports Field	Bowls	Club	One good quality flat green alongside second green which is disused. Housing development to build on existing green and bring disused green back into use. Club has demand for one green.	Ensure that disused green is improved to current standard of used green. If the site is developed for housing as proposed, ensure that the ancillary facilities and parking are also re-provided to the original standard or better.	Club	Club	S
96	Sherwood Fields	Football	Club	One adult pitch, one 7v7 pitch, one 9v9 and one youth 11v11 pitch all of standard quality. One additional 9v9 pitch marked inside youth 11v11 pitch. Little maintenance done to pitches due to cost. Good quality changing facilities and clubhouse. Limited by pitch space.	Improve maintenance where possible. Consider use of Thoresby Welfare (I.D. 86) as second ground for 7v7 and 9v9.	Club	Club	S
107	Thoresby Park CC	Cricket	Club	Significant spare capacity for 48 matches per season	Support the club to increase membership.	Club	Club	S
108	Kirton Brickworks	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch with 0.5 peak time capacity.	Continue to maintain pitch to retain good quality.	Club	Club	M-L
109	Clipstone Welfare FC	Football	Club	One good quality pitch with floodlighting. No peak time capacity.	Ensure maintenance is sustained in order to maintain good quality pitch.	Club	Club	L
		Cricket	Club	Spare capacity for 34 matches per season	Support club to increase membership.	Club	Club	S

PART 8: 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 Newark & Sherwood in the 12 years up to 2026. 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 Newark & Sherwood 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 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. It is possible that in the interim between annual reviews the steering group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

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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.

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is 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).

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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.

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.

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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?	✓	

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The objectives 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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England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Champion Counties Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2013 which seeks to deliver successful England teams at all levels, to produce a vibrant domestic game as well as increasing participation during the period 2014-17. It builds on the 2005 plan, Building Partnerships and the subsequent 2009 initiative, Grounds to Play.

The plan will take advantage of local partnerships developed in earlier plans and support local delivery of priorities through the County network. It targets operational excellence to make maximum use of scarce resources and facilities during a time of economic austerity.

Among the targets set under the four pillars of Effective Governance, Vibrant Domestic Game, Enthusiating Participation and Successful England teams, which are relevant to the playing pitch strategy, are:

- ◀ An increase in participation as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest CricketForce from 2,000 to 2,200
- ◀ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017
- ◀ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017
- ◀ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017
- ◀ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC
- ◀ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the 'Sport England Whole Sport Plan Grant Programme' ensure a multiplier of three with other funding partners
- ◀ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues
- ◀ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million
- ◀ Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers
- ◀ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000
- ◀ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change
- ◀ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017

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 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 1.5 million 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

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

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Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP), that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities

‘The right pitches in the right places’⁵

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.

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

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England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17 Whole Sport Plan

England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.



To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

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British Tennis (LTA) - Place to Play Strategy

The LTA aim to get more people to play tennis more frequently and the places to play strategy is a way of doing this. The strategy will aim to provide high quality facilities for everyone at a convenient location.

It's one plan that aims to increase opportunities for people to play tennis on a regular basis at tennis clubs close to their home, which provides high quality opportunities on safe and well maintained tennis courts.

The strategy sets out:

- ◀ Overall vision for places to play
- ◀ How to grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes
- ◀ Capital investment decisions to ensure we invest in the right facilities to grow the sport
- ◀ Supporting performance programmes in the right locations

The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition.

The overall aim for the next five years (2011-2016) is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In brief

- ◀ Access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play
- ◀ A Clubmark accredited place to play within a ten minute drive of their home
- ◀ Indoor tennis courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home
- ◀ A mini tennis (ten and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres)
- ◀ A performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre)
- ◀ A limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres)

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Bowls England Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Bowls England is the largest National Governing Body for the sport of bowls in England, with more than 116,000 individual affiliated members. However, the challenges that the sport now faces are probably greater than at any time in its history.

Research has shown that recruiting and retaining members continues to be a top priority for clubs, many of whom continue to operate in the face of decreasing membership and rising costs.

The Bowls England Strategic Plan sets out three main objectives:

Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls

Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls

Retain current and future participants within the sport of outdoor flat green bowls

The following are strategic priorities for the period to March 2017:

1. To increase participation in the sport of outdoor flat green bowls
2. To support County Associations and Clubs
3. To provide strong leadership and direction

England Athletics: Whole Sport Plan 2013-2017

The England Athletics plan outlines a strategy to attract and retain 3 million athletics participants by 2017, from a current base of 1.9 million as measured by Active People, whilst cementing athletics as the most popular individual sporting activity in England.

“The ambition is to make England an athletic nation. Traditional athletics for some, running for many, fitness for all”.

In order to achieve this, the goals of the strategic plan are:

- ◀ To grow and sustain participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ To improve the experiences of every participant in the sport.
- ◀ To improve performance levels and to grow the next generation of senior athletic champions.

The plan also reflects a total commitment to delivering an inclusive sport, setting specific disability targets that are woven into the core measures for growth and retention of participation. Key personnel within the England Athletics staffing structure will now lead this area of work, focusing on:

- ◀ Delivering inclusive formats of the sport.
- ◀ National policy and programme development.
- ◀ Coaching and teaching resources.

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APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

In order to deliver much of the Action Plan it is recognised that external partner funding will need to be sought. 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"> • Sustainable Facilities 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.
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.

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Awarding body	Description
	Young people and sport in Milton Keynes. 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.

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.

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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.

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/design_and_cost_guidance.aspx

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing good quality sports facility for the 2nd Quarter 2011. These rounded costs are based on schemes most recently funded through the Lottery (and therefore based on economies of scale), updated to reflect current forecast price indices for 1st Quarter 2010 provided by the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), prepared by Technical Team Lead of Sport England.

New work output is forecast to fall a little in 2011 as the cuts in public sector spending start to make their mark, partly mitigated by private sector output starting to recover more strongly. It is anticipated that there will be a return to sluggish growth in 2012, as public sector cuts deepen. The BCIS forecast is for tender prices to rise by 2.8% in the year to 4th quarter 2011, rising by 3.1% over the following year.

