



NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

2015 - 2020



Nottingham
City Council

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Nottingham City Playing Pitch Strategy 2015 – 2020

In compliance with Sport England's new guidelines for the development of Playing Pitch Strategies, the following Organisations and National Governing Bodies of Sport have agreed the Strategy and Action Plan and have signed an agreement in confirmation

Organisations

Sport England

Sport Nottinghamshire

National Governing Bodies of Sport

Football Association

England & Wales Cricket Board

Rugby Football Union

England Hockey

Lawn Tennis Association

Rugby Football League

Part 1: Introduction

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Nottingham. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2020.

The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor pitch sports:

- Football pitches
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby union pitches
- Rugby league pitches
- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) including sand based/filled, water based and 3G
- Tennis courts
- Bowling greens

The Strategy is capable of:

- Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields and to inform the review of the Local Plan to shape policy, inform

protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules;

- Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the City;
- Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the City;
- 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.

1.1: Structure

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

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

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Nottingham, which should be implemented from 2015 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.

There is a need to build key partnerships between the City 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 City 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.

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 recommendations made within the Strategy.

2.1 Football grass pitches

- Poor pitch quality with 26% (37 pitches) rated as poor quality. City Council sites which contain one or more poor quality pitches include Bulwell Hall Park, Melbourne Park, Southglade Park, Victoria Embankment and Woodthorpe Grange Park.
- Spare capacity equating to 159 match equivalent sessions as actual per week.
- There is the need for one additional match session (or 0.5 adult pitches) to accommodate total future adult demand.
- There is a shortfall of youth pitches available to meet current demand (10 pitches) and future demand (11.5 pitches). This is largely due to the amount of latent demand expressed by clubs who would be able to field more teams if more pitches were available to them.
- There are sufficient mini pitches available to service current and future demand.
- In addition to this there is displaced demand equating to 36 adult teams (18 pitches), 35 youth teams (17.5 pitches) and 24 mini teams (12 pitches) having to access football pitches outside of Nottingham.

2.2 Football 3G pitches

- There are five full size 3G pitches in Nottingham; of these one is currently not available for community use (University Park Sports Centre). Three are FA registered or with the ability to become registered for use for competitive football fixtures.
- There are three in progress or proposed in Nottingham; Forest Recreation Ground (in progress), Victoria Embankment (proposed) and Lenton Lane (proposed).
- Based on the size and structure of the population, the FPM estimates there to be unmet demand of 1.25 AGPs predominantly for football and is due predominantly to a lack of capacity. The new AGP at Forest Recreation Ground would therefore appear to address the identified unmet demand modelled.
- On the basis there are 323 teams playing in Nottingham, the FA recommends a need for five full size 3G pitches to service training resulting in a current shortfall of one 3G pitch. This is further reiterated through local demand, although pricing is also a key factor for clubs.
- There is growing future demand for some age groups to play on 3G pitches, particularly at youth level where there is a shortfall of grass pitches.



2.3 Cricket

- Eleven pitches were assessed as average quality and three pitches were assessed as poor quality.
- Minimal actual spare capacity on grass pitches equating to a total of two pitches in the peak period (Saturday) and no actual spare capacity expressed in Central Area.
- Overplay equating to 17 match sessions per season at Wollaton Village Sports Association and Lee Westwood Sports Centre.
- There is a shortfall of one pitch (natural wickets) to meet future demand across Nottingham. However, spare capacity in North and South (expressed at West Indian Cavaliers Cricket Club (0.5 pitches)) and Carrington Sports Ground (0.5 pitches) suggests that overall in Nottingham there are enough grass pitches to service current and future demand.
- In addition, there is unmet demand for at least two additional pitches to service LMS at peak time (Tuesday) to accommodate an additional six teams.
- Limited availability of indoor training facilities, particularly during winter months.

2.4 Rugby union

- Overplay (resulting from training demand, midweek and floodlit) on grass rugby union pitches by Nottingham Moderns RFC equates to a shortfall in South Area of six match sessions per week.
- Although pitch quality is assessed as overall good quality at Nottingham Moderns RFC, according to the non-technical site assessments

slit drainage is required across all pitches with medium impact but does require the Club to replace these slits on an approximate 4/5 year basis.

- Available spare capacity is all located at education sites and equates to a total of six match sessions per week (across North and Central areas).
- There are a number of clubs located close to the Nottingham boundary but located outside of the City which may offer some spare capacity.

2.5 Rugby league

- Nottingham Outlaws RLFC use Highfields Playing Fields (University of Nottingham) for all senior competitive fixtures and a rugby union pitch at Bluecoats Beechdale Academy for all training and junior fixtures.
- There is a need for the Club to access a site with more than one pitch and currently has to travel outside of the Area to achieve this.
- The Club is trying to identify a permanent home ground that can be accessed throughout the year by all teams for both competitive fixtures and training.

2.6 Hockey

- There are currently seven full sized sand based AGPs and one full sized water based AGP that are suitable to accommodate Hockey in Nottingham. All are floodlit but only six are available for community use.

- Three standard quality AGPs; the Forest Recreation Ground and Southglade Leisure Centre.
- Fernwood School and Bulwell Academy AGPs both have spare capacity, predominately at weekends and could accommodate further hockey usage.
- The two AGPs at Highfields Sports Club are both operating at capacity and as such Highfields Hockey Centre reports demand for a second water based AGP at the site.

2.7 Tennis

- There are a total of 117 tennis courts provided in Nottingham across a range of sites including private sports clubs, parks and schools.
- Nottingham Tennis Centre is a key site which produces high demand.
- 84% are categorised as being available for community use (either used competitively or available for recreational use).
- Of the provision that is available for community 65 courts (66%) are assessed as good quality, with 16 courts (16%) assessed as standard quality and the remaining 17 courts (17%) assessed as poor quality.
- There are six tennis clubs located in Nottingham; Magdala LTC, Mapperley Park Tennis Club, Nottingham Castle LTC, The Park Tennis Club, Wollaton Village Tennis Club and David Lloyd.
- The LTA, with partners, is currently updating its citywide tennis plan which will aim to increase tennis participation.

2.8 Bowls

- There are 13 flat bowling greens in Nottingham provided across 10 sites. Of these, nine greens are provided by the City Council across six sites.
- In general the quality of greens across Nottingham is assessed as good with 30% clubs reporting that the quality of their home green has got 'slightly better' from the previous season, and 18% (two clubs) reporting that quality has got 'much better' since the previous year
- Analysis of club membership shows that demand has generally decreased or remained constant over the previous three years; membership numbers have remained static at 46% of clubs. There has been a decline in demand at some clubs with 46% of clubs reporting a decrease in membership.
- It is evident that there is spare capacity across greens in Nottingham to accommodate more play.
- Future population increases will not result in an increase in demand for provision and future demand expressed by clubs can be accommodated on existing provision.
- Current and future demand for bowling greens is being met by provision in Nottingham.



Part 3: Playing Pitch Scenarios

3.1 Football

Scenario testing: improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites. Given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of AGPs for competitive matches and this is something that the FA is supporting, particularly for mini football.

This is a long term solution and the piloting work is still under way nationally to determine the sustainability of such a scheme. However, as an indication, the following presents a scenario which shows how many full size 3G pitches would be required to accommodate the different types of football in Nottingham. This is not to say that there is a current shortfall in provision but is an example of how, if programmed effectively, existing provision could be used to accommodate competitive football fixtures.

Four 3G pitches could accommodate all mini football in Nottingham (67 mini teams). Five 3G pitches could accommodate all youth 9v9 football in Nottingham (35 mini teams). However, in order to also accommodate all youth 11v11 football (71 teams) a further 18 3G pitches would be required.

Ten 3G pitches could accommodate all adult 11v11 Saturday football (37 teams) and 17 3G pitches could accommodate all adult 11v11 Sunday football (68 teams).

3.2 Cricket

Scenario testing: addressing overplay

Most overplay is recorded in the South Area at Lee Westwood Sports Centre by 15 matches per season. It is highly likely that some level of overplay (such as the 2 matches per season at Wollaton Village Sports Association) can be sustained on current pitches given the high standard of pitches and ensuring that maintenance levels are appropriate to current usage. In addition, increasing the number of wickets at Lee Westwood Sports Centre would relieve overplay. If this can be achieved there would be no requirement for additional pitches to be found in the Area.

3.3 Rugby union

Scenario testing: improving pitch quality

If slit drainage was carried out across all pitches at Nottingham Moderns RFC this would increase pitch capacity by an additional 1.5 match sessions per week. This is considered to have a medium impact and requires the Club to replace these slits on an approximate 4/5 year basis. There would remain a shortfall of 4.5 match sessions per week to accommodate training demand (midweek and floodlit).

Scenario testing: access to additional pitches

Available spare capacity (at education sites) is not ideally located to be used by Nottingham Moderns

RFC. In addition there are quality and changing room access issues at these sites.

Securing access to floodlit provision either additional grass pitches or an AGP would address the remaining shortfalls.

If the Club can secure access to the new AGP at Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University) for training, some of the demand could be accommodated in the short term as it is more likely that this will be occasional use on a short term basis potentially when the weather is inclement due to high usage by the University and a lack of regular capacity. The long term solution would be to secure access to new AGP provision which comes on board in the Area, for example, the proposed 3G pitch at The Embankment to serve both football and rugby.

3.4 Rugby league

Scenario testing: securing of tenure

If access to Bluecoat Beechdale Academy and/or Highfields Playing Fields was lost due to lack of security of tenure, there would be a shortfall of pitches to accommodate Nottingham Outlaws RLFC. The Club requires a minimum of 3.5 match equivalent sessions per week (based on its seven teams) to accommodate all its competitive and training needs (most training takes place at the AGP at the Forest Recreation Ground). In addition, it often requires access to a site with two pitches and has to travel outside of Nottingham to use an alternative site.

Part 4: Strategic Framework

4.1 Context

The updated PPS will offer a **strategic approach to the provision and protection of sports facilities**. It will, through the protection of existing open space, sports and recreational land and buildings protect existing sites from development unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown them to be surplus to requirements. It will also include a **playing pitch analysis**, which will guide the future provision and management of new and existing sports pitches in the Nottingham area in the context of national policy and local sports development criteria.

At strategic level it will link and underpin in more detail the City's approach as a Core City towards fulfilling our national and corporate targets. It will help to inform Sport England (East Midlands) long term with regional planning and also help provide facilities to enable National Governing Bodies to deliver their working outcomes as outlined in their Whole Sport Plans.

It will assist in positioning ourselves locally, regionally and nationally in attempting to secure relevant funding and help address identified priorities.

Producing a Playing Pitch Strategy for Nottingham City will determine clear priorities and pathways for the future of playing pitches across the City. It will identify its future contribution and ambition in its support, promotion and delivery of outdoor sport, physical activity & active recreation.

There are a number of related strategies developed by the Council which have been adopted or are in the process of being developed, which are used to inform this study:

- **Breathing Space Strategy 2010 – 2020**
- **Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2014 – 2017**
- **Playing Pitch Strategy 2010**



4.2 City of Football

During the development of this Strategy, Nottingham was awarded the first City of Football and will receive £1.6million of National Lottery funding over the next two years. Its aim is to transform football participation across the city and tackle the challenges in retaining and growing the numbers of people who play the sport. It will create new football partnerships; develop new technologies; encourage more people to play, especially 14 to 25 year olds, women and girls and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. It is likely that this initiative will result in an increase in demand to play competitive football; however, the extent of this should be reviewed and applied within this Strategy when it is refreshed and updated (see Part 9).

4.3 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 Nottingham Playing Pitch Strategy:

“By 2019 Nottingham will be serviced by a viable stock of Council owned/managed sites supported by a complementary network of community and private outdoor sports facilities that make outdoor sport accessible to people from the whole community”



Part 5: 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 6: Strategic Recommendations

The recommendations 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

Recommendations:

- a. Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.

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

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

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

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

- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

Protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs.

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

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 Nottingham 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 develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e).

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

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

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

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

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



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

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council, NGBs or the County Sports Partnership (CSP) to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate an income through their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally whether volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

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

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

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

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

Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

¹ www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits

² englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places

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

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

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

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

Community Asset Transfer

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

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

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

Schools & Community Access

To enable the initiation of effective activities and programmes in identified areas of our communities and as part of the partnership work to develop key sports with NGBs there needs to be a plan for developing facilities in schools. This will enable there to be a direct response to findings in the Building on Success report and the Access to Schools Project undertaken by Sport England whereby the City needs to look at how it can help address the current pressures that our current sports facility stocks face by looking at our school and community facilities in order to meet identified current and future demand.

In order to better link access to indoor sports provision within schools and access to outdoor sports, prioritisation for the seven schools identified below should be given specific support to see what opportunities exist for these schools to absorb more demand/usage in order to reduce the used capacity at Nottingham City Council playing fields:

- Farnborough
- Top Valley
- Bluecoat Academy
- Bulwell Academy
- Nottingham University Samworth Academy
- Big Wood Academy
- Ellis Guilford

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Nottingham pricing policies at facilities can be a 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, especially in relation to 3G provision. 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 these issues:

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

Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/

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

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

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



AIM 2: To enhance outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation 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.

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

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

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

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

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore work with clubs to ensure sites are not overplayed on beyond their capacity and encourage clubs to transfer matches 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 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.

For example, the FA has recently introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and has been working in partnership with the 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 intention of improving the club's playing surface.

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

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

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

Recommendation f – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding

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

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

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

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

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on people's 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.
- 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.

Recommendation g – Enhance the approach to securing developer contributions

Nottingham City Council's Land and Planning Policies (LAPP), Development Plan Document, Local Plan Part 2, Preferred Option has emerging policies (Section 5 DM48-50 & DM56) both on the protection of open space (including formal playing fields) and for creation of new open space and developer contributions in general.

It is important that this strategy informs emerging policies and any supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. The guidance 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 or CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches and help deliver the Action Plan.

The City Council is currently considering the opportunities of introducing a CIL regime and if this is taken forward, consideration will be given to the inclusion of Open Space within the R123 list. The outcome of this work will also need to inform how S106 contributions are managed in light of the pooling restrictions that are to be imposed from April 2015.

The following planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- 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 and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid using the existing SPG as a starting point for negotiation.
- Where justified, contributions will also be secured towards maintenance on new pitches.
- Where appropriate, all new or improved playing pitches on school sites should be subject to community use agreements. For further guidance please refer to Sport England:
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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation h – Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock

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

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

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

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

identified for cricket both now and in the future.

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

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

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

Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
Football	City of Football's aim is to transform football participation across the city and tackle the challenges in retaining and growing the numbers of people who play the sport. It will create new football partnerships; develop new technologies; encourage more people to play, especially 14 to 25 year olds, women and girls and people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.	It is likely that this initiative will result in an increase in demand to play competitive football; however, the extent of this should be reviewed and applied within this Strategy when it is refreshed and updated.
	The needs of the game changed significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands changed. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider re-allocating leases to Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained or decrease slightly based on current trends and the move to small sided football.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches.
	An increase in women's and girls' football following £2.4m investment over the next two years (2014-2016) from Sport England to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand for additional cricket pitches to accommodate unmet SAC demand as well as club demand and midweek leagues.	Access to additional cricket pitches and consideration of alternatives to grass wickets.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby Union	The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future, and therefore have a demand for more pitches. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate.

Rugby league	Increase current levels of participation.	Sustain current pitch stock. <i>The RFL has plans to expand its Play Touch Rugby League programme and establish PTRL sites in Nottingham. PTRL can be played on natural turf or artificial turf surfaces. The RFL also plans to extend its 9-a-side offer. The RFL will feed its plans into the Action Plan once available and will work with the Council to identify any suitable and available sites.</i>
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for football continues to increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches. Provision of 3G pitches which are 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: www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf
Tennis	The LTA is currently updating its citywide tennis plan which will aim to increase tennis participation and to establish potential new and existing venues which may be used to deliver tennis.	The priority areas for delivery are those indicating high latent demand. The key to delivery is through local opportunities which may involve taking non-traditional forms of the sport to communities that have not traditionally engaged in tennis. Schools engagement will also be a key area for development, which means establishing the level of existing activity in schools, as well as in non-traditional venues such as leisure centres and community centres.
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.

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

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

LAPP (Land and Planning Policies) sites

Nottingham City Council's Land and Planning Policies (LAPP), Development Plan Document, Local Plan Part 2, Preferred Option outlines site allocations and development management policies in accordance with the Core Strategy.

The following LAPP sites either previously accommodated or currently accommodate playing pitches:

Preferred Option Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Status	Proposed development
LA24	Chingford Playing Fields	North	Football	Open Space	<p>A proportion of the site should be retained as provision for semi-natural open space. This could be incorporated into multi-purpose green space.</p> <p>Nearby parks and open spaces have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.</p>
LA25	Clifton West	South	N/A	Open Space / Agricultural	<p>Proposed uses – residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space as set out in the Development Principles.</p> <p>Future increases in demand for pitches in the area to be addressed via new community use agreements or increases in the quality and capacity of existing pitches.</p>
LA31	Fairham Comprehensive School	South	N/A	Education & Open Space	<p>Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space. Existing playing fields offer opportunities for provision of improved green space and biodiversity with careful consideration to the character of the existing landscape.</p> <p>Future increases in demand for pitches in the area to be addressed via new community use agreements or increases in the quality and capacity of existing pitches.</p>

LA36	Former Eastglade Primary and Nursery School	North	N/A	Vacant / Open Space	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space – subject to the development of a community sports hub site in the north of the City, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road).
LA37	Former Haywood School Site	North	N/A	Vacant	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space – subject to the development of a community sports hub site in the north of the City, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road).
LA39	Former detached Henry Mellish School Playing Fields	North	N/A	Open Space	Proposed uses - residential
LA40	Former Padstow School	North	N/A	Open Space / Former School	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space – subject to the development of a community sports hub site in the north of the City, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road).
LA41	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road)	North	N/A	Open Space	Site allocated for creation of a community sports hub site via the creation of a Sports Association.
LA42	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Ridgeway)	North	N/A	Open Space	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space - subject to the development of a community sports hub site in the north of the City, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road).
LA43	Haywood Detached Playing Fields	North	N/A	Open Space	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space - subject to the development of a community sports hub site in the north of the City, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road).
LA47	Lortas Road	North	N/A	N/A	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space - subject to the development of a community sports hub site in the north of the City, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road).
LA49	Melbury School Playing Fields	North	N/A	Open Space	Proposed uses - residential - with a proportion of the site retained as open space. Nearby parks and open spaces, including redeveloped Harvey Hadden Sports Complex (Bilborough Park), have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.

In addition to the above, a lapsed site is any site where the last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England’s statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework). A site falling under Sport England’s statutory remit of being used within the last three years is referred to as disused.

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Status	Future Potential
KKP 42	Colwick Racecourse	South	Football	Lapsed – no changing facilities - no current demand	8 adult pitches
KKP 48	King George V Playing Fields	North	Football	Lapsed – no changing facilities - no current demand	3 adult pitches
N/A	Wollaton Park	Central	Central	Lapsed	None
KKP 44	Hempshill Lane	North	Football	Lapsed – no current demand	1 adult & 1 junior pitch
	Broxtowe Country Park	North	Football	Lapsed – no current demand	1 adult pitch



Part 7: Sport Specific Recommendations

FOOTBALL

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

FA priorities

- To provide one full size 3G pitch at Victoria Embankment and in line with the Masterplan for the area improve the ancillary facilities.
- To review leases across the Lenton Lane sites and consider the formation of one Association to manage/operate the site as a whole.
- To develop the Lenton Lane sites as a hub including provision of at least one 3G pitch to support a sustainable model.
- To find a resolution to finding a suitable and sustainable site to accommodate Bilborough Town FC.

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 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 lapsed sites, where appropriate, reinvest into the development of central venue sites and hub sites.
- Where appropriate, develop partnership and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own 'home' sites thus facilitating club development.

3G pitches

- Ensure that existing 3G pitches are FA registered and maximise their use to allow for future back to back programming of mini/youth matches at peak times.
- Support the future investment of existing or new full size 3G pitches to allow for competitive use.
- Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain 3G pitch quality in the long term.



CRICKET

Protect current levels of provision and meet unmet demand for access to additional pitches for LMS.

- Work with clubs to address quality issues on those pitches assessed as average and poor quality.
- Utilise spare capacity in North and South areas to accommodate future demand from Central Area.
- Address overplay on grass wickets through ensuring that maintenance levels are appropriate to current usage and where possible increasing the number of wickets on squares.
- Seek to improve access to schools or provide new artificial pitches to meet unmet demand from Last Man Stands (LMS).
- Work with clubs to improve access to indoor training facilities during the winter months.

RUGBY

Work towards meeting overplay and increase the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities as required.

Rugby Union

- Improve pitch quality through investing in slit drainage across all pitches and replace these slits on an approximate 4/5 year basis.
- Address overplay at Nottingham Moderns RFC through securing access to floodlit training areas which are either dedicated grassed areas or through access to an International Rugby Board (IRB) compliant AGP.
- To work with neighbouring authorities to explore options to meet shortfalls of provision within Nottingham.

Rugby League

- Work to secure long term access to a site to meet the needs of Nottingham Outlaws RLFC.
- In the short term, maximise spare capacity at education sites to address current and future demand.

HOCKEY

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.
- Address demand for an additional pitch at Highfields Sports Centre through supporting the Club to applying for funding.
- 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

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

Tennis

- Address tennis demands through the LTA City-wide Tennis Plan which will aim to increase tennis participation and to establish potential new and existing venues which may be used to deliver 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.

Bowls

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

Part 8: Action Plan

Introduction

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

It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. **Recommendation e** across 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 compile a list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding.

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

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

Nottingham 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 City-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

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



Proposed tiered site criteria

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

Strategic Sites

Strategic sites are of City wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. 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 key centres 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 above, potential surplus sites are those which are to be considered for disposal and which release reinvestment for further up the hierarchy.

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.

Action plan

Partners

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

Site hierarchy tier and priority level

Within the action plan projects have been allocated according to their associated hierarchy together with a priority level (High, Medium and Low).

High priorities have borough wide importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment.

Medium priorities have analysis area importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

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

Timescales

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

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

Aim

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

CENTRAL

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	8.5	3	2	-	3.5	1	2.5
Youth	1	-	-	-	1	1	0
Mini	10.5	-	2	-	8.5	2	6.5

- No demand for additional football pitches.
- Overplay on adult pitches can be accommodated on spare capacity.
- Some spare capacity is retained for strategic reserve in order to protect quality and accommodate latent and future demand.

Cricket

- No peak time capacity.
- Potential future demand in the area for development of Last Man Stands.

Rugby Union

- Spare capacity at Fernwood School which is unused as there is no local demand for community use.

Hockey

- The two AGPs at Highfields Sports Club are both operating at capacity and as such Highfields Hockey Centre reports demand for a second water based AGP at the site.

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
1	Basford Mill Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One poor quality cricket pitch with unsecured community use (unable to obtain lease from the NHS Trust). Non-turf wicket requires replacing.	Seek options to secure the long term security of the site and subsequent replacement of the non turf wicket.	ECB	Club	High	Medium	Protect
8	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham (Haydn Road Sports Ground)	Football/ Cricket/ AGP	School	One youth football 11v11 pitch, one cricket and one AGP all unavailable for community use. All good quality. The cricket pitches have previously been used, however, clubs reported that it was too expensive for regular use.	Work with the school to overcome access issues for community use, particularly in relation to the cricket pitch which could meet future demand.	ECB	Education	Medium	Short	Protect
11	Fernwood School	Football	School	One adult and two mini pitches all available but unused of standard/ good quality.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect
		Rugby		One good quality senior pitch with available changing and spare capacity.						
		Cricket		Wollaton Cricket Club and Nottinghamshire County Cricket Board is working with the school to 'adopt a wicket'.	Consider as potential additional site for LMS.	ECB		High	Short	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
12	Greenwood Meadows Football Club (Lenton Lane Site)	Football	Club	NCC owned and leased to Greenwood Meadows FC. One adult (overplayed) and one mini football pitch (capacity) with poor quality changing accommodation. Latent and future demand reported for adult and youth teams.	Develop as a hub site including provision of at least one 3G pitch to support a sustainable model. Consider reconfiguration of site to optimise pitch use as a central venue. Review leases across the sites and consider the formation of one Association to manage/ operate the site as a whole.	FA ECB NCC	Strategic	High	Medium	Protect and Provide
29	The Brian Wakefield Sports Ground (Lenton Lane site)	Football	Cricket Club	Bilborough Pelican FC lease from Trust (Notts Unity Casuals CC). Two adult (good) and one mini (standard) pitch all with spare capacity.						
		Cricket		One good quality pitch with artificial wicket. No spare capacity on the grass wickets.						
33	The Ron Steel Sports Ground (Lenton Lane site)	Football	Club	NCC owned and leased to Dunkirk FC. One adult, one mini and two youth pitches, all good quality. Some spare peak capacity on adult pitch all others no capacity. Dunkirk FC has been granted planning permission for a half sized 3G artificial pitch to service training demand, however, no funding acquired.						
70	Pelican Colts JFC (Lenton Lane Site)	Football	Club	NCC owned and leased to Pelican Colts JFC. Two adult, one youth and two mini pitches all of good quality with some spare peak capacity. Site is leased from the Council.						

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
13	Grove Farm - University of Nottingham	Football	University	16 adult pitches of good quality with spare capacity retained to preserve quality.	Protect for University use as a priority and reserve spare capacity in order to protect quality.	University	Education	Low	Long	Protect
		Cricket		Three good quality cricket pitches with no spare capacity. Only one pitch is used for community use the remaining are retained for University use.						
		Rugby		Four good quality senior pitches with no community use due to accommodating university fixtures.						
15	Highfields Park Sports Ground	Football	NCC	Two adult (overplayed) and three mini pitches, all standard quality. Wollaton Youth FC is in talks with NCC over acquiring a long term lease in order to proceed with development aspirations for the site.	Ensure long term security of the site is agreed in order to progress site development aspirations. Seek options to improve quality to accommodate overplay and/or ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to sustain current levels of play.	NCC FA		High	Short	Protect and Enhance
		Football	NCC	Previously Notts County Training Ground and adjoins Highfields Park. Four good quality adult pitches with no community use. Council proposes to bring two pitches into community use (for use by Wollaton Youth FC – to accommodate overplay at Highfields) and to convert remaining area into tennis courts to meet additional demand from Nottingham Tennis Centre.	Link use of this site to Highfields Park and tie in pitch use into long term security for Wollaton Youth FC and development of site to accommodate all its teams serviced by standalone changing provision in the long term.	NCC FA		High	Long	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
69	Highfields Park Football Pitches	Football	University	Five adult football pitches and one cricket pitch. All good quality and used to capacity for University teams so unavailable for community use.	Protect for University use as a priority and reserve spare capacity in order to protect quality.	University	Club	Low	Long	Protect
16	Highfields Pitches - University of Nottingham	Football/cricket	Club	1 full size AGP with use currently by the University only. The water pitch was laid in 2002 12 – 14 yrs old needs replacing, it will last one more season. Both pitches are operating at capacity and as such Highfields Hockey Centre reports demand for a second water based AGP at the site.	Support the Club to explore funding opportunities to refurbish the water based pitch. Explore the further use of this pitch by community teams.	EH	Education	High	Medium	Enhance
45	Highfields Hockey Sports Club	AGP	Club	Two full size AGPs, one water based (standard), one sand based (good). The water pitch was laid in 2002 12 – 14 yrs old needs replacing, it will last one more season. Both pitches are operating at capacity and as such Highfields Hockey Centre reports demand for a second water based AGP at the site.	Explore options to invest in a second water based AGP which could be located on the shale pitch area located on neighbouring Highfields Park.	EH NCC	Key Centre	Medium	Medium	Provide
			Club	Retain spare capacity in order to protect quality.	Low			Long	Protect	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
27	Radford Football Club	Football	NCC	One good quality adult pitch with minimal peak capacity. Long term lease from NCC. Two standard quality adult pitches with peak capacity.	Develop as a hub site and seek options to improve quality and/ or ensure appropriate maintenance is applied in order to maximise use. Explore options to develop more grass pitches at the site.	FA NCC	Club	High	Medium	Protect and Enhance
30	The Forest Recreation Ground	Football	NCC Club	New 3G pitch provided with changing improvements under way to support it.			Strategic			Protect and Enhance
		AGP - hockey		One full size sand based AGP which has had fencing upgraded. Home ground to Sikh Union (Nottingham) Hockey Club.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain and/ or increase current usage.	EH		Medium	Long	
		Cricket		One standard quality pitch currently unused for competitive fixtures but heavy casual use. New non-turf pitch is due to be installed. The pitch, which will form an integral part of Nottingham City Council's Forest Restoration Plan, will be supplemented by a fully enclosed two bay practice net facility with non-turf wickets. Main cricket pavilion refurbished.	Consider as potential additional site for LMS.	ECB		High	Short	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
39	Wollaton Village Sports Association	Football	Club NCC	One standard adult pitch no spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage.	FA	Key Centre	Low	Long	Protect and Enhance Provide
		Cricket		One good quality pitch with artificial wicket. Grass wickets slightly overplayed by 2 matches per season.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage/overplay.	ECB		Low	Long	
		Tennis		Three hard courts (two floodlit) standard quality. Wollaton Village LTC reports that the quality of its courts had been deteriorating and as a result money was spent on them, however, they are still not good quality and need resurfacing again.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for the future refurbishment of the tennis courts.	LTA		Medium	Medium	
40	Woodthorpe Grange	Football	NCC	One adult (poor) and one mini (standard) pitch with some spare capacity on the mini pitch. Poor quality changing. Main user Sherwood FC which uses a range of other sites to accommodate all teams.	Potential future reserve site in relation to the development of a hub site at Forest Recreation Ground where teams could also be transferred to play.	NCC		Medium	Long	
59	Nottingham Tennis Centre	Tennis	NCC	One of the largest tennis centres in the UK and is a high profile facility for both tennis in the area and for the LTA as a whole.	Retain and protect.	NCC LTA	Reserve	High	Long	Protect
56	Valley Road Park	Tennis/ bowls	NCC	Three hard and two grass courts all of good quality. Two good quality bowling greens with some spare capacity, however, multiple clubs operating across the site.	Sustain quality and seek to maximise use.	NCC	Strategic	Medium	Long	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
61	Lenton Recreation Ground	Bowls	University	Two good quality bowling greens with some spare capacity, however, multiple clubs operating across the site.	Sustain quality and seek to maximise use.	NCC	Key Centre	Low	Long	Protect
86	University Park Sports Centre	AGP	NCC	One sand filled and one 3G AGP both good quality. Exclusive to University of Nottingham use only and, therefore, unavailable for community use.	Explore future potential use of the 3G pitch to satisfy future demand for increased competitive use of AGPs.	University FA	Club	Medium	Short	Protect
102	Lenton Abbey Park	Tennis/bowls	NCC	Two poor quality hard surface tennis courts and one disused bowling green.	Consider alternative uses for the site.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	-
N/A	Wollaton Park	Football		Lapsed site which previously contained football pitches.	No plans to reinstate sporting provision at the site due to its heritage importance	NCC	Reserve	Low	-	-

NORTH

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	21.5	6	4	-	10	1.5	8.5
Youth	3	5	1	-	-3	1.5	-4.5
Mini	11	-	2.5	-	8.5	2	6.5

- Overplay on adult and youth pitches.
- Some spare capacity is retained for strategic reserve in order to protect quality and accommodate latent and future demand.
- Shortfall of youth pitches can be addressed by increasing pitch quality.

Cricket

- There is actual spare capacity of 0.5 pitches at West Indian Cavaliers Cricket Club.
- Some sites unavailable for community use due to poor quality i.e. Top Valley Academy and Trinity School.
- Potential demand in the area for development of Last Man Stands.
- Shortfall of one cricket pitch to meet future demand across Nottingham.

Rugby Union

- Three available schools sites which are unused due to lack of demand in the Area coupled with poor quality pitches.

Hockey

- No demand in the Area for additional pitches to service hockey. Spare capacity for more hockey available at Bulwell Academy.

Rugby league

- Accommodation required for league matches and training with changing facilities



Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
2	Bilborough College	Football	College	One standard adult pitch which is slightly overplayed. Used by Bilborough Town FC youth teams.	Seek options to improve quality to accommodate overplay and/or ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to sustain current levels of play.	FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Enhance
3	Bilborough Park	Football	NCC	Previously used by Bilborough Town FC. Site currently being redeveloped to provide three adult and two mini pitches with user yet to be determined. Pitches will be ready for use during the 2015/16 season.	Work with the FA to determine users for the site including the option as a homeground for Bilborough Town FC. Discussions also taking place about relocating to a new development at Padstow Detached Playing Field.	NCC	Key Centre	High	Short	Protect
	Harvey Hadden Sports Complex	Rugby League	NCC	Pitch located in the centre of the athletics track which has accommodated American Football and rugby league (Nottingham Outlaws).	If appropriate secure future use of the pitch for Nottingham Outlaws RLFC or look to tie in use with use at Bilborough Park. If not suitable work with Rugby League to identify a new site in the North of the City. Other possible sites include Parks & Open Spaces which are not currently used for formal sport e.g. King George V playing fields.	NCC RFL		High	Short	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
4	Bulwell Hall	Football	NCC	Three poor quality adult pitches with minimal peak time capacity.	Improve pitch quality and investigate whether this site could accommodate all Bilborough Town FC teams on one site. This would require remarking of one adult pitch to youth. Two adult teams would need to be transferred to Bilborough College.	NCC FA	Key Centre	Medium	Medium	Enhance
9	Ellis Guilford Sports Centre	Football	Education	One adult, one youth and one mini pitch with some spare peak capacity (good/standard quality). Available but unused.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect
		Cricket		One poor quality non turf wicket unavailable for community use due to quality issues.						
19	Mill Street Playing Field	Football	Club	Five adult and one mini pitch (good/standard quality) with minimal spare capacity. Site is owned by Basford Utd and Bulwell FC has a 12 month verbal agreement for its use, however, it is unsecured. The facilities do not meet the requirements for the division above the one in which Bulwell FC currently plays. If they were to get promoted funding for facility improvement would be difficult to acquire without any form of tenure.	Seek options to secure tenure of the site for Bulwell FC in order to allow the Club to apply for funding for facilities improvements should it be promoted in the future.	FA	Club	High	Long	Protect and Enhance

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
22	Nottingham Girls' Academy	Football	Education	One adult pitch with no community use.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect
23	Nottingham Girls High School	Football	Education	One adult, one youth and two mini pitches of standard quality with minimal spare capacity.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect
		Tennis		Seven hard courts of good quality but no community use.						
24	Nottingham High School	Football/cricket	Education	Two youth football pitches and four cricket pitches overmarked in summer. No spare capacity for community use.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect
26	Nottingham University Samworth Academy	Football	University	One adult pitch with no community use. Half size 3G pitch which has some reported community use.	Work with the School to maximise community use of the 3G pitch and explore options to link this with availability of the grass pitch for community use.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
28	Southglade Leisure Centre	Football	NCC	Six adult (overplayed) and two mini pitches all poor quality.	Develop as a hub site and seek options to improve quality to accommodate overplay and/or ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to sustain current levels of play.	NCC FA EH	Strategic	High	Medium	Protect and Enhance
(28 cont)		AGP		One sand dressed and one 3G AGP. Pitch was laid in 2006 and is assessed as standard quality, although there are reported issues with regard to the quality of floodlights. Homeground to Redhill Ladies Hockey Club.	Maximise use of the 3G pitch to accommodate competitive football fixtures. Ensure sinking fund is put in place for the future replacement/ refurbishment of the sand carpet and address floodlighting issues to ensure hockey use continues at the site.			Medium	Long	
34	Top Valley Academy	Football	Education	Three standard quality adult pitches with no community use.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect
		Cricket		Two standard quality non turf wickets with no community use but potential if quality was to be improved.	Consider as potential additional site for LMS.	ECB		High		

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
35	Trinity School	Football/ Cricket	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches with no community use and one standard quality non turf wicket with potential for community use. Trinity have an agreement with a Gaelic Football team to play at the site.	Consider as potential additional site for LMS. Investigate further community use with the school	ECB	Education	High	Short	Protect
36	Vernon Park	Football	NCC	Four adult, one youth and two mini football pitches, all of which are used by various teams including AFC Vernon Youth (long term lease due to be finalised). Three adult pitches are assessed as standard quality with the remaining pitches assessed as good quality. Vernon Park is the only City Council site with football pitches that are assessed as good quality. Two adult pitches available in the peak period.	Retain current levels of play and spare capacity in order to protect/ sustain pitch quality.	NCC FA	Key Centre	Low	Long	Protect
		Tennis		Four floodlit tennis courts assessed as good quality. One of a number of park sites aiming to increase participation via the Cardio Tennis programme.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	NCC		Low	Long	
		Bowls		One flat bowling green used by Vernon Park Bowling Club and Nottingham Western Bowling Club. It is reported that the quality has improved due to the maintenance and quality of the Council's green keeper.	Sustain green quality and seek to maximise use.	NCC		Low	Long	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
38	West Indian Cavaliers Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One pitch (eight grass wickets) assessed as good quality. 0.5 pitches actual spare capacity available on Saturday. The Club is in the process of negotiating a long term lease with the Council. Adequate changing provision which the Club has aspirations to upgrade.	Ensure the long term lease is secured in order to explore funding opportunities to upgrade the changing accommodation.	ECB	Key Centre	High	Short	Protect
(38 cont)		Football		One standard adult football pitch with no community use. Spare capacity identified and available in the peak period.	Further explore local demand for use.	FA		Medium	Medium	
41	Bulwell Forest	Tennis	NCC	One tennis court assessed as good quality.	Consider for self-management and link to management of the tennis/ball court. Seek to maximise use.	NCC	Club	Low	Medium	Protect
		Bowls		One flat bowling green used by Bulwell Forest Bowling Club. The Club reports that the quality has increased and suggests that the change is due to additional maintenance being completed.						
44	Hempshill Lane	Football	NCC	Lapsed site which previously contained football pitches.	Consider site feasibility to accommodate youth football pitches to meet shortfalls. Alternatively no requirement to be retained for pitch provision.	NCC FA	Club	Medium	Medium	Provide

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
48	King George V Playing Fields	Football	NCC	Lapsed site which previously contained football pitches.	Consider site feasibility to accommodate youth football pitches to meet shortfalls. Alternatively no requirement to be retained for pitch provision.	NCC FA	Club	Medium	Medium	Provide
50	Nuthall Recreation	Tennis	NCC	Three courts assessed as poor quality.	Consider future potential of the site. Use for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play.	NCC	Reserve	Low	Long	Protect
		Bowls		Derelict bowling green.						
60	Strelley Recreation Ground	Tennis	NCC	One court assessed as poor quality.	Consider for self-management and link to management of the tennis/ball court. Seek to maximise use.	NCC	Club	Low	Medium	Protect
		Bowls		One flat green used by Russell Bowling Club. The Club report that the quality of the bowling green has improved extensively due to a good grounds keeper.						
52	Mapperley Park Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Four floodlit courts assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain investment made.	LTA	Club	Low	Long	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim	
71	Bluecoat Beechdale Academy	Football	School	Two standard adult football pitches that are available for community use with spare capacity but not used. Clubs report being priced out of using the pitches.	Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	NCC	Education	Low	Long	Protect	
		Rugby		One poor senior rugby pitch that is used by Nottingham Outlaws RLFC for training and u16s competitive fixtures.	Explore opportunities to formalise use of the site for the Club and explore opportunities to remark a football pitch to rugby to meet future demand.			RFL NCC	Medium		Medium
		AGP		Half size sand filled AGP that is available for community use and used.	Maximise use linked to community use of the rugby pitch for non contact training or touch rugby events.						
18	Melbourne Park	Football	NCC	Key site with eight adult, one youth and one mini pitch all poor quality. The youth pitch is overplayed. Poor quality changing. Used by various teams but Aspley Park FC and Karimia Youth FC are key users.	Seek options for investment across the site to improve both pitch quality and changing room provision.	NCC FA	Strategic	High	Medium	Enhance	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
72	Bulwell Academy	AGP	Education	Full size sand filled AGP laid in 2010 and is assessed as good quality. Although suitable for hockey, there is currently no hockey use. Spare capacity is available during the weekend.	Consider potential to increase hockey use for competitive fixtures. If no demand, consider future change of surface to 3G to meet football need.	EH FA	Education	High	Medium	Protect
		Tennis		Four floodlit courts assessed as good quality that are available for community use but unused.				No current local demands but consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	LTA	
101	Bluecoat Academy (Aspley site)	Football	Education	One adult football pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used. Spare capacity identified and available in the peak period.	Consider future potential to open up for community use. School would be happy to develop community use but reports that cost is an inhibiting factor. Cricket would require investment to be brought back into use.	NCC FA RFU	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect
		Rugby		One adult rugby pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used. Spare capacity identified and available in the peak period.						
		Cricket		Poor quality non turf wicket unfit for purpose. No actual spare capacity for community use due to poor quality.						
		Tennis		2 MUGS's both accommodate 4 tennis / 3 netball courts assessed as good quality with fencing but no floodlighting						

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
	Bluecoat Academy (Wollaton site)	Football		One adult and one 9v9 football pitch assessed as good quality but on a slight slope. Heavily used by the school but capacity at weekends. No secured community use of the site but some unofficial use takes place. Area is overmarked in the summer with rounders and athletics track. Cost appears to inhibit formal use. Changing rooms are good quality and have been refurbished and are available for community use if required.	Consider future potential to open up for community use. School would be happy to develop community use but reports that cost is an inhibiting factor					
		Tennis		One tarmac tennis / netball court which is new and good quality						
land adj LA38	Former Henry Mellish School Playing Fields	N/A	NCC	LAPP site with two adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch, all assessed as poor quality and overplayed. Used by Bulwell Rangers FC.	Part of site to be developed for school pitches subject to community use agreement.	NCC	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect
LA36	Former Eastglade Primary and Nursery School	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses - residential with a significant proportion of the site retained as open space.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision subject to community sports hub being created in the north of the city, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Field (Beckhampton Road).	NCC	-	-	-	-

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
LA40	Former Padstow School	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses - residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision subject to community sports hub being created in the north of the city, currently proposed at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Field (Beckhampton Road).	NCC	-	-	-	-
LA41	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road)	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses - community sport hub The site (5.12ha) is large enough to accommodate a number of pitches from different sports.	Site to be developed to accommodate a community sports hub to meet the needs of the wider area.	NCC ECB	Club	High	Medium	Provide
LA42	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Ridgeway)	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses - residential.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision subject to community sports hub being created in the north of the city, currently proposed at at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Field (Beckhampton Road).	NCC	-	-	-	-

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
LA43	Haywood Detached Playing Fields	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses - residential.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision subject to community sports hub being created in the north of the city, currently proposed at at LA41 Former Padstow School Detached Playing Field (Beckhampton Road).	NCC	-	-	-	-
LA47	Lortas Road	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses – residential. Public open spaces to be provided on-site.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision.	NCC	-	-	-	-
LA49	Melbury School Playing Fields	N/A	NCC	Proposed uses – residential.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision. Nearby parks and open spaces including redeveloped Harvey Hadden Sports Complex have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.	NCC	-	-	-	-

SOUTH

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity (match sessions)	Demand (match sessions per week)					
		Overplay	Strategic reserve (20%)	Latent demand	Total (current)	Future demand	Total (future)
Adult	2	6	0.5	-	-1.5	2	-3.5
Youth	1	-	-	-	1	0.5	0.5
Mini	8	-	1.5	-	6.5	1	5.5

- Shortfall of adult football pitches due to overplay as a result of poor quality pitches. Improving pitch quality will address shortfalls.
- Minimal spare capacity on youth pitches should be retained to protect quality.
- Potential oversupply of mini pitches in the Area.

Cricket

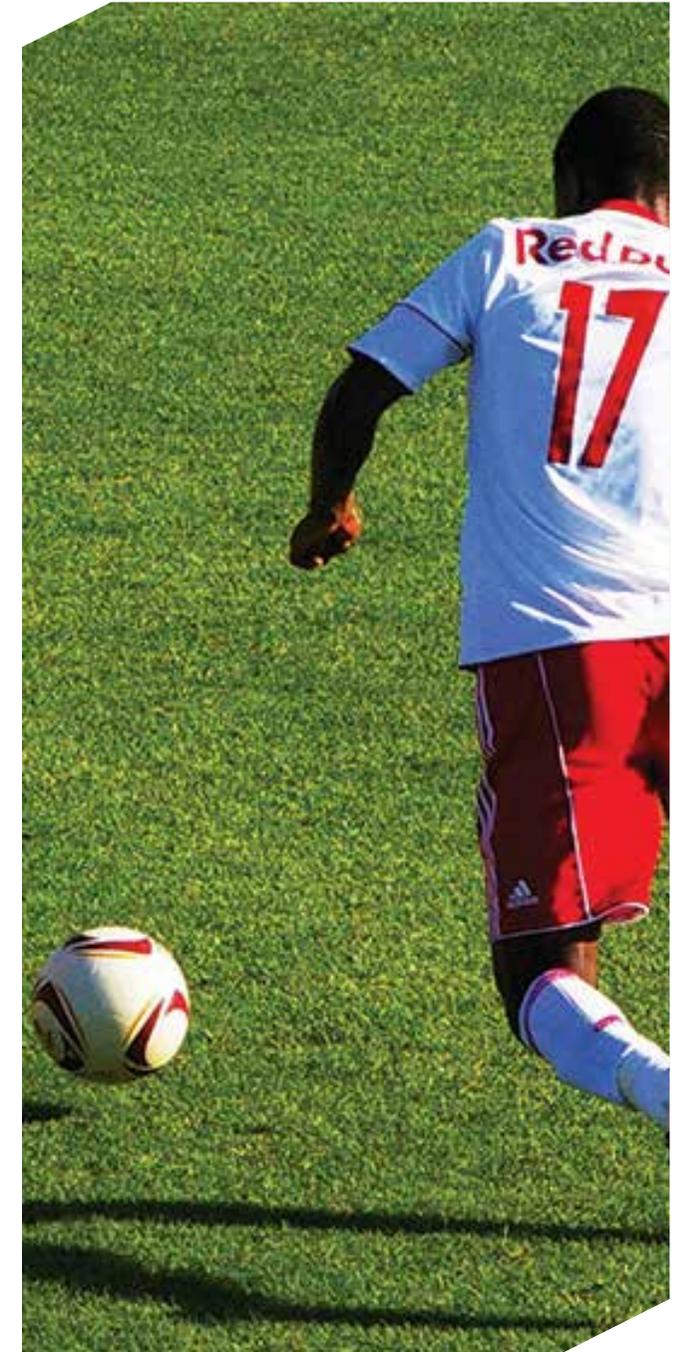
- There is actual spare capacity recorded at Carrington Sports Ground.
- Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University) is overplayed by 15 matches per season.

Rugby Union

- Shortfall of senior rugby pitches to accommodate at least three match sessions a week.
- Improving pitch quality and securing access to floodlit areas for training will address shortfalls.

Hockey

- Demand in the Area is catered for through Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University).



Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
5	Carrington Sports Ground	Football	Club	Three pitches (one adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7) all assessed as good quality. Pitches are used by numerous teams including Sherwood FC. The mini and youth pitches have no spare capacity during the peak period and the adult pitch is overplayed.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage.	FA	Key Centre	Low	Long	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch assessed as good quality with eight grass wickets and one non turf wicket. The pitch is used by a number of teams from West Indian Cavaliers CC. With regard to grass wickets, 0.5 pitches actual spare capacity is on Saturday. All junior play occurs on the non-turf wicket and no spare capacity is available at peak time (midweek).	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage.	ECB		Low	Long	
6	Charnwood Football Centre	Football	Education	Three adult pitches assessed as good quality. Pitches are overplayed by three match equivalents per week. Various users with Clifton Aces Youth FC and Central College Nottingham FC main users.	Reduce usage to ensure pitches are not overplayed and apply appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain quality. If pitch quality is improved at Clifton Playing Fields transfer play here.	NCC FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Protect
		AGP		Full size 3G AGP that is available for community use and used.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment. Maximise future use to accommodate competitive fixtures.			Low	Long	

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
7	Clifton Playing Fields	Football	NCC	Nine adult football pitches all of which are assessed as standard quality. Minimally overplayed by 0.5 matches per week.	As a priority improve the quality of three pitches to accommodate overplay and/or ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to sustain current levels of play.	NCC	Strategic	High	Medium	Enhance and Protect
		Cricket		Two cricket pitches, each with six grass wickets and a non turf wicket. Both standard quality. Lack of capacity with at least one, sometimes two, clubs using the cricket pitches every weekend.	Improve pitch quality in order to sustain high levels of use and being played to capacity.	NCC		Medium	Medium	
		Tennis		Eight tennis courts (three of which are floodlit) that are assessed as poor quality. Key provision servicing very south of the City and is the only provision in Clifton.	Explore opportunities to improve quality and maximise participation.	NCC LTA		Low	Long	
		Bowls		Two flat bowling greens used by Clifton Bowling Club with spare capacity available.	Sustain quality and seek to maximise use through pay and play opportunities.	NCC		Low	Long	
10	Farnborough School Technology College	AGP	Education	Half size sand filled AGP.	Maximise use as a training venue for hockey and as required football.	EH FA	Education	Low	Short	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
20	Norman Archer Memorial Ground	Football	Club	Five pitches (two adult, one youth 9v9, two mini) assessed as good quality (with the exception of the mini 5v5 which is poor). All pitches have peak spare capacity. The site is home to Clifton All Whites FC and the Club has 27 years remaining on a lease from NCC. The Club is trying to secure funding to upgrade the car park to accommodate a disabled team.	Retain spare capacity in order to protect/sustain quality. Explore options to improve the quality of the mini pitch. Support the Club to seek funding to upgrade the car parking. Additional play on the pitches can be sustained.	FA	Key Centre	Medium	Medium	Enhance and Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
21	Nottingham Academy (Ransom Road Site)	Football	Education	Three adult size pitches all poor quality, two over marked to provide one 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches. Pitches are used for community use and to capacity due to poor quality. No changing available for football bookings.	Seek options to improve quality and develop community use.	NCC FA	Education	Medium	Short	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Small cricket pitch containing a non-turf wicket with mini football pitches and athletics track over marked.	Retain for school use.	School		Low	Long	
		AGP		One sand filled AGP containing two 5-a-side size pitches, floodlit and fenced and recently refurbished. Used by football clubs for training in the evenings but with spare capacity.	Maximise use as a training venue for hockey and, as required, football.	EH FA		Medium	Short	
		Tennis		Also four tennis courts located at the school site which are adequate quality and could be made available for community use if required.	Explore local demand for community use.	LTA		Low	Short	
	Nottingham Academy (Greenwood Road Site)	Football		One 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch good quality no issues as this was a new facility 3 years ago. No community use and pitches are used to capacity for school matches. School wants to protect pitches for own use.	Retain for school use and maintain as good quality.	School		Low	Long	
	Cricket	Good quality non turf wicket located between the two football pitches. Athletics track marked out around the cricket pitch in summer.								

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
		AGP		Small sand based AGP marked as one 7v7 pitch and 2 5-a-side pitches. Good quality enclosed and floodlit. Used three nights a week for football training but has spare capacity and unused at weekends.	Maximise use as a training venue for hockey and as required football.	EH FA		Medium	Short	
	Nottingham Academy (Sneinton Boulevard Site)	AGP		Concrete AGP (was previously sand) marked with two netball courts and 5-a-side football. No community use as no reported demand.	Retain for school use and consider future upgrade to sand if demand exists.	School		Low	Long	Enhance
17	Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University)	Football	University	Two adult football pitches assessed as good quality. Used to capacity to accommodate BUCS fixtures.	Protect for University use as a priority and reserve any spare capacity in order to protect quality.	University	Key Centre	Medium	Long	Protect
Rugby Union		Two senior rugby union pitches assessed as good quality. Used to capacity to accommodate BUCS fixtures.								
Rugby League		One senior rugby league pitch assessed as good quality. Used to capacity to accommodate BUCS fixtures.								
Cricket		Two good quality cricket pitches, each with six grass wickets. In addition to hosting BUCS fixtures, the pitches are also used by Clifton Village Cricket Club and are overplayed by 15 matches per season.		Explore opportunity to extend pitches by a total of three grass wickets in order to accommodate overplay.	University ECB	Medium		Medium		

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
		AGP		<p>Two full size AGPS both assessed as good quality.</p> <p>One sand filled AGP, re-laid in 2012, is unavailable for community use (as used to capacity for University fixtures) but does currently host South Nottingham HC for competitive fixtures.</p> <p>The new 3G (also IRB compliant) is available for community use and will host a significant number of teams from the Young Elizabethan League as of the 2014/2015 season. FIFA level tested and on FA register for competitive use.</p>	<p>Ensure sinking funds are in place for the future refurbishment/ replacement of carpets.</p> <p>Maximise programming of the 3G pitch to accommodate competitive football fixtures and where possible accommodate training for Nottingham Moderns RFC.</p>	University RFU		Medium	Medium	
25	Nottingham Moderns RFC	Rugby Union	Club	<p>Two senior rugby pitches and one mini rugby pitch. All of which are assessed as good quality (M3/D1) although drainage could be improved.</p> <p>Senior pitches are overplayed by five match equivalents per week and the mini pitch is also overplayed by one match equivalent per week.</p>	<p>Secure access to the new AGP at Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University) for training to address shortfall/overplay.</p> <p>In the longer term, invest in slit drainage across all pitches to maximise future pitch capacity.</p>	RFU	Club	High	Long	Enhance and Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
37	Victoria Embankment	Football	NCC	<p>Six adult pitches (one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7) all assessed as poor quality. Youth and mini pitches have spare capacity identified with pitches available in the peak period. Wilford Lions Youth FC is a key user.</p> <p>Adult pitches are overplayed by 1.5 match sessions per week. Also has poor quality changing provision.</p>	<p>Retain spare capacity and develop as an iconic hub site including provision of one full size 3G pitch.</p> <p>Seek options to improve grass pitch quality to accommodate overplay and/or ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to sustain current levels of play.</p> <p>As part of the Masterplan improvements and the desire for an iconic facility on the site, investigate the need to improve/provide changing facilities to support the existing pitches and potential new 3G AGP.</p> <p>Ensure that the delivery of the Master Plan on the site improves the football offer at the Embankment, including the development of a 3G AGP football pitch. This alongside improved ancillary facilities which meet with iconic funding standards will transform the Embankment into an sustainable key hub site for football in the City</p>	NCC FA	Strategic	High	Medium	Protect

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Aim
		Cricket		Three pitches all assessed as good quality. Important site for cricket within Nottingham. As part of the City Council's Masterplan to regenerate the area, two new non-turf pitches were installed in 2013 and the existing non-turf pitch was also refurbished. Available for community use and used as LMS site. No spare capacity at peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance is applied to sustain current levels of play. As part of the Masterplan for the site invest in a new pavilion and support a potential 4th artificial wicket on the site.	ECB NCC		High	Short	
42	Colwick Racecourse	Football	NCC	Lapsed site which previously contained football pitches.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision at present.	NCC	-	-	-	-
47	K.K Sports and Leisure Centre	AGP	Private	Two half size sand filled AGPs.	Maximise use as a training venue for hockey and, as required, football.	EH FA	Club	Low	Short	Protect
51	Sycamore Park	Football	NCC	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is available but currently unused.	No current local demand for competitive use. Use for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play.	NCC	Reserve	Low	Medium	Protect
55	Wilford Social Club	Bowls	Club	Privately owned site with one flat bowling green. Used by Wilford Bowling Club and spare capacity identified.	Sustain quality and seek to maximise use.	Club	Club	Low	Long	Protect
53	Magdala Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Private club site with two hard courts (standard quality) and three artificial grass courts (poor quality). Of the five courts, four are floodlit.	Explore funding opportunities to improve court quality in order to maximise use.	LTA	Club	Medium	Medium	Enhance and Protect

Strategic recommendations **action plan**

Strategic issues	Recommendation	Actions	Partners	Priority	Timescales	Aim
Opportunity to inform the review of the Local Plan to shape policy, inform protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	Protect sports facilities where there is a need to do so through local planning policy.	Enhance local planning policy and develop criteria for disposal of sites and reinvestment.	NCC, SE	Medium	Medium	Protect
A number of priority clubs without security of tenure, for example Bilborough FC and Nottingham Outlaws RLFC, often resulting in displaced demand.	Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.	Develop criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations in the first instance teams at Lenton Lane.	NCC, NGBs	High	Short	Protect
		Continue to work towards adopting a policy which supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. Identified clubs to agree future site locations are Bilborough FC, Wollaton FC and Nottingham Outlaws RLFC.		Medium	Short	
Many sites are underutilised, especially for competitive play for football. Community use at schools is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs. 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.	Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.	Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools.	NCC, NGBs, SE, CSP	High	Medium	Protect
		Ensure formal and long-term agreements are in place that secure community use.		Medium	Medium	
		Establish a working group to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities.		High	Short	
Poor quality pitches and courts, for example, 26% of grass football pitches are rated as poor quality (37 pitches) and 17 tennis courts (17%) are assessed as poor quality.	To improve quality.	Address pitch quality issues and improve ancillary facilities.	NCC, NGBs	Medium	Short - Long	Enhance
		Ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity.		High	Short	

Strategic issues	Recommendation	Actions	Partners	Priority	Timescales	Aim
		Increase pitch maintenance and ensure appropriate level of maintenance for the level/standard of play.		High	Medium	
No strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the City.	Adopt a tiered approach for the management and improvement of sites	Prioritise investment in key sites through a hierarchy of provision.	NCC, NGBs	High	Short	Enhance
		Develop hub sites to service the City as a whole.		High	Medium - Long	
Opportunity to have a coordinated approach to strategic investment with key partners.	Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding	Establish a coordinated approach to strategic investment to ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need.	NCC, NGBs, SE, CSP	High	Short	Enhance
Opportunity to inform the review of the Local Plan to shape policy, inform protection and provision of sports facilities and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and S106 and CIL schedules.	Enhance the approach to securing developer contributions.	Emerging policies should be reviewed to take account of the Playing Pitch Strategy outcomes.	NCC, SE	Medium	Medium	Provide
Identified shortfalls in provision, for example, a shortfall of youth football pitches, a shortfall of one cricket pitch and a shortfall of rugby union pitches.	Rectify quantitative shortfalls in the current pitch stock	Improve pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.	NCC, NGBs	Medium	Medium - Long	Provide
		Re-designate pitches for which there is an oversupply.		High	Short	
		Secure long term community use at school sites.		High	Short - Medium	
		Work with commercial and private providers to increase usage.		Low	Long	
Opportunity to inform Nottingham City Council's Land and Planning Policies (LAPP), Development Plan Document, Local Plan Part 2, Preferred Option outlines site allocations.	Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.	As a Steering Group, regularly update the Action Plan to take account of opportunities to increase provision in areas of demand.	NCC, SE	High	Medium	Provide

Part 9: 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 Nottingham in the five years up to 2020. However the LAPP will be developed until 2028 and this document deals with the sites that are included in that document. 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 Nottingham can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

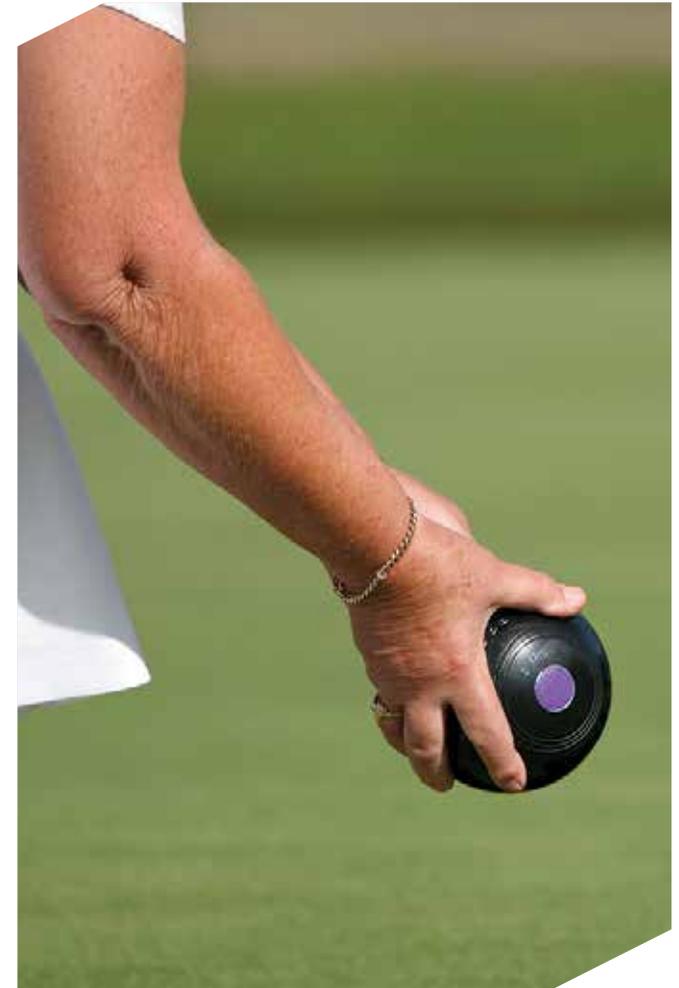
It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

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

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

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

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



Monitoring and updating

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Acts as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPS and playing pitch provision in the area
- Monitors, evaluates and reviews progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan
- Shares lessons learnt from how the PPS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances
- Ensures the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives
- Maintains links between all relevant parties with an interest in playing pitch provision in the area;

- Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

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

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 database is 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.

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 and 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 1: Strategic Content

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

National context

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

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

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

- See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places

- Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities

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

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

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

- 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.

- All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- 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
- 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 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 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.

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

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

- Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
 - Having streamlined the management of ECB and established County Cricket Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
 - Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket;

- Vibrant domestic game;
- Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
 - The focus of this plan is on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than increasing participation;
 - The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
 - To further expand club/ school links and position a cricket club at the heart of a community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to its local community and to local schools;
- Successful England teams.

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

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

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

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 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

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

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

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

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

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

The RFL’s Facilities Strategy was published in 2011. The following themes have been prioritised:

- Clean, Dry, Safe & Playable
- Sustainable clubs
- Environmental Sustainability
- Geographical Spread
- Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk provides further information on:

- The RFL Community Facility Strategy
- Clean, Dry, Safe and Playable Programme
- Pitch Size Guidance
- The RFL Performance Standard for Artificial Grass Pitches
- Club guidance on the Annual Preparation and Maintenance of the Rugby League Pitch

Further to the 2011 Strategy detail on the following specific programmes of particular relevance to pitches and facility planning are listed below and can be found via the trust link (see above):

- The RFL Pitch Improvement Programme 2013 – 2017
- Clean, Dry and Safe programmes 2013 - 2017

England Hockey (EH)

‘The right pitches in the right places’²

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

² <http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143§ionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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.



Appendix 2: 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 projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement Fund • Sportsmatch • Small Grants • Protecting Playing Fields • Inspired Facilities • Strategic Facilities Fund www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx 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 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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).

Awarding body	Description
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 www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people and hockey. • Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level. • Smaller charities.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its **Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme** and is investing National Lottery funding in community sports projects.

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 was launched 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 programme's 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 provide opportunities for councils to access this funding, particularly in relation to resurfacing 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.

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

These costs are broken down into two areas:

- Facility capital costs
- Lifecycle costs

Facility capital costs

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

Naturally, varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.

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

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

Facility life cycle costs

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

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

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

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





Nottingham
City Council