



NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN UPDATE
FEBRUARY 2018

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Strategy & Action Plan Report Update for Nottingham Council (NCC) and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report Update, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2017 and 2028.

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England, the County Sports Partnership and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the Assessment and Strategy:

Pitch sports

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Hockey/artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Third generation turf pitches (3G pitches)

Pitch sports were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy.

Outdoor sports:

- ◀ Outdoor bowling greens
- ◀ Outdoor tennis courts
- ◀ Golf courses

Outdoor sports were assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (2014). Non-pitch outdoor sports require a different methodology to assess demand and supply to that used for pitch sports.

A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements. Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning, local policies and sport development criteria can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The strategy is capable of the following in Nottingham:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the local area, picking up particular local demand issues;
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth, and or major growth/regeneration areas;

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- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities can be protected and enhanced. Many of the objectives and actions will need to be delivered and implemented by sports organisations and education establishments in addition to the Council.

Strategy 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 outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision
- ◀ A range of sport by sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Nottingham which should be implemented over the next ten years. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding (see Appendix Four: Funding Plan¹).

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 Council and supported by 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. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years. This document serves as an update to the 2014 Nottingham City PPS, a maintenance as part of the Stage E of the PPS guidance.

The PPS should 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. Part 8 of this strategy report contains a suggested process for carrying out the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to adoption of this strategy.

¹ Please note that Sport England funding streams will be subject to change throughout 2016/17.

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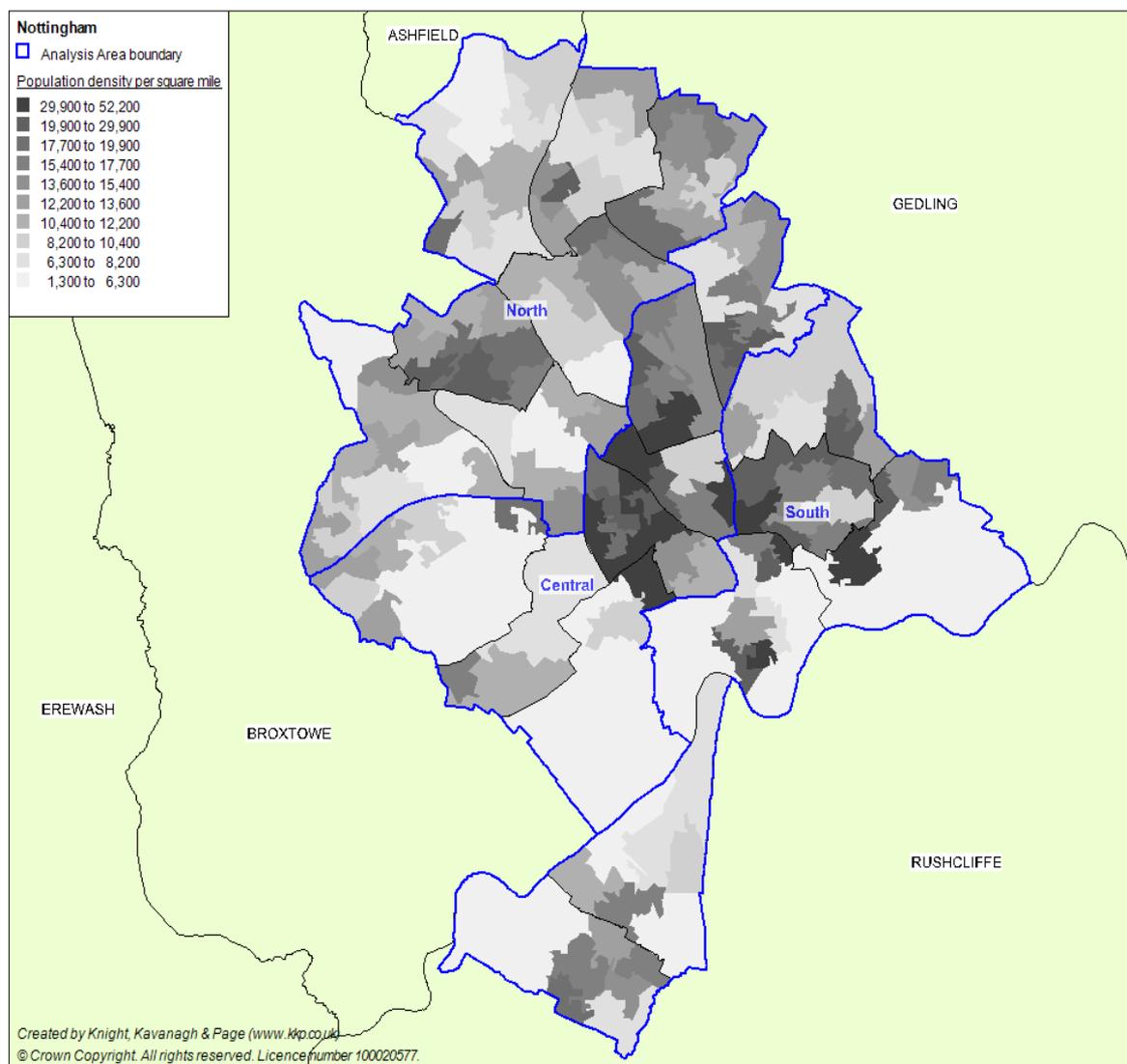
Study area

The City is split into three distinct areas (termed Analysis Areas) for the purpose of this study and site by site action plans will be developed for each. They are (including current population²):

- ◀ North (111,705)
- ◀ Central (113,094)
- ◀ South (100,483)

Whilst the Analysis Areas should be used for the basis of reporting, the strategy also addresses the sport specific geography of the City. Many sports and leagues cross these boundaries and pitch facilities in one area may also be suitable for clubs in another area. This cross-boundary movement has therefore been taken into consideration when producing this strategy.

Figure 1.1: Map of Nottingham with Analysis Areas



² Data Source: ONS Mid-2016 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

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Population growth

The current resident population in Nottingham is 325,282³. By 2028 (to reflect the PPS review timeframe, in line with the Nottingham Local Plan) the City's population is projected to increase to approximately 347,444⁴ representing an increase of 22,162 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.8%) according to ONS data.

Team generation rates were used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area and are set out in the Assessment Report.

Table 1.1: Breakdown of playing pitches across Nottingham

Sport	Pitch type	Management			
		City Council/ Trust	Education	Sports Club/ Community organisation	Private/ other
Football	Adult	36	43	22	
	Youth 11v11	-	3	2	
	Youth 9v9	10	8	6	1
	Mini 7v7	10	27	6	
	Mini 5v5	2	7	3	
Cricket	Natural turf	2	10	5	
	Non-turf	7	8	6	
Rugby Union	Senior	-	18	2	-
	Junior	-	-	-	-
	Mini	-	-	1	-
Rugby League	Senior	-	-	-	-
	Junior	-	-	-	-
	Primary	-	-	-	-
3G pitch	Full sized	2	4	1	-
	Small sized	-	-	-	21
Sand based AGP	Full sized	1	3	4	2
	Small sized	1	14	1	2
Tennis	-	56	39	26	4
Bowling	Flat Green	4	1	8	

³Source: ONS Mid-2016 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

⁴ Data Source: ONS 2014-based projections 2014-2039. Released: 25 May 2016

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Context

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Nottingham. The Strategy is produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework and provides robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the City.

One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

The Nottingham Local Plan needs to be based upon a robust evidence base. Paragraph 73 of the NPPF requires “planning policies to be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of needs. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.” Paragraph 74 of the NPPF require assessments to be used to inform the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.”

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively. The Council is currently preparing a Facility Strategy. This assesses current and future need for built sports facilities. A Playing Pitch Strategy will complement the objectives and action plan associated with the Facility Strategy and other corporate strategies:

Corporate and strategic:

- ◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision. The PPS will act as a tool for Nottingham Council and partner organisations to guide resource allocation and set priorities for pitch sports in the future.
- ◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding. As well as proving the need for developer contributions towards pitches and facilities a playing pitch strategy can provide evidence of need for a range of capital grants. Current funding examples include the Sport England Funding Programmes, Heritage Lottery Fund (for park improvements), the Football Foundation and the Big Lottery.

Planning:

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Strategy will provide important evidence to support the Nottingham Local Plan.
- ◀ It will support strategic policies on green infrastructure, leisure, outdoor sports facilities and health and well-being.
- ◀ Evidence for Community Infrastructure Levy and Developer Contributions

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Operational:

- It can help improve management of assets management, which should result in more efficient use of resources and reduced overheads.
- The Action Plan will identify sites where quality of provision can be enhanced.
- An assessment of all pitches (in use and lapsed) will be undertaken to understand how pitches are used and whether the current maintenance and management regimes are appropriate or require change.

Sports development:

- It helps identify which sites have community use and whether that use is secure or not.
- It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed to address any identified deficits in pitch provision.
- It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches available for use. This includes information about both pitches and sports teams / user groups.
- It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand by identifying where the lack of facilities might be suppressing the formation of teams/community needs.

Headline findings

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ⁵
Football (grass pitches)	North	Spare capacity on adult pitches equating to two match sessions per week. Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by 3.5 match sessions per week. Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity on adult pitches equating to one match session per week. Youth 11v11 shortfall of 2.5 match sessions per week. Youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by 4.5 match sessions per week. Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.
	Central	Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches. Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Shortfall of two match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity of equating to one match session per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Spare capacity of one match session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.	Shortfall of two match sessions per week on adult pitches. Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches. Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity of equating to 0.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches.

⁵ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ⁶
Football (grass pitches)	South	Spare capacity of three match sessions per week on adult pitches. Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Shortfall of two match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity of equating to 1.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity of two match session per week on adult pitches Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches. Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity of equating to one match session per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
Football (3G pitches) ⁷	North	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	Central	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.
	South	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.
Rugby union	North	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	Central	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	South	Nottingham Moderns RFC overplayed by 7.5 match sessions per week.	Nottingham Moderns RFC remains overplayed by 7.5 match sessions per week.
Rugby league (senior pitches)	North	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	Central	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	South	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Cricket	North	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	Central	Current shortfall of 32 match sessions per season at Wollaton CC. Shortfall exacerbated to 44 match sessions with displaced demand.	Shortfall of 44 match sessions per season at Wollaton CC. Junior growth exacerbates shortfalls to 50 match sessions per season.
	South	Current shortfall of 12 match sessions per season due to displaced demand from Carrington CC.	Shortfall of 12 match sessions per season due to displaced demand from Carrington CC.

⁶ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

⁷ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

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Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ⁸
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	North	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	Central	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
	South	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Tennis	Nottingham	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Outdoor bowls	Nottingham	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
American football	Nottingham	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Lacrosse	Nottingham	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Gaelic sports	Nottingham	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Ultimate	Nottingham	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Golf	Nottingham	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.

Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either demand is currently being met or there is a shortfall. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met. Some shortfalls can be reduced through increased access to existing provision, for example, increased certification and use of 3G pitches for competitive football, or rugby union match play would create new accessible capacity to reduce future grass pitch shortfalls.

⁸ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

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Recommended short term actions (12-18 months)

Site ID	Site/organisation name	Analysis Area	Action	Indicative cost ⁹
Various		City wide	Create new full sized 3G pitch provision to service the Central and South Areas at identified sites recommended by 3G/AGP scenario testing which compliments this PPS.	Low
15	Highfields Park	Central	Establish a suitable and agreed relocation offer for Wollaton Hall & Bramcote FC in order to facilitate progression of plans to create two new full sized AGPs to aggregate the hockey offer within the City and for Clubs in surrounding accessible Boroughs.	High
45	Nottingham Hockey Centre			
28	Southglade Leisure Centre	North	Pursue conversion of the sand based AGPs at these sites to 3G to form double 3G pitch football hubs, each with accompanying grass pitch provision. Multi-stakeholder approach required to aggregate the City hockey offer and agreeably relocate Wollaton Hall & Bramcote FC to facilitate this.	Medium
30	The Forest Recreation Ground	Central		Medium
37	Victoria Embankment	South	Improve changing provision as well as quality and regularity of pitch maintenance, undertaken to the required quality to suitably sustain multi-sport use. Consider the site as potential host to develop new 3G pitch provision to service the South Area.	Medium
25	Nottingham Moderns RFC	South	Establish preferred 3G pitch scheme(s) for RFU investment and secure access to capacity for use by Nottingham Moderns RFC in order to accommodate a proportion of training demand and reduce overplay across the site.	High
39	Wollaton Village Sports Association	Central	Seek to make greater use of NTP provision onsite to reduce levels of overplay on the natural turf square.	Low
43	Harvey Hadden Sports Village	North	Improve quality and regularity of pitch maintenance to improve quality for use. Refurbish existing pavilion to develop Step 7 compliant changing provision to service Bilborough Town FC use of the track pitch.	Low/ Medium

⁹ Low - less than £50k; Medium - £50k-£250k; High £250k and above

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Definitions

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions.

Based on how they tend to be played this unit for football, rugby union and rugby league pitches relate to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions (MES) over the course of a season.

Pitch capacity

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, each NGB has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity):

Sport	Pitch type	Number of matches per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3	2	1
	Youth pitches	4	2	1
	Mini pitches	6	4	2
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	N/A	N/A

Rugby union pitches		Maintenance rating			
Drainage rating			Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
	Natural Inadequate (D0)		Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)		Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)		Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)		Standard	Good	Good

Shortfalls

Please note that shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than as pitches as it is possible that shortfalls could be accommodated in various ways (e.g. through pitch improvements) and not just by providing more pitches. For a full Glossary of terms please refer to Appendix Four.

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PART 2: VISION

The strategy seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of the vision as follows:

“By 2022 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”

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives;

- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- ◀ Ensure that there are enough facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term aspirations.

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 3.1 below). Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, the Steering Group.

It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sport England's requirements.

Aim 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

Aim 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Aim 3

To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 3.1: Sport England planning objectives - Protect, Enhance and Provide



Source: Sport England 2015

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PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Football pitches

Current supply of grass football provision is not sufficient to cater for current and future demand.

Citywide there is a present need for greater capacity at youth 9v9 format, whilst in future this shortfall is exacerbated to include youth 11v11 format.

This demand can be met through qualitative improvements to increase capacity at existing sites, thus reducing shortfalls, whilst reconfiguration of pitches to better utilise capacity and required additional full sized 3G pitches will provide capacity available for match play providing they are FA/FIFA certified.

Summary – grass

- ◀ There are 181 pitches identified across Nottingham of 153 are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, 36 pitches do not have any recorded use.
- ◀ Most available pitches in Nottingham (57%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ 39% of all pitches in Nottingham are good quality, 38% are standard quality and 23% are poor quality.
- ◀ Changing facilities are a key issue at several football sites, with several ancillary facilities requiring modernisation.
- ◀ A total of 369 teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Nottingham. Of these, 312 teams are recorded as consistently playing home matches on grass pitches during 2016/17 season.
- ◀ Team generation rates based on population indicate the likely creation of 30 teams equating a combined requirement to accommodate 15 match sessions per week.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity in Nottingham amounts to 23 match equivalent sessions across all pitches types, some of which exists on pitches which are available but currently unused by clubs.
- ◀ There are 18 pitches in Nottingham which are identified as being cumulatively overplayed by 20 match sessions per season.

Scenarios - grass

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality (poor quality)** – improving poor quality pitches with secure tenure (either through increased maintenance or drainage improvements in order to increase pitch capacity) to standard quality will help to reduce overplay expressed in Nottingham and create additional overall spare capacity.
- ◀ There are 29 poor quality pitches across six sites where tenure is considered to be secure. Improving these pitches from poor to standard quality would generate an increase in potential carrying capacity of 31 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week, though not all necessarily available at peak times.

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- ◀ **Improving pitch quality (overplay)** - Improving pitch quality at all overplayed sites with secured access to increase capacity as a means to reduce or eliminate overplay would have an effective impact on City wide levels of overplay.
- ◀ The table overleaf shows the potential effect of improving pitch quality by one increment (poor to standard or standard to good) at overplayed sites where tenure is considered secure.
- ◀ Doing so would eliminate overplay completely across eight pitches in addition to completely eradicating overplay at Victoria Embankment and create a total of 17 match equivalent sessions per week of capacity.
- ◀ There is a requirement to continue to work with a number of sites identified in the table below which despite quality improvements would remain overplayed and therefore it is recommended that play from these sites is transferred to alternative sites that offer spare capacity to accommodate additional fixtures or FA certified 3G pitches.
- ◀ **Loss of grass pitch provision** – proposals to develop two new AGPs at Nottingham Hockey Centre would be created on grass football pitches currently utilised by Wollaton Hall & Bramcote FC. During the 2016/2017 the football club utilised the Highfield Park site for a total of 14.5 match sessions a week across adult, youth 9v9 and both mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitch types.
- ◀ **Loss of access at school sites** – there are six pitches across five school sites where tenure is considered unsecure and there is current use by community football clubs, totalling 9.5 match sessions per week.
- ◀ Loss of access to these pitches would generate a need to re-accommodate 5.5 match sessions on adult pitches and four match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.

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The table below shows the possible effect of improving pitch quality (from poor to standard or standard to good) to increase potential capacity at only overplayed sites offering secure tenure:

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure ¹⁰	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Current play (in match sessions)	FA recommended site capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play ¹¹	New capacity (quality increase)	Potential capacity effect
15	Highfields Park	Central	Secure	Council	Adult		Standard	2	7.5	4	3.5	6	1.5
					Youth	(9v9)	Standard	1	3	2	1	4	1
30	The Forest Recreation Ground	Central	Secure	Council	Adult		Standard	2	7	4	3	6	1
37	Victoria Embankment	South	Secure	Council	Adult		Poor	5	6.5	5	1.5	10	3.5
					Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	1.5	1	0.5	2	0.5
					Mini	(7v7)	Poor	1	2.5	2	0.5	4	1.5
40	Woodthorpe Grange	Central	Secure	Council	Youth	(9v9)	Poor	1	3	1	2	2	1
76	Bulwell Mellish Sports Centre	North	Secure	Community	Adult		Poor	2	4	2	2	4	-
					Youth	(9v9)	Poor	5	1	1	4	2	3

¹⁰ Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

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Recommendations – grass

- ◀ Existing quantity of football pitches to be protected, except for where re-provision of playing field land elsewhere represents a preferable and greater benefit to sport or adequately mitigates against a loss of playing field.
- ◀ Seek to develop sustainable, multi-pitch football hubs including onsite 3G pitch provision to create an all-in-one football offer capable of servicing team training, short-formats and non-traditional participation and match play across grass and certified 3G pitches.
- ◀ Review and improve maintenance regimes at key sites where maintenance is perceived to not meet the required standard, particularly Victoria Embankment, Harvey Hadden Sports Village and Southglade Leisure Centre/Southglade Park.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Look to utilise actual spare capacity expressed on sites in order to cater for existing and future demand including overplay. This may require improvements to pitch quality and is explored on a site by site basis within the accompanying action plan.
- ◀ Consider potential and feasibility for asset transfer or long-term leasehold to clubs which express interest and are considered realistically able to sustain and maintain sporting provision as required, allowing for greater opportunities to access external funding streams for facility development.
- ◀ Seek to increase use of 3G pitches in order to increase capacity available to address future shortfalls and review impact on grass pitches as part of the PPS Annual Review.
- ◀ Determine sites with key qualitative issues which may benefit most from technical assessment and a composed bespoke programme of works through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme.
- ◀ Seek to better reconfigure pitch sizes where possible at sites where adult pitches are used for youth 11v11 play.
- ◀ Improve, provide and increase access to changing facilities which serve grass football pitches, for example at Victoria Embankment. Ensure any works ensure suitability for female and disability access to facilitate increased formats of football.
- ◀ Seek to secure community use through formal agreement and/or the planning process should there be development of new football pitch provision.
- ◀ Ensure adequate provision for increased demand generated by housing developments, secured through appropriately calculated developer contributions.

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3G pitches

Supply and demand analysis highlights that Nottingham has insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet current and future demand.

Based on the FA model for affiliated football team training, there is a requirement for four additional full sized 3G pitches, two pitches each to be located in or accessible to the Central and South Areas.

**Further 3G and AGP scenario testing establishes possible options to meet the current shortfall as part of a wider strategic approach taking in the surrounding Boroughs outside of the City.
Central and South Areas.**

Summary

- ◀ Supply and demand analysis highlights that Nottingham has insufficient supply of 3G pitches to meet current and future demand, based on the FA model for affiliated football team training.
- ◀ There are seven full sized 3G pitches in Nottingham, all of which have floodlighting. Of the seven pitches, four offer full and unrestricted availability for community use, however three pitches located at university sites offer little to no capacity for community use during the peak season due to in-house programming of student sport.
- ◀ There are a further 21 small sized 3G pitches, all but one of which are located at commercial small sided football centres.
- ◀ All seven-full sized FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches are suitable for competitive football play. Southglade Leisure Centre has recently undergone repair to retain certification on the FA register.
- ◀ There are two 3G pitches at Lee Westwood Sports Centre and Jubilee Campus which are suitable for competitive and contact rugby union activity, certified as World Rugby compliant and on the RFU register of certified pitches although these are rarely accessed by community clubs due to capacity issues.
- ◀ A number of providers have aspirations for increased 3G pitch provision, including Nottingham Forest Community Trust (The Forest Recreation Ground) and the University of Nottingham (Highfields Sports Ground).
- ◀ The RFU is also exploring potential sites around the Nottinghamshire region at which to invest to create World Rugby certified 3G provision as part of its Rugby 365 strategy. This may include potentially feasible sites within or accessible to the City.
- ◀ The majority of full sized 3G pitches (five of seven – 71%) are rated as good quality. The remaining two pitches are standard (Nottingham College) and poor (Southglade Leisure Centre).
- ◀ The pitch at Southglade Leisure Centre presently exceeds the recommended surface lifespan and is now 11 years old. Performance and rate of deterioration should be monitored over in the short term onwards and consideration should be given to resurfacing when required. The site along with adjacent Southglade Park offers opportunity for the development and improvement of facilities to serve as a sporting hub which should be pursued to help service increased demand generated from new residential development in the area and border areas with surrounding Boroughs.

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- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for eight full sized 3G pitches which are fully available for community use to service affiliated football training demand in the City, both presently and in light of future demand from population change. There are presently four full sized pitches which offer unrestricted availability and floodlighting, discounting university managed pitches which are in practice unavailable during the peak season. On this basis, the model evidences a shortfall of four full sized pitches, two pitches each within or accessible to the Central and South Analysis Areas.

Scenarios – 3G pitches¹²

- ◀ **Moving all mini teams to play on 3G pitches** – there are currently 108 mini (5v5 and 7v7) teams playing competitive football in Nottingham, 33 of which already play on 3G pitches.
- ◀ Based on the FA model for competitive football, five full sized FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.625) would be required to accommodate all mini soccer teams, inclusive of those already playing on 3G pitches. This is on the basis that both playing formats can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.
- ◀ Alternatively, four pitches (rounded up from 3.55) would be required to accommodate just the mini soccer teams presently playing on grass pitches.
- ◀ **Use of 3G pitches to accommodate current and future grass pitch shortfalls** – in order to accommodate current shortfalls on youth 9v9 grass pitch shortfalls, additional capacity equivalent to a total of one full sized FA/FIFA certified 3G pitch would be required (based on all teams playing at peak times in the assessment).
- ◀ In order to accommodate all future grass pitch shortfalls, additional capacity equivalent to a total of five full sized FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.85) would be required (based on all new teams playing at peak times in the assessment).
- ◀ **Development of football hubs** – the FA Parklife Programme aims to create football hub sites, each to include multiple full sized 3G pitches which support grass pitch provision also onsite, allowing for sustainable, programmed football delivery. This as a single portfolio investment provides an all-in-one solution across a local authority area.
- ◀ Nottingham City Council has undertaken further evidence base work with Gedling Borough Council, Broxtowe Borough Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council to understand current regional demand for full sized 3G pitches, including whether and how the FA Parklife Model could work across the four local authority areas.
- ◀ Should this further work identify a key need for additional full sized 3G pitches accessible across the four authorities, this would likely influence 3G pitch provision in Nottingham.

¹² Refer to Appendix One: FA 3G Pitch Scenarios for the programming model used.

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Recommendations – 3G pitches

- ◀ Develop additional 3G pitch provision, preferably through pursuit of opportunities to create multi-pitch (potentially multi-sport) hub sites where 3G provision is able to support grass pitches as a broader, sustainable, all-in-one community offer, for example through (but not limited to) the FA Parklife Programme.
- ◀ Ensure any new 3G pitches are certified for football match play and seek to maximise use for matches, for example through transfer of mini soccer or accommodation of youth 9v9 football, in order to allow for reconfiguration of grass pitches to service any youth 11v11 shortfalls which are not also able to be addressed through additional 3G pitch capacity.
- ◀ Ensure current supply is maintained regularly and rigorously as required to ensure continued quality for use and ensure they are of sufficient quality to pass performance standing testing or certification renewal.
- ◀ Retain all certified 3G pitches on the respective sporting certification registers and ensure certification of each is renewed through performance standard testing so to maintain the level of 3G capacity available to accommodate demand from different sports.
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of capacity where available at weekends to accommodate match play in order to reduce grass pitch shortfalls, particularly at Charnwood Football Centre and Southglade Leisure Centre which are underutilised for weekend match play.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, seek to secure community access through usage agreements where possible as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, ensure they are constructed to required specifications and to meet FA recommended rather than minimum dimensions where land footprint allows, so to maximise opportunities for use for all formats of competitive play.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long-term sustainability of provision, such as a sinking fund formed over time for repairs or resurfacing.
- ◀ Through the creation of new full sized 3G pitches, consider options to deliver a wide variety of football opportunities, including new formats of competitive football such as central venue midweek flexi and Vets leagues, walking football, female development centres, turn and play sessions and non-traditional football opportunities building on participation findings from the City of Football project.
- ◀ Develop additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision in the South Nottinghamshire area to reduce identified shortfalls at club sites in the region. This includes Nottingham Moderns RFC and overplay at other sites in surrounding Boroughs such as West Bridgford RFC and Nottinghamshire Sports Ground in Rushcliffe.
- ◀ Should FA Parklife Programme investment not be pursued as the Council's preferred option to develop new 3G pitch provision, continue to explore feasibility to aggregate the City hockey offer and convert hockey suitable AGPs with no hockey use to 3G in areas of evidenced need to address 3G pitch shortfalls, particularly in light of proposals at Nottingham Hockey Centre.

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Cricket pitches

Current supply of cricket pitch provision is insufficient in servicing existing demand, presenting a shortfall of 32 match equivalent sessions per season in the Central Area

This is exacerbated in light of future demand and if demand presently displaced by both Wollaton CC and Carrington CC was to be accommodated back within the City. The Central area particularly evidences need for greater capacity.

The Central area particularly evidences need for access to greater capacity, either at existing sites such as Riverside Sports Complex where tenure is unsecure or through creation of a new cricket pitch. There are no disused or lapsed sites located in the Central Area at which a new cricket pitch could be developed.

Junior cricket both now and in the future, can be catered for midweek at all club sites in Nottingham with the exception of Wollaton CC.

Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 17 grass cricket squares in Nottingham, of which 12 are available for community use. All unavailable cricket squares are located at education sites.
- ◀ There are ten NTPs accompanying cricket squares and ten standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Of the grass cricket squares available for community use, nine (75%) are good quality, two (17%) standard quality and just one (8%) square, located at Basford Cricket Club is poor quality.
- ◀ Both Nottinghamshire Cricket Board and Nottinghamshire FA report qualitative issues at Victoria Embankment impacting on use for cricket and football, notably a perceived insufficient level and quality of maintenance.
- ◀ Basford Mill CC is unable to secure long-term tenure of its home ground of the same name which is owned by the NHS Trust.
- ◀ Nottingham Unity Casuals CC leases The Brian Wakefield ground from the Council, though only four years remain on the term of the lease.
- ◀ There is a Last Man Stands league in Nottingham, based at Victoria Embankment where it has use of four non-turf pitches.
- ◀ In total, there are ten community clubs operating in Nottingham, in addition to teams fielded by both the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University. As a breakdown, this consists of 27 men's teams, four women's teams and 18 junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Overplay is identified at Wollaton Village Sports Association amounting to 32 match sessions per season.
- ◀ Additional pitch provision is required to meet this demand in the Central Area, as Wollaton Village Sports Association is landlocked and offers little scope for expansion, whilst the NTP can only sufficiently service a proportion of this additional demand.
- ◀ Capacity is available both midweek and at weekends at Riverside Sports Ground which represents the best placed solution in the Central Area and secured access for Wollaton CC should be sought as a secondary venue.
- ◀ There is an overall insufficient supply of cricket provision in Nottingham to accommodate demand from Wollaton CC and Carrington CC based on peak time Saturday cricket requirements.

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Scenarios

- ◀ **Alleviating overplay** – overplay at Wollaton Village Sports Club is high and amounts to 32 match sessions per season. The site already has two adequate NTPs accompanying the cricket square and there is a greater requirement for these to be utilised by junior teams to minimise impact on the grass cricket square.
- ◀ Transfer of the clubs four junior teams to the onsite NTPs would alleviate overplay by 24 match sessions leaving eight match sessions of overplay. Therefore, there remains a requirement to resolve overplay identified on site.
- ◀ Working with lower standard Sunday leagues to allow fixtures to be played on good quality NTPs would allow transfer of both Sunday teams at Wollaton CC to play fixtures on NTPs which would in turn reduce overplay by 24 match sessions per season. A mix of the above would alleviate overplay in its entirety on the site.
- ◀ **Accommodating displaced demand** – Wollaton CC 3rd XV and Carrington CC 3rd XV are identified as playing fixtures outside of Nottingham due to capacity issues at each respective club site. No club site across Nottingham has spare peak time capacity and therefore unless no dedicated natural turf cricket provision is created these clubs will continue to be displaced. Creation of a new natural turf cricket square could accommodate both teams currently exported outside of Nottingham.
- ◀ **Security of tenure** – Basford Mill CC is unable to secure a long-term arrangement with the NHS over its site and therefore cannot access grant funding. Explore future opportunities to work with the Club and NHS representatives to try and secure future access.

Recommendations – cricket

- ◀ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality ancillary facilities at club sites including poor quality changing rooms identified at Notts Unity Casuals CC and West Indian Cavaliers CC.
- ◀ Maintain and improve pitch quality through rigorous and regular maintenance, remedial and preparatory work, ensuring that clubs have sufficient access to the required equipment in order to do so.
- ◀ Ensure the cricket outfield at Victoria Embankment are adequately and regularly cut to accommodate Last Man Stands fixtures and that maintenance is sufficient to withstand both cricket and football use of the site
- ◀ Support clubs in having access to adequate training provision, particularly Basford Mill CC and Notts Unity Casuals CC which have been identified as requiring new NTPs.
- ◀ Deliver the new All Stars Cricket programme and seek to increase junior participation as a result.
- ◀ Consider opportunities to increase NTP provision in parks and public spaces should recreational and short format demand be identified.

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Rugby union pitches

Overall there is insufficient supply of rugby union pitch provision to cater for levels of demand, as evidenced by significant overplay at the only rugby union club site in the City. Development of new pitch provision is required.

There is a key need for access to increased floodlit provision given only one grass pitch in the City offers floodlighting and is subsequently significantly overplayed.

Shortfalls in the South Area and identified across the Southern border through the Rushcliffe PPS support the case for an additional World Rugby compliant pitch to help provide further floodlit capacity.

Additional pitch provision is required within or accessible to the South Nottingham with Rushcliffe border and should be sought initially through development of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.

Summary

- ◀ Overall there is insufficient supply of rugby union pitch provision to cater for levels of demand, as evidenced by significant overplay at the only rugby union club site in the City.
- ◀ There is a key need for access to increased floodlit provision given only one grass pitch in the City offers floodlighting and is subsequently significantly overplayed.
- ◀ Shortfalls in the South Area and identified across the Southern border through the emerging Rushcliffe PPS support the case for an additional World Rugby compliant pitch to help provide further floodlit capacity.
- ◀ There is a total of 20 rugby union pitches in the City. Of these, 14 senior pitches and one mini pitch are available for community use, with six pitches at Nottingham High School unavailable for community use.
- ◀ There is just one floodlit pitch located at Nottingham Moderns RFC.
- ◀ The RFU is presently exploring the feasibility of creating a new World Rugby compliant pitch in the area around the South of the City and is considering site options both within Nottingham and accessible neighbouring boroughs.
- ◀ In total, there are 11 senior men's teams, four senior women's teams, five junior boys' teams, one dedicated junior girl's teams and six mini teams.
- ◀ Nottingham Moderns RFC is the only community club based in the City. It does not have any plans to increase its number of teams but does plan to increase the number of users at the site through incorporating more university players into its current teams.
- ◀ A proportion of demand is exported from the City, including Nottingham Moderns RFC at Emmanuel School and Nottingham Trent University (NTU), both in Rushcliffe.
- ◀ Overplay at Nottingham Moderns RFC represents a shortfall in the South Area of 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Potential spare capacity is located at education sites which do not offer secure tenure or floodlighting required to service midweek training requirements from the Club and NTU.

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Scenarios

- ◀ **Improving pitch quality** – Nottingham Moderns RFC is cumulatively overplayed by 5.5 match sessions per week although notably the floodlit senior training pitch is overplayed by 4.5 match sessions per week. Both senior pitches are already identified as being good quality (M2/D1) and therefore it is unlikely that alterations to the maintenance regime will affect overall capacity.
- ◀ Installing new pipe and slit drainage systems on both pitches will reduce overplay on each pitch by 0.5 match sessions per pitch and therefore a total reduction in overplay by just one match session per week.
- ◀ **Removing training demand** – There is currently six match sessions of midweek training demand on the two senior pitches at Nottingham Moderns RFC (although predominately on the floodlit training pitch). Removal of 50% of this demand to an alternatively suitable site i.e. to a newly created World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch would significantly reduce overplay, with 2.5 match sessions remaining.
- ◀ **Increased World Rugby compliant 3G provision** – The RFU is keen to explore opportunities to invest in the development of new World Rugby (WR) compliant provision in the South Nottinghamshire region.
- ◀ Creation of a new WR pitch may not necessarily be created in Nottingham but would be created in close proximity to Nottingham Moderns and other surrounding clubs such as Rushcliffe based side West Bridgford RFC which is also identified as having high levels of overplay and therefore would be easily accessible to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ As well as greater capacity to host midweek training, a new WR compliant 3G pitch in replacement of a grass pitch would create additional capacity of one match equivalent session per week at both senior and junior peak times (on the basis that 3G pitches can accommodate back to back matches without the same immediate impact on pitch quality).
- ◀ **Increased floodlight provision** – providing floodlighting at Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University) alongside securing a formal community use agreement (CUA) could allow the transfer of training from Nottingham Moderns RFC (2.5 miles from the site, equating to a ten-minute drive) to the site allowing the transfer of four match sessions of midweek training demand, reducing overplay to 1.5 match sessions per week remaining at Nottingham Moderns RFC.

Recommendations – rugby union

- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby union pitches to be protected.
- ◀ As a priority, seek to develop new World Rugby compliant 3G pitch provision within or accessible to the South Nottingham area and determine feasible strategic host sites in light of significant rugby union shortfalls also identified in the Rushcliffe PPS around the West Bridgford area. Secure access to the newly created capacity for Nottingham Moderns RFC and midweek site users University of Nottingham to reduce significant shortfalls at Nottingham Moderns RFC.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of developing floodlit provision at Lee Westwood Sports Centre to accommodate midweek training demand in the South Nottingham area. Ensure any external funding is linked to a secure community use agreement.
- ◀ Ensure that the quality of maintenance at Nottingham Moderns RFC is sustained as a minimum and improved where possible, in order to reduce current shortfalls.

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Rugby league

Although there are no dedicated rugby league pitches in Nottingham, given limited demand from Nottingham Outlaws RLFC provision is adequate to accommodate the demand for the Club.

This could be achieved should the Club secure management of the ex-Greenwood Meadows FC site which has floodlighting of the natural turf pitch, however the pitch must be maintained to a high standard to ensure sufficient pitch quality and capacity to sustain both training and match play use.

Summary

- ◀ There are two pitches used for rugby league in Nottingham; one at Highfields Sports Ground (University of Nottingham) and the other at Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University). Both are dual use pitches marked also for rugby union.
- ◀ Both pitches are rated as good quality.
- ◀ Nottingham Outlaws Rugby League Club is the only community club within the City and has a total of seven teams (three senior and four junior).
- ◀ Also, the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University each have two senior men's teams playing in the BUCS leagues on Wednesday afternoons.
- ◀ Whilst university teams use their respective sports ground sites, Nottingham Outlaws Rugby League Club also uses Highfield Sports Ground (UoN) for all senior competitive fixtures.
- ◀ Demand can be accommodated at this site; however 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 and is in discussions with the Council regarding transfer of the lease at the ex-Greenwood Meadows FC site.

Recommendations – rugby league

- ◀ Support Nottingham Outlaws RLFC with aspirations for self-management of a site and consider long-term leasehold of the ex-Greenwood Meadows FC site should the Club be able to sufficiently evidence capability and resource to sufficiently sustain the site.

Hockey pitches (AGPs)

The current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate all current and future demand. Plans to create two additional full sized AGPs at Nottingham Hockey Centre has the potential to allow the facility to become a centre of excellence for hockey in England.

Summary

- ◀ The current supply of hockey suitable AGP provision in the City can sufficiently accommodate all current and future demand.
- ◀ There are eight full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Nottingham, all of which are floodlit and available for community use. Six are considered broadly available for community use in some capacity, though the university managed pitches at Lee Westwood Sports Centre and David Ross Sports Village are generally exclusively for university use, with some limited capacity available amongst in-house programming.

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- ◀ Exactly half of hockey suitable AGP provision is rated as good quality (four pitches), whilst three are rated as standard quality (38%) and one at Southglade Leisure Centre is rated as poor (12%).
- ◀ The AGPs at Fernwood School, Southglade Leisure Centre and The Forest Recreation Ground have all exceeded the recommended ten year surface lifespan.
- ◀ There is a total of 18 small sided hockey suitable AGPs in Nottingham which may be able to accommodate some training demand.
- ◀ There are proposals to create two new AGPs at Highfields Park as an extension of Nottingham Hockey Centre, however this would impact on playing fields presently used for football.
- ◀ Nottingham Girls High School has submitted a planning application for the creation of two full sized artificial pitches on the school playing fields on Grassington Road, one of which would be a hockey suitable AGP surface.
- ◀ There are five community clubs in Nottingham generating demand of 839 members. In addition, both University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University operate significant hockey programmes.

Scenarios

- ◀ **Nottingham Hockey Centre** – Plans to create two additional AGPs at the site would create an additional 36 hours community use in the peak period as well as a minimum of four match equivalent sessions for Saturday afternoon matches for competitive match play. This would allow additional use from hockey clubs/teams and other sports such as football and touch rugby.
- ◀ **Transfer of hockey demand** – should new AGPs be created at Nottingham Hockey Centre, there are three AGPs across Nottingham; Fernwood School, The Forest Recreation Ground and Southglade Leisure Centre which are each used for 0.5 match sessions per week for competitive fixtures and for just midweek one hockey training session each. Relocation of these three clubs to Nottingham Hockey Centre would allow the AGPs to be converted to 3G whilst giving transferred hockey clubs a good quality playing surface.
- ◀ Transfer of hockey demand to Nottingham Hockey Centre from single use AGP sites would still allow 2.5 match sessions of weekly demand for competitive hockey at Nottingham Hockey Centre thus leaving room for future growth.
- ◀ **Conversion of AGPs to 3G** - conversion of sand based AGP's to 3G should not take place unless consultation with England Hockey identifies the AGP is not required to meet existing or future predicted demand.

Recommendations – hockey

- ◀ Pursue and support plans to develop additional AGPs at Nottingham Hockey Centre, on the condition that football users at Highfields Park are able to be suitably and agreeably re-accommodated elsewhere. This may include at a football hub site.
- ◀ Work with the relatively smaller local clubs to aggregate the hockey offer where possible, creating both a more coherent and wholistic offer and releasing AGPs in need of resurfacing (notably at The Forest Recreation Ground and Southglade Leisure centre) for conversion to 3G to form football hub sites.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- ◀ Maintain AGPs regularly and rigorously to the standard required to preserve quality for performance. Monitor quality and rate of natural deterioration and seek resurfacing when required so not to impact on hockey use.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability such as a sinking fund (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface repair or replacement when required) to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long term.

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Tennis

There is a sufficient supply of tennis courts in Nottingham to accommodate both current and future demand. Emphasis should be placed on ensuring that the current supply of courts is sustained and quality improvements made when possible.

Summary

- ◀ There is a total of 125 tennis courts provided in Nottingham across a range of sites including private sports clubs, parks and schools.
- ◀ 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 use, 69 courts (65%) are assessed as good quality, with 20 courts (19%) assessed as standard quality and the remaining 17 courts (16%) 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.

Recommendations – Tennis

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, particularly those used by clubs.
- ◀ Review quality issues relating to poor quality courts and seek improvements where appropriate.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at council sites to improve the casual tennis offer.
- ◀ Work with clubs regarding increasing community engagement and pay and play aspects including schools and non-members.
- ◀ Assist clubs in engaging with the County LTA to obtain advice and potential funding streams.

Bowling

Overall there is a sufficient number of bowling greens in Nottingham at each club site to accommodate both current demand and any anticipated future growth.

Summary

- ◀ 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.
- ◀ There are five identified disused or lapsed 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.

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- ◀ 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.

Recommendations – Bowling

- ◀ Improve green quality at sites identified as being poor or standard quality. Sustain quality of sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Support clubs which exhibit low membership levels to ensure they do not fold and greens do not become disused in the future.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to increase participation in the sport in the future through working closely with the Bowls Development Alliance and Active Notts.

Golf

Golf provision in Nottingham is adequate to accommodate both current and future levels demand. Consultation suggests that clubs both in Nottingham and in surrounding local authorities have seen a decline in membership and therefore capacity remains for future growth.

Summary

- ◀ There are four golf courses falling within the Nottingham, one is owned by the City Council, Bulwell Forest Golf Club (but leased out to the Club) and the remaining are private.
- ◀ The majority of members travel over five miles to access their course, although less than 10% come from outside of Nottingham.
- ◀ Participation in the area has generally decreased, yet most clubs have plans to increase membership and have the capacity to withstand future growth.
- ◀ Most Clubs believe that previous pricing structures are the reason for declining membership numbers.
- ◀ Junior demand at private courses is low, with players preferring to use municipal courses on a pay and play basis.
- ◀ The quality of private courses is reported to be excellent or good, whereas the municipal courses vary from excellent to average as a result of poor maintenance regimes.
- ◀ Ancillary facilities across the area are commonly good with Bulwell Forest Golf Club planning to refurbish its clubhouse in order to improve disabled access.
- ◀ The current supply of courses appears to satisfy user demand, and no future demand was recorded.

Recommendations – Golf

- ◀ Ensure maintenance regimes, particularly at Council operated sites, is undertaken to a good standard as to ensure a good overall quality.
- ◀ Look to encourage growth in the sport to develop higher memberships at clubs located in Nottingham.

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Other sports

Provision for lacrosse, American football, ultimate frisbee and gaelic football is adequate to accommodate current levels of demand. It is unlikely that future growth in any of the above sports will generate demand for additional or dedicated playing pitch provision to be created.

Lacrosse summary

- ◀ Demand for lacrosse (based at both universities) is considered able to be sufficiently catered for by existing artificial turf pitch provision, given the preference for use of 3G pitches.
- ◀ There are just one community lacrosse club in Nottingham, a junior club which trains only. Most demand is university based, playing in university sports leagues on Wednesday afternoons.
- ◀ There are 11 teams playing lacrosse in the City, five men's teams and six women's teams.
- ◀ All matches and training take place on 3G pitches at Jubilee Campus and David Ross Sports Village (both University of Nottingham) or Lee Westwood Sports Centre (Nottingham Trent University).
- ◀ There are seven grass pitches which are generally used for training purposes.
- ◀ Demand for lacrosse has increased, with University of Nottingham entering a fourth team in the BUCS leagues last season.
- ◀ Access to facilities for lacrosse matches and training is considered to be secured through the respective universities' student sports programmes and facilities used are university managed and programmed.

American football summary

- ◀ Demand for American football is considered able to be sufficiently catered for by existing artificial turf pitch provision, given the preference for use of 3G pitches.
- ◀ There is one natural turf American football pitch located at Bilborough Park, available and used by Nottingham Caesars.
- ◀ There is one community American football club in the City (Nottingham Caesars), whilst both universities have men's contact and women's flag football teams. In total, there are four contact teams (three men's, one junior boys) and two women's flag football teams.
- ◀ Nottingham Caesars use natural turf pitch provision and all training and matches take place on the one pitch at Bilborough Park. It receives approximately one match and one training session per week.
- ◀ All university play and training takes place on 3G pitches at Lee Westwood Sports Centre (NTU), Jubilee Campus and David Ross Sports Village (both University of Nottingham)

Ultimate frisbee summary

- ◀ Current provision is deemed adequate to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◀ Nottingham Trent University operates one senior men's teams playing regularly in the BUCS league. Similarly, The University of Nottingham operates two senior men's teams which play in the BUCS league.
- ◀ There is one community based club which does not affiliate to UK Ultimate. The Club's main ambitions are to introduce people to the sport to increase overall participation levels in Nottingham.

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Gaelic football summary

- ◀ Current provision is deemed adequate to accommodate both current and future demand.
- ◀ St Barnaba GAA Club operates a senior men's and women's team as well as a junior section.
- ◀ There is no dedicated Gaelic football provision in Nottingham however overmarked rugby union provision is adequate to accommodate all demand.
- ◀ It is recommended that secured access to current provision is the priority to allow the sport to continue to grow in the future.

Recommendations – Other sports

- ◀ Ensure that each sport is adequately catered for whether by access to sufficient natural turf or artificial turf pitch provision dependent on the preferred facility type.
- ◀ Seek to create formal arrangements so that community clubs have secured tenure in the future.

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PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Aim 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites 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 education facilities where there is a need to do so.

Recommendation a – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

Paragraph 74 of the Framework 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.

Lapsed and disused – playing field sites that formerly accommodated playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use.

- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These sites 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 and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

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Disused and lapsed sites in Nottingham

Site name	Local Plan Review Ref	Analysis Area	Sport(s)	Status	Comments
Beckhampton Centre	N/A	North	Football	Disused	Former education centre for pregnant girls and young mothers of school ages which closed on 31 st August 2016. Two-tiered playing field behind the centre previously hosted three football pitches of varying sizes.
Hempshill Lane	N/A	North	Football	Lapsed	One adult and one youth 9v9 football pitch, both poor quality. also with adjacent play area, Neighbours Nottingham Outlaws BMX Club track. No onsite changing or toilet facilities since the pub on the corner of the junction closed down.
			Bowling		One bowling green now lapsed.
Chingford Playing Fields	PA25	North	Football	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development - a proportion of the site should be retained as provision for semi-natural open space.
Clifton West	PA57	South	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.
Fairham Comprehensive School	PA59	South	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.
Former Eastglade Primary and Nursery School	PA3	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.
Former Henry Mellish School Playing Fields	PA10	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site to be retained as open space.
Former Padstow School	PA8	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space, with development of Southglade Leisure Centre and Park as a hub site instead if demand requires.

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Site name	Local Plan Review Ref	Analysis Area	Sport(s)	Status	Comments
Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road)	PA6	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Former school playing field now lapsed. Previously accommodated approximately four to five grass pitches, was originally identified as a potential site for development of a sports hub however it is no longer required to be retained for formal sport use and can be released for development, with development of Southglade Leisure Centre and Park as a hub site instead if demand requires.
Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Ridgeway)	PA5	North	N/A	Lapsed	Former school playing field now lapsed, publicly accessible. Allocated for residential development. No longer used or required for formal sport provision with the development of Southglade Leisure Centre and Park developed as a hub site instead if demand requires. Some reported unauthorised recreational use, able to be accommodated at other sites in the locality.
Haywood Detached Playing Fields	PA9	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development 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 if demand requires.
Lortas Road	PA19	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development 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 if demand requires.
Melbury School Playing Fields	PA24	North	N/A	Lapsed	No longer used or required for formal sport provision. Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.
Greenholme School	N/A	Central	Playing field/ Tennis/ netball	Lapsed	Former school playing field now overgrown, which also accommodates a hard court area marked for both tennis and netball. The site is believed to be last used in 2011 when the School was permanently closed.

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Furthermore, there are some sites with disused playing pitches no longer marked, however, the sites as a whole remain operational as they are either protected or serve a wider function such as a public park and therefore are not likely to be considered for potential development.

Disused/unmarked pitches in Nottingham

Site name	Analysis area	Sport(s)	Last used	Comments
Colwick Racecourse	South	Football	Unknown	Five adult pitches previously marked within the racecourse track, lease from NCC by The Jockey Club. Changing pavilion was burned down and pitches are no longer marked. Potential to develop a football hub onsite.
Wollaton Park	Central	Football	Unknown	Large hub park which previously accommodated three pitches (adult, youth 11v11 and mini soccer). Previously used by Wollaton Hall & Bramcote FC before the club was relocated to Highfields Park, as part of a non-sporting decision to remove formal football from the site. Pitches no longer marked and onsite changing building being converted to an onsite café.

Any sites omitted from the PPS either intended or having been overlooked, whether used, disused or lapsed, are subject to the same conditions as those detailed herein. Any such site is not to be considered as not required or surplus as part of the planning process.

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

It is recommended that the Council allocates all disused/lapsed sites as playing field in the first instance until such time as the Council, NGB/Community group or a developer expresses an interest in the site. It is also recommended that the following priority order of options is adopted with regards to addressing disused/lapsed sites:

- 1) Firstly, explore the feasibility of bringing the site back into use. A feasibility study may show either:
 - a) The site can be brought back into sustainable use where funding is available and use is secured by the Council and relevant NGBs/Community Groups; or
 - b) The site is not in a sustainable location and in which case no amount of money will make it desirable.

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- 2) The site could become public open space to meet a need identified in the Open Space Study; or
- 3) Redevelop the site for an alternative use but use the capital receipt to invest in existing sites in the locality

Each currently disused/lapsed site is included within the action plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified with the Assessment.

New housing development - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand and capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity or if new provision is required.

Housing Growth scenarios have been provided in Part 7 to estimate the additional demand generated by housing by sport and pitch type.

Development management - the PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England as statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and their¹³ Playing Fields Policy.

Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.

Policy Exception E1:

'A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport'.

Where the PPS cannot demonstrate the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.

Policy Exception E4:

'The playing field or fields to be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new playing field site or sites:

¹³<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>

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- ◀ of equivalent or better quality and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity;
- ◀ in a suitable location and
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better management arrangements.

Further to this, all playing fields should be protected or replaced up until the point where all satisfied demand has been met within the study area or each individual sports catchment areas within a sub area.

Local authorities wanting to dispose of school playing field land need consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, but consent is now also required for disposal of any land used by a school or academy under Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

It should be noted that consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act does not necessarily mean subsequent planning approval will be granted. Therefore, any application for planning permission must meet the requirements of the relevant policy, in this case paragraph 74 of Framework, Local Plan Policy and Sport England policy. Indeed, applicants are advised to engage Sport England before submitting applications. Robust implementation of the statutory obligation will ensure protection of school playing fields for use by pupils (and sometimes the community as a whole) to ensure receipt is ploughed back into sports education.

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

A number of school sites are being used in Nottingham for competitive play, predominately for football. In all cases use of pitches has not been classified as unsecure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate Community Use Agreement (CUA) is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may not have direct influence.

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

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)¹⁴. 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. **The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could 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.**

¹⁴ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

The Council can further recognise the value of NGB club accreditation 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.

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Community asset transfer

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

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/asset-transfer/>

Recommendation c – Maximise community use of education sites where there is a need to do so

Given the mix of provider in Nottingham, there is a need for the Council and NGBs to work with other partners to help maximise use of outdoor sports facilities and in particular grass pitches and AGPs.

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 barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue.

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to grass pitches for community use is limited.

In some instances, grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before community use can be established.

As detailed earlier, Sport England has also produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

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 to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

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Aim 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendation:

- 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

Recommendation d – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality and these are explored below. One way for improving quality on football sites is via the FA's pitch improvement programme.

The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas and discounts on machinery and materials to support improving the clubs' playing surface. The programme should be utilised in order to help any clubs that take on the management and maintenance of sites or which are currently managing and maintaining their own pitch site.

As subsidy is removed for pitch maintenance the PIP is an essential toolkit in supporting self-management/maintenance of sites, particularly on adult sites that have historically been maintained by the Council.

Addressing quality issues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate size of changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old dated interior.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality pitches may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites such as those mentioned above should be given priority for improvement.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites **it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the Area, to provide a steer on future investment.**

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 grass pitch should take:

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Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union ¹⁵	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		

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 that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

Increasing pitch maintenance

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

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

¹⁵ 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.

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At local authority sites in Nottingham, maintenance of grass pitches is deemed to be basic and for football covers grass cutting and seeding only, resulting in many pitches being assessed as poor quality. Where local authority pitches are recommended for improvement within the action plan, carrying out additional regular work such as aerating, sand dressing, fertilising and/or weed killing will all improve quality. An improvement in post season remedial work is also recommended. It is recommended that the Council works with users and the relevant County Football Associations (Nottinghamshire FA) to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site by site basis.

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, whilst the LCB Groundsman's Association offers maintenance tips to local clubs as well as an onsite assessment service with subsequent report advising recommended maintenance actions.

Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the City, including some local authority sites. It is recommended that a holistic view is taken in regard to improvements and provision on site.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance. Multi-pitch football sites including Victoria Embankment, Melbourne Park and Clifton Playing Fields are reported to offer poor quality changing provision, whilst other sites do not offer accompanying changing provision at all. Other sites with poor quality changing provision include Lenton Lane and Woodthorpe Grange Park.

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.

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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 Three 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 peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence. However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health and wellbeing for example.

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Aim 3

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation g - 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 pitches may be required to meet the levels of demand identified for football and rugby both now and in the future.

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

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

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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	As a result of the FA Youth Development Review pitch demands are changing. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).	Consider re-allocating leases to Community Charter Standard clubs with a large number of teams. Work with clubs to identify facility development opportunities. Work with clubs in relation to their pitch demands as a result of the FA Youth Development Review.
	Demand for senior football is likely to be sustained based on current trends and the move to small sided football. County FA focus to maintain growth of youth football through to adults.	Sustain current stock but consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required.
	An increase in women and girls football following £2.4m investment from Sport England between 2014 and 2016 to increase the number of women and girls taking part in football sessions. Additionally, one of the major goals of The FA's 'Game Changer' strategy for Women's and Girls' football (2017-2020) is to double participation from the current 6,000 teams to 12,000.	A need to provide segregated ancillary facilities and the potential need for more pitches.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for adult participation. The ECB targets participation increases at junior level through the Allstars Cricket Programme which may have a subsequent future impact on requirement for grass and non-turf cricket provision.	Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to encourage greater use of non-turf wickets particularly for junior use to help meet shortfalls.
	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	Locally, the RFU wants to ensure access to pitches in Nottingham that satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock, support facility development where appropriate and increase the number of floodlit pitches where necessary.
Rugby league	RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL.	Review the need for dedicated rugby league pitches in the next three years. Seek 3G pitch venues for Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside.

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Sport	Future development trend	Strategy impact
AGPs	<p>Demand for 3G pitches for competitive football will increase. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches to service competitive football, particularly mini and youth will result in some reduced demand for grass pitches.</p> <p>Provision of 3G pitches which are World Rugby compliant will help to reduce overplay as a result of training on rugby pitches.</p>	<p>Ensure that access to new AGP provision across the City is maximised and that community use agreements are in place.</p> <p>Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface:</p> <p>http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf</p>
Hockey	Potential increase of participation particularly junior teams.	Sinking funds in place to improve quality and ensure continued use of provision for current and future hockey demand.

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

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

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

Some sites (or adjacent land) in Nottingham also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which may be a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

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:

Revised Publication Ref Number	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type	Status	Proposed development
PA25	Chingford Playing Fields	North	Football	Open Space	A proportion of the site should be retained as provision for semi-natural open space. This could be incorporated into multi-purpose green space. Nearby parks and open spaces have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.

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Revised Publication Ref Number	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type	Status	Proposed development
PA57	Clifton West	South	N/A	Open Space / Agricultural	Proposed uses – residential with a proportion of the site retained as open space as set out in the Development Principles. 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.
PA59	Fairham Comprehensive School	South	N/A	Education & Open Space	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. 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.
PA03	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA13	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA10	Former Henry Mellish School Playing Fields	North	N/A	Open Space	Proposed uses - residential with part of site to be developed for school pitches subject to community use agreement.

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Revised Publication Ref Number	Site name	Analysis Area	Pitch type	Status	Proposed development
PA08	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA06	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road)	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA05	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA09	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA19	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 if demand requires, currently proposed at Southglade Park
PA24	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 Haddon Sports Complex (Bilborough Park), have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.

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PART 6: ACTION PLAN

Introduction

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

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

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be prioritised and programmed within a phased approach a tiered model to for the improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities is useful.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport by sport basis or across the City as a whole. Recommended tiered site criteria:

Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the Analysis Area.	Serves the local community. Likely to include education sites.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more good quality grass pitches. Including provision of at least one AGP/3G pitch. May offer potential for development as a Parklife football hub.	Accommodates two or more good quality 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.
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.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

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Hub sites are of City wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi sport. These have been identified on the basis of high impact on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of 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

Where development of Hub Sites includes provision of 3G pitches for football it is recommended that further modelling/feasibility work is carried out to ensure sustainability of new 3G pitches to accommodate competitive fixtures. However, as a priority consultation should be carried out with leagues/clubs to gauge acceptance/buy in of moving competitive play to 3G pitches in the future. In Nottingham, this is currently being undertaken through the Parklife Programme process which incorporates demand modelling, a degree of market testing with key local clubs and leagues, commercial planning for sustainability and other related variables.

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

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

Local sites refer to those sites which are generally one and two pitch sites and may be Council owned hired to clubs for a season or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. However, they are also likely to be private club sites serving one particular sport.

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. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend 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 or school sites where there is no current demand for community use.

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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.
- ◀ Availability of funding for hub site development.
- ◀ Impact on all sports that use a site regardless of the sport that is the subject of enhancements.

Action plan columns

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

Although Hub Sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have City wide importance, high priority sites have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment and therefore some Key Centres are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

It is recommended that as the Steering Group reviews and updates the action plan that medium and low priority sites are then identified as the next level of sites for attention. As a guide, it is recommended that:

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

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

Costs

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

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

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These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf

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 are recommended within the following three categories:

- ◀ Short (S) – 1 to 2 years
- ◀ Medium (M) - 3 to 5 years
- ◀ Long (L) - 6+ years

Aim

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

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NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ¹⁶
Football (grass pitches)	Spare capacity on adult pitches equating to two match sessions per week. Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by 3.5 match sessions per week. Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity on adult pitches equating to one match session per week. Youth 11v11 shortfall of 2.5 match sessions per week. Youth 9v9 pitches overplayed by 4.5 match sessions per week. Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.
Football (3G pitches) ¹⁷	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Rugby union (senior pitches)	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Rugby league (senior pitches)	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Cricket	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Tennis	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Outdoor Bowls	No shortfalls.	No shortfalls.
Golf	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.

¹⁶ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

¹⁷ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
2	Bilborough College	Football	College	One standard adult pitch which is overplayed by two match sessions per week.	Seek options to improve quality to accommodate to partially alleviate overplay. Explore opportunities to transfer some match play from the site to sites exhibiting spare capacity or to 3G.	FA College	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
		AGP		Two small sided sand filled AGPs with floodlighting which do not accommodate any hockey use.	Ensure that the quality of the small sided surfaces is sustained and that a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.	England Hockey College		Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
3	Bilborough Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality pitches which collectively have a spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance agreement.	Council	Key Centre	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
48	Harvey Hadden Sports Village	Football/ American football	Council/ Trust	Adult football pitch overmarked with American football markings situated within the athletics track, used by Nottingham Caesars American football club and Bilborough Town FC which plays at Step 7 of the non-league system. Maintained by NCC Parks department. FA Pitch Improvement Programme report identifies current maintenance regime is limited which has left pitches in an unsatisfactory state, whilst pitches suffer from severe compaction and there are large bare areas which result in cancelled fixtures. Changing rooms within the leisure centre building are too far away from the pitch and do not meet Step 7 requirements.	Seek to refurbish the poor quality athletics pavilion which lies unused so that it may act as changing facilities to service the track pitch at Step 7 of the non-league system.	Council Trust FA England Athletics		Medium	Short	Medium	Protect Enhance
4	Bulwell Hall Park	Football	Council	Two poor quality adult pitches with minimal peak time capacity which is discounted from overall capacity due to issues with surface quality.	Explore opportunities to increase level of maintenance on the site to increase available capacity	Council FA	Key Centre	Medium	Medium	Low	Enhance
9	Ellis Guilford Sports Centre	Football	Education	One youth 11v11 football pitch which is available for community use but unused.	No current local demand for community use. Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	School	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Cricket		One poor quality non-turf wicket unavailable for community use due to quality issues.							
		AGP		Small sided sand filled AGP with floodlights. Unused for hockey.	Ensure that a sinking fund is in place to resurface the AGP in the future.						
19	Mill Street Playing Field	3G	Sports Club	Site managed by Basford United FC which has long-term leasehold of the pitches and ancillary provision. Good quality 3G stadia pitch converted from grass in 2016, assisted by Football Foundation funding secured. FIFA Quality standard certification.	Maintain regularly and rigorously as required for performance use at Step 4.	Sports Club FA	Hub site	High	Long	Low	Protect
					Ensure the pitch is recertified annually in order to retain FIFA Quality certification.			High	Short	Low	
					Encourage the provider to ensure a mechanism for long-term sustainability is in place, such as a sinking fund.			High	Long	Low	
		Football		Four adult football pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch. All pitches are good quality and receive a high level of maintenance from Notts County FC which use the site as an academy training ground.	Ensure that the quality of the all grass pitches on site are sustained through upkeep of the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club FA	Club	High	Long	Low	

¹⁸ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

¹⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹	Aim
22	Nottingham Girls' Academy	Football	Education	One adult pitch with no community use.	Consider exploring future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
23	Nottingham Girls High School	Football	Education	One good quality adult football pitch which is used for 0.5 match sessions per week. The site also has a youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch which are available for community use but are unused.	Ensure quality of the pitches on site are sustained for both curricular use and to accommodate any potential future community use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
		Tennis		Seven hard courts of good quality but no community use.	Ensure that the quality of courts is sustained for curricular use. Explore opportunities to utilise courts for the community if there is a strategic need to do so.	Education LTA		Low	Long	Low	
		AGP		The school has submitted a planning application for the creation of two full sized artificial pitches (one 3G, one sand based) on the school playing fields on Grassington Road.	Consider potential impact of permitted community use on Nottingham Hockey Centre, especially in light of proposals to develop new AGP provision there.	Education England Hockey		High	Short	High	
		3G			Pursue development of new 3G pitch provision and secure community use for Wollaton Hall Bramcote FC.	Education FA		High	Short	High	
		Lacrosse			A natural turf lacrosse pitch used exclusively for school use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular use.		Education	Low	Long	
24	Nottingham High School	Football	Education	Two youth football pitches and four cricket pitches overmarked in summer. No spare capacity for community use.	Consider future potential to open up facilities for community use depending on strategic need.	Education	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Rugby Union		Six standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches which are not available for community use. Pitches are							
		Cricket		Three natural turf grass cricket squares and a standalone NTP. All unavailable for community use.							
26	Nottingham University Samworth Academy	Football	University	One adult pitch with no community use.	Work with the University to maximise community use of the 3G pitch and explore options to link this with availability of the grass pitch for community use.	University	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Tennis		Four good quality tennis courts available for community use but receive minimal use.							
		3G		Small sided 3G pitch suitable for small sided and recreational play.							

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁰	Cost ²¹	Aim
28	Southglade Leisure Centre	Football	Council	Five adult, two youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all identified as being poor quality. Minimal spare capacity exists on the site but poor surface quality	Develop as a sporting hub site and seek to improve pitch quality through improved management and maintenance regimes.	Council FA	Hub site	High	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
		AGP		One poor quality full sized sand dressed AGP built in 2006. Used by Redhill Ladies HC though the Club has used The Forest Recreation Ground at times over the past season due to qualitative issues. Little use, especially for hockey.	Pursue aggregation of the hockey offer through plans for new AGPs at Highfields Park, in order to release this AGP for surface conversion to 3G. Improve quality of management and maintenance regimes across the site.	Council England Hockey FA		High	Short	High	
		3G		A poor quality medium pile 3G pitch built in 2006 which has had to recently undergo repair to retain certification on the FA register. Demand for use has decreased and relocated due to qualitative issues.	Resurface the 3G pitch to improve quality for use, potentially alongside conversion of the AGP if timings allow. Improve quality of management and maintenance regimes across the site.	Council FA		High	Short	High	
34	Top Valley Academy	Football	Education	Three standard quality adult pitches with no community use.	Consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	Council	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Cricket		Two standard quality non-turf wickets with no community use.	Seek to ensure that quality of the wickets is sustained for curricular use.	ECB		Low	Long	Low	
35	Trinity School	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches with no community use and one standard quality non-turf wicket with potential for community use.	Seek to ensure quality of all facilities on the site is sustained.	ECB	Local site	High	Short	Low	Protect
		Cricket						High	Short	Low	
36	Vernon Park	Football	Council	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. Actual spare capacity exists on adult and youth 9v9 pitches.	Retain current levels of play and spare capacity in order to protect/sustain pitch quality.	Council FA	Key Centre	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Tennis		Four floodlit tennis courts assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality and seek to maximise use.	Council		Low	Long	Low	
		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.	Council		Low	Long	Low	

²⁰ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

²¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²²	Cost ²³	Aim
38	West Indian Cavaliers Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One natural grass cricket square with eight standard quality wickets which has limited spare capacity remaining. Adequate changing provision which the Club has aspirations to upgrade. The Club has a ten-year lease agreement on its site as of 2017. Club to merge with Carrington CC for the 2018 cricket season which will result in both sites being utilised.	Seek to sustain quality of the cricket square to accommodate high levels of demand. Explore opportunities to improve quality of the square through enhanced preparatory and remedial maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local site	Medium	Medium	Medium	Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult football pitch played to capacity.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained to accommodate current and future levels of demand.			Low	Long	Low	
41	Bulwell Forest	Tennis	Council	One tennis court assessed as good quality.	Seek to ensure good quality is sustained for future recreational use. Ensure funds are available to resurface court in the future.	Council LTA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	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.	Seek to ensure that quality of the green is sustained for continued multi club use.			Low	Long	Low	
44	Hempshill Lane	Football	Council	One adult and one youth 9v9 football pitch and adjacent play area, the site neighbouring Nottingham Outlaws BMX Club track. No onsite changing or toilet facilities since the pub on the corner of the junction closed down and an onsite bowling green which is no longer maintained or used.	Consider site feasibility to accommodate youth football pitches to meet shortfalls. Alternatively, no requirement to be retained for pitch provision.	Council	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Provide
		Bowls									
48	King George V Playing Fields	Football	Education	Youth 9v9 football pitch secured by St Teresa's Catholic Primary School. Site has substantial playing field land and can accommodate additional pitches if required.	Ensure quality of grass pitch is sustained for curricular use. Consider potential future uses for site including community asset transfer.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
50	Stockhill Park	Tennis	Council	Three courts assessed as poor quality.	Explore opportunities to improve quality of the courts through resurfacing.	Council LTA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Bowls		Derelict bowling green.	Consider future strategic requirement of provision.	Council		Low	Long	Low	
60	Strelley Recreation Ground	Tennis	Council	One court assessed as poor quality.	Explore opportunities to improve quality of the court through increased maintenance or resurfacing of the court.	Council	Local site	Low	Long	Low	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.	Seek to ensure that the quality of the court is sustained to ensure continued use.			Low	Long	Low	
52	Mapperley Park Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four floodlit courts assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality and ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain investment made.	Sports Club LTA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect

²² (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

²³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²²	Cost ²³	Aim
71	Bluecoats Beechdale Academy (Hadden Park)	Football	Education	Two standard adult football pitches that are available for community use with spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure maintenance of the pitches is sustained to accommodate both curricular and community club use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect Enhance
		Rugby		One poor senior rugby pitch (M0/D1) that is available for community use but unused.	Seek to improve quality of the pitch for curricular use through improving the level of maintenance undertaken on the pitch.	School RFU		Low	Long	Low	
		AGP		Half size sand filled AGP that is available for community use and used.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.	School		Low	Long	Low	
18	Melbourne Park	Football	Council	Key site with seven adult, one youth 9v9 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch all are identified as being poor quality. Spare capacity on all pitch types although pitch quality improvements required before pitches should receive further use. The youth pitch is overplayed. Poor quality changing facilities which require investment. Education FC in discussions with the Council regarding the presented offer of a 30 year lease.	Support the Club in obtaining long-term leasehold of the site and seek to improve quality of pitches and supporting ancillary facilities onsite.	Council FA	Key site	High	Short	Medium	Protect Enhance
72	Bulwell Academy	AGP	Education	A large sand filled AGP built in 2010. Pitch is undersized for hockey and therefore cannot accommodate competitive fixtures.	Ensure that pitch quality is regularly maintained and that a suitable sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.	Education England Hockey	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Tennis		Four floodlit courts assessed as good quality that are available for community use but unused.	No current local demand but consider future potential to open up for community use depending on strategic need.	Education LTA		Low	Long	Low	
101	Bluecoats Academy (Aspley site)	Football	Education	A good quality adult football pitch. Pitch is available for community use but is unused.	Consider future potential to open up the site to accommodate teams through Nottingham to accommodate any potential shortfalls. Cricket would require investment to be brought back into use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Rugby		One adult rugby pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but not used.		Education RFU		Low	Long	Low	
		Cricket		Poor quality non-turf wicket unfit for purpose. No actual spare capacity for community use due to poor quality		Education ECB		Low	Long	Low	
		Tennis		Two MUGAs both accommodate four tennis/3 netball courts assessed as good quality with fencing but no floodlighting.		Education LTA		Low	Long	Low	
202	Bulwell Forest Golf Club	Golf	Council	18-hole good quality golf facility with bunkers and putting greens.	Ensure good quality is sustained through good quality maintenance and investment when required.	Council England Golf	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
207	Nottingham City Golf Club	Golf	Council	18-hole good quality golf facility with bunkers and putting greens.	Ensure good quality is sustained through good quality maintenance and investment when required.	Council England Golf	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
DIS	Beckhampton Centre	N/A	Council	Disused - Former education centre for pregnant girls and young mothers of school ages which closed on 31 st August 2016. Two-tiered playing field behind the centre previously hosted three football pitches of varying sizes site is now disused. Proposed to be lost to residential development.	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub.	Council FA	-	-	-	-	-

**NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²²	Cost ²³	Aim
LAP	Hempshill Lane	N/A	Council	Lapsed - One adult and one youth 9v9 football pitch and adjacent play area, the site neighbouring Nottingham Outlaws BMX Club track. No onsite changing or toilet facilities since the pub on the corner of the junction closed down. Site now lapsed.	Determine future use of the site based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	Council FA	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA24	Chingford Playing Fields	Football	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development - a proportion of the site should be retained as provision for semi-natural open space.	Retain a proportion of the site for semi-natural open space. This could be incorporated into multi-purpose green space. Nearby parks and open spaces have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.	Council FA	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA37	Former Haywood School Site	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development 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.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision due to size.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA39	Former Henry Mellish School Playing Fields	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site to be developed for school pitches subject to community use agreement. Site now lapsed.	Develop new playing field and seek to secure community use for local users.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA36	Former Eastglade Primary and Nursery School	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development 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. Site now lapsed.	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA40	Former Padstow School	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development 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.	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA41	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Beckhampton Road)	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Former school playing field now lapsed, publicly accessible due to compromised roadside fencing. Previously accommodated approximately four to five grass pitches, was originally identified as a potential site for development of a sports hub however is no longer required to be retained for formal sport use and can be released for development,	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA42	Former Padstow School Detached Playing Fields (Ridgeway)	N/A	Council	Former school playing field, publicly accessible but no longer used for formal football. Allocated for residential development, however reported to be used by local football participation group Rejects FC.	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub. Secure use for Rejects FC at the hub site.	Council	-	-	-	-	-

**NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²²	Cost ²³	Aim
LAP: LA43	Haywood Detached Playing Fields	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed uses - residential.	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA47	Lortas Road	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development 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.	Mitigate the loss of playing field land through investment into the development of facilities at Southglade Leisure Centre and Southglade Park as a local sporting hub.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA49	Melbury School Playing Fields	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision. Nearby parks and open spaces including redeveloped Harvey Hadden Sports Village have capacity for future increases in demand for pitches.	Council	-	-	-	-	-

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ²⁴
Football (grass pitches)	<p>Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches.</p> <p>Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity.</p> <p>Shortfall of two match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of equating to one match session per week on mini 7v7 pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of one match session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.</p>	<p>Shortfall of two match sessions per week on adult pitches.</p> <p>Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches.</p> <p>Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of equating to 0.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions per week on mini 5v5 pitches.</p>
Football (3G pitches) ²⁵	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.
Rugby union (senior pitches)	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Rugby league (senior pitches)	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Cricket	Current shortfall of 32 match sessions per season at Wollaton CC. Shortfall exacerbated to 44 match sessions with displaced demand.	Shortfall of 44 match sessions per season at Wollaton CC. Junior growth exacerbates shortfalls to 50 match sessions per season.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Tennis	No identified shortfalls.	No identified shortfalls.
Outdoor Bowls	No identified shortfalls.	No identified shortfalls.
Golf	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.

²⁴ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

²⁵ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁶	Cost ²⁷	Aim
1	Basford Mill Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A poor-quality cricket square with eight grass wickets and a NTP. Square is played to capacity. Basford Mill Cricket Club has free use of its pitch which is owned by the NHS Trust, however though there is no reported perceived threat of losing access, the Club is unable to secure a lease. Consequently, the Club is considered to have unsecure tenure which obstructs its ability to meet criteria for grant funding applications in order to improve facilities.	Explore opportunities to work with Basford CC to improve quality of the cricket square through an increased maintenance and preparatory regime. Explore resolutions with key stakeholders to provide tenure for the Club so it can secure future grant funding.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	High	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
8	Djanogly City Academy Nottingham (Haydn Road Sports Ground)	Football	Education	A good quality youth 11v11 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Explore strategic requirement to better utilise facilities at the school site. Work with school to open football pitch for community use if required.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		AGP		A standard quality small sided sand filled AGP. Pitch is available for community use but receives limited use.		Education England Hockey		Low			
11	Fernwood School	Football	Education	Two standard quality adult pitches and a standard quality mini 7v7 pitch. Pitches are available for community use but receive no current usage.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained for curricular use. Explore strategic requirement for pitches to be utilised.	Education FA	Key site	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
		Rugby Union		A standard quality (M1/D1) rugby union pitch which is available for community use but unused. Not floodlit.		Education RFU		Low			
		AGP		A full sized standard quality sand dressed AGP built in 2003. The pitch is past its recommended life expectancy and likely to deteriorate in quality in the near future. Used for one competitive hockey match a week and a one-hour training session by Trent Vale Hockey Club.		Education England Hockey FA		Medium			
		Tennis		Four good quality macadam courts. Courts are not floodlit. Available for community use but receive limited demand.		Education LTA		Low			
12	Greenwood Meadows Football Club	Football	Sports Club	A good quality adult pitch and mini 5v5 pitch. Ancillary provision identified as being poor quality and needing investment to modernise the facility. Council in discussion with Nottingham Outlaws RLFC regarding possible lease of the site.	Subject to securing leasehold of the site, support Nottingham Outlaws RLFC to develop the site as a home ground from which to base itself for the future and which it is able to improve	Sports Club RFL FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Medium	Protect Enhance

²⁶ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

²⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²⁸	Cost ²⁹	Aim
13	Riverside Sports Complex	Football	University	16 good quality adult football pitches with high amounts of spare capacity. Spare capacity discounted from overall supply/demand figures due to tenure being insecure.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for both competitive university fixtures and intramural sport. Explore opportunities to establish secure community arrangements with established clubs.	University FA	Key site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Provide
		Cricket		Three good quality grass cricket squares each with 12 wickets. Substantial spare capacity in the peak period however this is discounted from overall figures due to tenure being insecure for community clubs.	Seek to secure access for use by Wollaton CC as a solution to alleviating levels of overplay at Wollaton Village Sports Association. Sustain pitch quality through continued regular and rigorous maintenance regime.	University ECB		Medium	Short	Low	
		Rugby Union		Four good quality (M2/D2) senior pitches available for community use but unused. Tenure insecure for community clubs.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for both competitive university fixtures and intramural sport. Explore opportunities to install floodlighting to provide additional training facilities.	University RFU		Medium	Medium	Medium	
		Lacrosse		Two lacrosse pitches which are used sporadically for training and match purposes. Main lacrosse activity takes place on 3G pitches.	Protect for recreational use/competitive match play.	University England Lacrosse		Low	Long	Low	
15	Highfields Park	Football	Sports Club	Two adult football pitches overplayed by 3.5 match sessions per week as well as a youth 9v9 pitch which is overplayed by one match session per week. A mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitch with no peak time capacity. All pitches are standard quality. There are proposals on the site to create two full sized hockey suitable AGPs from a private education provider which would be created over grass football provision on site and therefore there is a need to relocate site user Wollaton Hall & Bramcote FC.	Relocate Wollaton Hall & Bramcote FC to an appropriate site in Nottingham and in accessible proximity to Highfields Park to allow the creation of additional hockey suitable AGPs to create a hockey hub of national significance.	Sports Club FA England Hockey	Hub site	High	Short	High	Provide

²⁸ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

²⁹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁰	Cost ³¹	Aim
16	University of Nottingham - Highfields Sports Ground	Football	University	Five good quality adult pitches with high levels of peak time capacity which is however discounted due to insecure tenure for community clubs. Youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches which have no identified use.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained for University uses. Explore opportunities for pitches to be utilised by community clubs through secure community use agreements.	University FA	Key site	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
		Cricket		A 12-wicket good quality natural turf cricket square with high levels of peak time capacity. Spare capacity discounted due to insecure tenure for community clubs.	Ensure quality of each cricket square is sustained for both intramural fixtures and competitive fixtures.	University ECB		Low	Long	Low	
		Rugby union		Three good quality (M2/D2) senior rugby union pitches used exclusively by the University for both intramural and competitive rugby fixtures in addition to rugby league usage from Nottingham Outlaws RLFC. Pitches are not floodlit. There is spare capacity available on the site for peak time use but this is discounted due to insecure tenure for community clubs.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for both competitive university fixtures and intramural sport. Explore opportunities to expand floodlit capacity through additional floodlighting or potentially as host to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	University RFU		Medium	Medium	Medium	
		Rugby League		No dedicated rugby league provision but the site is utilised by Nottingham Outlaws RLFC on overmarked rugby union pitches.	Ensure that Nottingham Outlaws RLFC are able to access pitch provision in the future to ensure growth of rugby league in Nottingham.	University RFL		Low	Long	Low	
		Lacrosse		Three lacrosse pitches which are used sporadically for training and match purposes. Main lacrosse activity takes place on 3G pitches.	Protect for recreational use/competitive match play.	University England Lacrosse		Low	Long	Low	
27	Radford Football Club	Football	Sports Club	A single good quality adult pitch. Club has 25 year lease from the Council to expire in 2038. Recently received Football Foundation funding to refurbish changing facilities.	Refurbish changing facilities to improve quality for use. Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for continued levels of use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
29	The Brian Wakefield Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	Two good quality adult pitches with no peak time capacity. Mini 7v7 pitch which is standard quality with minimal spare capacity.	Ensure that quality of all pitches on site is sustained to accommodate current levels of use.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Cricket		A good quality natural turf cricket square with 16 wickets. Site is the home ground to Nottingham Unity Casuals CC and ICCA CC. Site has an overall spare capacity of 17 matches per season but none in the peak period.	Seek to sustain current good quality of the cricket square by continuation of the current maintenance and preparatory regimes currently undertaken.	Sports Club ECB		Low	Long	Low	

³⁰ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

³¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³²	Cost ³³	Aim
30	The Forest Recreation Ground	Football	Council/ Community Trust	Two standard quality adult football pitches overplayed by three match sessions per week. A standard quality youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch each with minimal spare capacity. Issues surrounding pitch quality due to the annual Goose Fair festival which takes place in September each year.	Seek to ensure that quality of the pitches is sustained, especially considering wider implications of the annual Goose fair. Look to improve quality of adult pitches as an option to alleviate identified overplay. Attentively look to transfer play to sites with identified spare capacity or to an FA registered 3G pitch.	Council Community Trust FA	Hub site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		A standard quality NTP created to encourage recreation use. Future plans to create cricket nets on the site.	Ensure quality of the NTP is sustained for recreational use. Support plans to create cricket nets on the site.	Council ECB		Low	Long	Low	
		AGP		Standard quality AGP built in 2004. AGP is past its recommended life expectancy and will require resurfacing over the next three years. Used by Sikh Union HC for one hockey fixture per week in addition to one training sessions.	Pursue aggregation of the hockey offer through creation of new AGPs at Highfields Park, in order to release this AGP for conversion to 3G.	Council Community Trust England Hockey FA		High	Short	High	
		3G		A good quality FIFA one-star pitch which is on the FA register. Pitch is managed by Nottingham Forest Community Trust FC. Pitch has limited spare capacity for additional use.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained and that an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repairs.	Community Trust FA		Medium	Medium	Low	
32	The Nottingham Bluecoat School and Technology College (Wollaton Park)	Football	Education	A good quality adult and youth 9v9 pitch. Pitches are available for community use but are unused. Tenure considered insecure on site for community clubs.	Ensure good quality of grass pitches is sustained for curricular use. Explore strategic need for pitches to be utilised linked to secure community use agreements.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
33	The Ron Steel Sports Ground	Football	Sports Club	A good quality adult, youth 11v11, 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch. No pitches are overplayed. Pitches have gradually increased in quality over past few years due to visits from the FA's pitch improvement programme.	Ensure good quality of the pitches is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime. Support the site with funding for any required maintenance equipment.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
39	Wollaton Village Sports Association	Football	Sport Clubs	Standard quality adult football pitch with spare capacity on the site.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained to accommodate current use levels. Review maintenance regime if usage levels increase.	Sports Club FA	Key site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Cricket		A good quality eight wicket natural turf square with two non-turf NTPs accompanying the square. Grass wickets identified as being overplayed by 32 matches per season. Club has a 3 rd Saturday team displaced into Rushcliffe.	Ensure that the quality of the grass square is maintained through continuation of the current maintenance and preparatory regime to mitigate against the consequences of overplay. Look to transfer the main of junior activity off grass wickets onto on square NTPs.	Sports Club ECB		High	Short	Low	
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam tennis courts of which two are fully floodlit. Courts are utilised and managed by Wollaton TC. No onsite capacity issues identified.	Ensure quality of courts is sustained to accommodate current levels of use. Look to create a sinking fund for future court resurfacing and repair work.	Sports Club LTA		Low	Long	Low	
		Bowls		Good quality flat bowling green managed by Wollaton BC. No identified capacity issues.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate current usage levels.	Sports Club		Low	Long	Low	

³² (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

³³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³²	Cost ³³	Aim
40	Woodthorpe Grange	Football	Council	A poor-quality adult and youth 9v9 pitch. Adult pitch is played to capacity whilst youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed by two match sessions per week.	Review current maintenance regime on site. Explore opportunities to increase quality of the maintenance to eradicate overplay identified on the site.	Council FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
45	Nottingham Hockey Centre	Hockey	Commercial/ University	A standard quality sand filled AGP which was resurfaced in 2015 and two good quality water based AGPs (one resurfaced in 2015 and one created in 2016). In addition to a small AGP which is primarily used for pre-match warm ups. The site is utilised by England Hockey to accommodate both its Development Centres and Academy Centres which provides a performance pathway to elite hockey in England. The site is currently used by both Beeston HC and Nottingham Players HC as well as high levels of use from the University of Nottingham and therefore at present the site is deemed to be at capacity for peak time hockey use. There are plans from an education provider to create an additional two full sized hockey suitable AGPs on site which would then total five full size hockey AGPs which would represent a centre of excellence for hockey, which has the potential to create additional growth across Nottingham.	Explore proposals to develop new AGP provision to be managed in principle by the Centre. Seek to aggregate the Citywide hockey offer is new pitches are developed and establish the centre as a venue of international significance for hockey.	Commercial/ University	Hub site	High	Short	High	Protect Provide
46	John Carroll Leisure Centre	AGP	Commercial	A small sided sand dressed AGP. Primarily used for recreational football.	Ensure quality is appropriate for current usage levels. Seek to create a sinking fund for future carpet replacement.	Commercial	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
49	Lucozade Powerleague Soccer Centre (Nottingham)	3G	Commercial	14 small sided 3G pitches used for commercial leisure leagues.	Maximise commercial usage to increase recreational football participation.	Commercial FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
56	Valley Road Park	Tennis	Sports Club	Two grass and three macadam tennis courts are identified as being good quality.	Ensure good quality of the courts is sustained. Look to create a sinking fund for future resurfacing and repair work.	Sports Club LTA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Bowls		A good quality flat bowling green. No capacity issues identified.	Ensure good quality of bowling green is sustained for current usage levels.	Sports Club		Low			
59	Nottingham Tennis Centre	Tennis	Commercial	The Nottingham Tennis Centre is 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. The site has a total of 29 good quality courts (including 20 macadam courts and nine grass courts). There are four floodlit macadam courts at the centre. In addition there is nine indoor courts which service the centre. All courts are identified as being good quality.	Ensure that there is an adequate sinking fund set up by the commercial provider for future repair and remedial work to courts. Look to work with the provider to maximise court usage.	Commercial	Key site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁴	Cost ³⁵	Aim
70	Pelican Colts JFC	Football	Sports Club	Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch which are all good quality. Pitches have improved in quality since a 2015 visit from the FA's pitch improvement programme advisor. Site has minimal spare capacity across adult pitches. No overplay identified on the site. Leased from the Council on a 15 year term to expire in 2022.	Open negotiations with the Council in order to renew the existing lease to secure long-term tenure for the Club. Seek to ensure that the good quality of all pitches is sustained to accommodate high levels of activity on the site. Work closely with the Club to identify any future need requirements.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Low	Medium	Low	Protect
74	Djanogly City Academy (Gregory Boulevard)	AGP	Education	A small sided sand dressed AGP with no floodlighting and therefore has restricted community use.	Ensure AGP is adequate for curricular use and that an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing.	Education England Hockey	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Tennis		Four good quality macadam courts. Available for community use but receive little demand.	Ensure quality is sustained and a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair work.	Education LTA		Low	Long	Low	
77	Radford Primary School	Football	Education	Mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Ensure pitch is adequate for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
78	Burford Primary School	Football	Education	Mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Ensure pitch is adequate for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
83	Dunkirk Primary School	Football	Education	Mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Ensure pitch is adequate for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
85	Haydn Primary School	Football	Education	Mini 7v7 pitch available for community use but unused.	Ensure pitch is adequate for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
86	David Ross Sports Village	AGP	University	A full sized sand filled AGP which was resurfaced in 2016 used exclusively by the University of Nottingham for both competitive matches and midweek training.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for University use and that an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair work.	University England Hockey	Hub site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
		3G		A good quality full sized FA registered 3G pitch which is predominately used for university matches. Limited community use due do University demand.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained for University use and that an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair work.	University FA		Medium	Medium	Low	
87	Mellers Primary School	Football	Education	Mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Ensure pitch is adequate for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
97	St. Marys Catholic Primary School	Football	Education	Mini 7v7 pitch unavailable for community use.	Ensure pitch is adequate for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
106	UoN Jubilee Campus	3G	University	A good quality long pile 3G pitch which is both on the FA register and is World Rugby regulation 22 compliant. Used primarily for University use and therefore limited availability for any wider community use.	Ensure an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair works when required. Work to keep the pitch on both the FA and WR register.	Education FA RFU	Key site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
112	Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue	Football	Private	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with peak time capacity.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained to accommodate current use.	Private FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
209	Riverside Golf Club	Golf	Private	A good quality nine hole golf with driving range.	Ensure quality is sustained.	Private England Golf	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect

³⁴ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

³⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ³⁶	Cost ³⁷	Aim
LAP	Greenholme School	-	Council	Lapsed - Former school playing field now overgrown, which also accommodates a hard court area marked for both tennis and netball. The site is believed to be last used in 2011 when the School was permanently closed.	Determine future use of the site based on the following priority order of options: 1) Retain/allocate site as strategic reserve. 2) Explore feasibility to bring back into use. 3) Use as open space to meet local needs. 4) Redevelop site and use developer contributions to improve other playing pitch sites (quantity and/or quality).	Council LTA	-	-	-	-	-

³⁶ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

³⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

SOUTH ANALYSIS AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2028) ³⁸
Football (grass pitches)	Spare capacity of three match sessions per week on adult pitches. Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Shortfall of two match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity of equating to 1.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity of two match session per week on adult pitches Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches. Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches. Spare capacity of equating to one match session per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
Football (3G pitches) ³⁹	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.	Shortfall of two full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated team training demand.
Rugby union (senior pitches)	Nottingham Moderns RFC overplayed by 5.5 match sessions per week.	Nottingham Moderns RFC remains overplayed by 5.5 match sessions per week.
Rugby league (senior pitches)	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Cricket	Current shortfall of 12 match sessions per season due to displaced demand from Carrington CC.	Shortfall of 12 match sessions per season due to displaced demand from Carrington CC.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No shortfalls identified.	No shortfalls identified.
Tennis	No identified shortfalls.	No identified shortfalls.
Outdoor Bowls	No identified shortfalls.	No identified shortfalls.
Golf	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.

³⁸ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

³⁹ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

NOTTINGHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁰	Cost ⁴¹	Aim
5	Carrington Sports Ground	Football	Sport Club	Three pitches (one adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7) all assessed as good quality. All pitches have spare peak time capacity.	Ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		Cricket		One pitch assessed as good quality with eight grass wickets and one non-turf wicket. The site has an overall seasonal spare capacity of three match sessions per season and is therefore operating close to capacity. Carrington CC has future plans to merge with West Indian Cavaliers with 3 rd and 4 th team fixtures to be placed at this site in 2018.	Retain spare capacity and ensure appropriate pitch maintenance is applied in order to sustain current usage.	Sports Club ECB		Medium	Medium	Low	
6	Charnwood Football Centre	Football	Education	Two good quality adult pitches and one good quality youth 9v9 pitch. Each pitch type has peak time capacity.	Ensure good quality is sustained to accommodate current levels of use. Look to maximise use of pitches.	Education FA	Education	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect
		3G		A full sized standard quality medium pile 3G pitch on the FA register until 2020. Pitch has spare capacity on Saturdays to accommodate additional competitive matches.	Ensure an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repairs when appropriate. Look to maximise usage, particularly for competitive play.	Education FA		Medium	Medium	Low	
7	Clifton Playing Fields	Football	Council	Five adult and two mini 7v7 pitches which are all standard quality and each contain peak period spare capacity. The site also has a youth 9v9 pitch with no recorded use. Ancillary provision for the pitches is considered to be poor quality.	Ensure that the quality of all pitches is sustained to accommodate current levels of use. Explore potential funding opportunities for investment into ancillary provision. Consider potential for development as a Parklife hub site.	Council FA	Hub site	Medium	Medium	Medium	
		Cricket		Two cricket pitches, each with six grass wickets and a non-turf wicket. Both standard quality. Pitches are utilised by ICCA CC and Young Lions CC. Site is operating within its capacity although no peak time capacity exists.	Ensure that the quality of both squares is sustained to accommodate current levels of use. Explore potential funding opportunities for investment into ancillary provision.	Council ECB		Medium	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.	Council LTA		Low	Long	Low	
		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.	Council		Low	Long	Low	
10	Farnborough School Technology College	AGP	Education	Half size sand filled AGP.	Maximise community available usage.	Education England Hockey FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect

⁴⁰ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴¹ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴²	Cost ⁴³	Aim
17	Lee Westwood Sports Centre	Football	University	Two good quality adult pitches which are unavailable for any community use.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained for competitive university use.	University FA	Hub site	Low	Long	Low	Protect Provide
		Cricket		Two good quality natural turf cricket squares used by both the Nottingham Trent University and Clifton Village CC. It is recognised that Clifton Village CC does not have secure tenure on the site. There is no peak time capacity on the site however midweek capacity does exist.	Look to support the relationship between the University and Clifton Village CC (where possible). Ensure that quality of both squares is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	University ECB		Medium	Medium	Low	
		3G		A good quality long pile 3G pitch which is both on the FA register and is World Rugby (Reg 22) compliant. Community access is limited due to a high level of programming from university teams.	Ensure a sufficient sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair work. Look to maximise opportunities for community use when availability allows.	University RFU FA		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Rugby Union		Two good quality (M2/D2) senior pitches which are unavailable for community use. No pitches are floodlit.	Ensure quality is sustained for university use. Look for potential funding opportunities to install floodlighting to allow the transfer of midweek training from Nottingham Moderns RFC.	University RFU		Medium	Medium	Medium	
		Rugby League		A senior rugby league pitch which is overmarked across a senior rugby union pitch. Pitch is not available for community use and exclusively utilised by the University for BUCS fixtures.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained for University use.	University RFL		Low	Long	Low	
		AGP		A good quality sand filled AGP resurfaced in 2012. Primarily utilised by the University for competitive fixtures and therefore has limited peak time capacity. On occasion used as an overspill pitch for Rushcliffe based team Boots HC.	Ensure a sufficient sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair work. Look to maximise opportunities for community use when availability allows.	University England Hockey		Medium	Medium	Low	
		Lacrosse		One lacrosse pitch which are used sporadically for training and match purposes. Main lacrosse activity takes place on 3G pitches.	Protect for recreational use/competitive match play.	University England Lacrosse		Low	Long	Low	
20	Norman Archer Memorial Ground	Football	Sports Club	Five pitches (two adult, one youth 9v9, two mini) assessed as good quality (with the exception of the mini 5v5 which is standard quality). The site has minimal peak time capacity on adult pitches. Leased from the Council to Clifton All Whites FC on a 25 year term due to expire in 2034. The Club has recently invested in upgrading its parking facilities.	Ensure that the quality of all pitches is sustained to accommodate high levels of use from Clifton All Whites FC. Support the Club in accessing appropriate maintenance equipment to continue appropriate maintenance is continued.	Sports Club FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect

⁴² (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴³ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁴	Cost ⁴⁵	Aim
21	Nottingham Academy (Ransom Road Site)	Football	Education	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches which are available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality is sustained and explore opportunities for pitches to be greater utilised by the community.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
		AGP		Two small sided sand filled AGPs. Pitches are available for community use but the size of the pitches is restrictive to accommodate football team training.	Ensure quality of the AGPs is sustained for curricular use. Ensure an appropriate sinking fund is in place	Education England Hockey		Low	Long	Low	
		Tennis		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.	Education LTA		Low	Long	Low	
25	Nottingham Moderns RFC	Rugby Union	Sports Club	Two good quality senior pitches and one mini pitch (M2/D1). Pitches are overplayed by a cumulative 5.5 match sessions per week. Only one pitch is floodlit and therefore a substantial amount of midweek demand is exerted onto one pitch. Pitches are utilised by the University of Nottingham. Clubhouse and changing facilities are of an overall good quality.	Explore feasibility of creating a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the South Nottingham area (including sites in neighbouring Boroughs) and seek to secure access for the Club, transferring a proportion of training demand to 3G to reduce or eliminate overplay at Nottingham Moderns RFC.	Sports Club RFU	Local site	High	Short	Medium	Protect Provide
37	Victoria Embankment	Football	Council	Five adult pitches as well as a youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 all assessed as poor quality. Each pitch type is overplayed due to the poor quality surface on each pitch. If quality improvement at the site all overplay would be eradicated. FA Pitch Improvement Programme report identifies insufficient frequency of grass cutting has resulted in grass clippings being left on the surface with has an effect of the quality of match play, but also smothers grass plant and leads to a build-up of thatch. Also, pitches are severely compacted and consisted of a large amount of weed grass and turf weeds. Site is identified as having poor quality ancillary provision.	Review maintenance regimes and improve standard of maintenance, sufficient to sustain levels of both football and cricket use. Seek to improve changing provision to support both football and cricket.	Council FA ECB	Hub site	High	Short	Low	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Four NTPs all assessed as poor quality. Pitches have declined in quality since installation due to a poor maintenance regime, which includes the outfield of the wickets not being adequately cut. Consequently, the site accommodated just two LMS fixtures in the 2017 cricket season with fixtures having to be played elsewhere.	High			Short	Low		
42	Colwick Racecourse	Football	Council	Five adult pitches previously marked within the racecourse track, leased from NCC by The Jockey Club. Changing pavilion burned down and pitches are no longer marked.	Consider value of reinstating football use as a potential Parklife hub, given existing infrastructure and proximity to cater for shortfalls in surrounding Boroughs.	Council	-	-	-	-	-

⁴⁴ (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

⁴⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁴⁴	Cost ⁴⁵	Aim
47	K.K Sports and Leisure Centre	AGP	Private	Two half size sand filled AGPs.	Ensure that the quality of the pitches is sustained and that an adequate sinking fund is in place for future use.	Private England Hockey	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
51	Sycamore Park	Football	Council	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available and well used. Pitch has minimal capacity not available during the peak period.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained to accommodate current levels of play.	Council	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
53	Magdala Tennis Club	Tennis	Commercial	Private club site with two hard (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. Establish sinking fund for resurfacing.	Commercial LTA	Local site	Medium	Medium	Low	Protect Enhance
55	Wilford Social Club	Bowls	Sports 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.	Sports Club	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
79	Dovecote Primary School	Football	Education	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
82	Highbank Primary School	Football	Education	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
90	Greenfields Primary School	Football	Education	A standard quality adult football pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
92	Huntingdon Academy	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Look to improve quality of the maintenance undertaken at the school to improve quality for curricular activity.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
95	Walter Hall Primary	Football	Education	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
96	South Wilford Primary School	Football	Education	A poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but unused	Look to improve quality of the maintenance undertaken at the school to improve quality for curricular activity.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
100	Welbeck Primary School	Football	Education	A standard quality mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch which are unavailable for community use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular and recreational school use.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
109	Nottingham Academy (Greenwood Campus)	AGP	Education	A small sided sand filled AGP.	Ensure an appropriate sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing and repair work.	Education England Hockey	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
110	Meadow Lane Stadium (Notts County FC)	Football	Sports Club	Stadia pitch which is the home ground of Notts County FC.	Look to support the Club in any future renovation plans of the stadium.	Sports Club Council FA	Local site	Medium	Medium	High	Protect
111	Sycamore Academy	Football	Education	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is played to capacity.	Ensure quality of maintenance is sustained to accommodate current levels of demand.	Education FA	Local site	Low	Long	Low	Protect
LAP: LA31	Fairham Comprehensive	Football	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision. 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.	Council	-	-	-	-	-
LAP: LA25	Clifton West	N/A	Council	Lapsed - Proposed for residential development with a proportion of the site retained as open space.	No requirement to be retained for pitch provision. Future increases in demand in the area to be addressed via new community use agreements or increases in quality and capacity of existing pitches.	Council	-	-	-	-	-

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PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2028 (in line with the Local Plan). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via TGRs in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from projected housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.3¹ per dwelling. The indicative figures will be applied to two scenarios, based on the population figures contained within the adopted. The scenarios are as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One:** Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the remainder of the Local Plan period (April 2017- April 2028).
- ◀ **Scenario Two:** Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years (2017/18 - 2021/22).

Please note that the scenarios can be updated as required over the Local Plan period throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and change in the average household size.

The number of pitches required in the following tables has been rounded up or down accordingly, however capital and revenue costs are based on indicative pitch costs, proportionate to the total match equivalent sessions required rather than just whole pitches required. Though increases in match sessions for some sports are not sufficient to warrant the creation of new pitches, the associated costs have been incorporated and investment into alternative sites could instead be considered to increase capacity to accommodate this new demand.

Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period to 2028

The Council's Housing Trajectory shows the total number of dwellings to be provided across the City during the Plan Period, from April 2011 to April 2028 to be 17,150. The trajectory identifies that there will be 12,764 dwellings delivered across the City from 2017 to 2028. The estimated additional population derived from the housing growth October 2017 to 2028 is 29,378⁴⁶ people.

⁴⁶ Based on a predicted household size of 2.3 persons, taken from an overall average of 2019, 2024 and 2029 average household sizes from Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) 2014-based household projections, change in average household size, local authority districts and England 2012-2039

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The following areas are likely to have the greatest gains in residential units:

- ↳ Aspley, Bilborough, Leen Valley
- ↳ Arboretum, Dunkirk & Lenton, Radford & Park
- ↳ Dales, Mapperley, St Ann's
- ↳ Bridge, Clifton North, Clifton South

This equates to 17.86 match equivalent sessions per week for grass pitch sports, 3.82 for on artificial grass pitches for hockey and 39.24 match equivalent sessions per season for cricket.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2017 to 2028)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2028)	
	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week ⁴⁷	Pitches
Adult football	5.71	6 pitches
Youth football	5.94	6 pitches
Mini soccer	4.97	5 pitches
Rugby union	0.85	1 senior pitch
Rugby league	0.38	No pitches
Hockey	3.82	One artificial grass pitch
Cricket	39.24 per season	One cricket pitch

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the total capital cost is estimated at £2,015,951⁴⁸ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £310,292⁴⁹.

⁴⁷ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week

⁴⁸ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁴⁹ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

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Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years (2017 - 2022)

The Nottingham City Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) estimates that over the next five years (2017 to 2022) housing delivery is likely to be 4,342 dwellings. The estimated additional population derived from housing growth up to 2021/22 is 11,137¹ people.

This equates to 6.77 match equivalent sessions per week for grass pitch sports, 1.45 on artificial grass pitches for hockey and 14.88 match equivalent sessions per season for cricket.

Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports from housing growth in the next five years (2017 – 2022)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2021/22)	
	Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week ⁵⁰	Pitches
Adult football	2.17	2 pitches
Youth football	2.25	2 pitches
Mini soccer	1.89	2 pitches
Rugby union	0.32	No senior pitches
Rugby league	0.14	No pitches
Hockey	1.45	No artificial grass pitches
Cricket	14.88 per season	No pitches

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £764,097² and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £117,630³.

New allocations

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority clearly shows that there will be demand generated over the next five years and up to 2028. The following areas are likely to have the greatest gains in residential units:

- ◀ Aspley, Bilborough, Leen Valley
- ◀ Arboretum, Dunkirk & Lenton, Radford & Park
- ◀ Dales, Mapperley, St Ann's
- ◀ Bridge, Clifton North, Clifton South

Notwithstanding existing planning permissions for which Section 106 contributions have already been agreed, it is important that the Council secures appropriate contributions from all new qualifying developments to provide for the sporting needs arising from the residents of those developments, where these cannot be met by existing facilities and are identified as needed through use of the Council's Open Space Toolkit.

⁵⁰ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

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The Council could consider using CIL (if adopted) to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

The exact nature and location of provision associated with developments should be fully determined through the local planning process and in partnership with each specific NGB, which may, for example, include off site contributions in the form of upgrading pitches at existing sites where appropriate.

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PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Nottingham in the years up to 2026. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Checklist

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

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

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

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APPENDIX ONE: INCREASING FOOTBALL USE OF 3G PITCHES

During the last decade 3G AGPs have played an increasing role within the national game. They are regarded by the Football Association (FA) as the optimum facility for training by clubs. In recent seasons, they have also become more popular for competitive matches. With this in mind, before developing the recommendations and action plan for this PPS, two scenarios have been looked at to help with understanding what demand there may be for full sized floodlit 3G AGPs in Nottingham if increased amounts of play were to take place on them.

In order to do so, information from the 'Assessment' stage of developing this PPS, alongside details from the FA, have been used to help answer the following questions:

How many full sized floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within Nottingham if:

- ◀ All teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week?
- ◀ All matches for teams currently playing competitive football on local authority managed natural grass pitches were played on full size floodlit 3G AGPs?

The answers to these questions are set out below and are based on full sized floodlit 3G AGPs which have full community use during peak periods⁵¹. However, the results should be viewed as providing an indication of the 'full size pitch equivalents' that may be demanded. In practice, the most appropriate ways of meeting any such increase in demand will vary depending on the nature of the local area. For example, in some areas new full size floodlit AGPs may be appropriate, whereas in others small sided provision to cater for increased training use, or securing greater community use/hours of existing provision may be the best way forward.

Given the above, what the answers may mean for Nottingham, taking into account the wider findings from the PPS studies, is also presented below.

⁵¹ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

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Scenario results

- i. If all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week.*

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full sized AGP can service 42 teams.

The table below considers the number of full sized 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the Analysis Area in which they play. For this, please note that the 3G requirement is rounded down to the nearest whole number, in order to allow for some teams which choose not to train, as well as those which train on small sized artificial surfaces and sand based AGPs in order for them to remain financially sustainable and viable.

Analysis Area	Current number of teams	Current requirement	Current number of available 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams ⁵²	Future shortfall
North	102	2.43 - 2	2	0	110	0
Central	129	3.07 - 3	1	2	142	2
South	129	3.07 - 3	1	2	137	2

- ◀ As a guide, the FA suggests that one full size floodlit 3G AGP could potentially accommodate this training demand from 42 teams (Ratio of 1:4253).
- ◀ Using the FA's 1:42 ratio suggests that eight full sized floodlit 3G AGPs would be required to meet this increased training use across the three Analysis Areas.
- ◀ At present, there are four full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting offering unrestricted community access. Therefore, there is a requirement for an additional four full sized 3G pitches with floodlighting to meet affiliated football training demand.

⁵² Based exclusively on increased demand forecasted from team generation rates

⁵³ The FA developed the training ratio following their facilities strategy vision to provide all affiliated clubs with access to a 3G AGP for training. An original ratio of 1:56 was based on a full size pitch providing 56 slots per week (Mon-Thurs 6-9pm, Fri 6-8pm). The ratio was subsequently revised to 1:42. This was due to evidence of a number of local authority areas reaching the perceived required number of 3G AGP facilities based on the 1:56 ratio yet still evidencing latent demand. Further FA analysis of 3G AGP facility usage also showed that many affiliated teams seek more than one slot for training and that significant amounts of non-FA affiliated and recreational demand also use 3G AGPs during the peak time, creating a need for further 3G AGP provision.

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ii. If all matches for teams playing competitive football on local authority managed natural grass pitches were played on full sized floodlit 3G AGPs.

- ◀ The FA is keen to work with local authorities (LAs) to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G AGPs should all competitive matches, currently played on LA managed natural grass pitches, be transferred to one.
- ◀ Table A.1 takes information from the Assessment stage of this PPS to present the number of teams playing on LA/Trust managed natural grass pitches (not including school sites or sites leased to clubs) and the relevant peak periods.

Table A.1: Number of teams playing on local authority managed natural grass pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Local authority peak period	Total number of teams playing on LA pitches
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	49
Youth	11v11	Saturday AM	37
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	23
Youth	7v7	Saturday AM	-
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	13
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	10
Total			132

- ◀ The FA suggests an approach (see below) for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G AGPs that teams may demand for competitive matches. Table A.2 presents the results of this approach for the teams set out in Table A.1.

Table A.2: Number of 3G AGPs that may be required

Format	Number of teams per time (x)	Number of matches at PEAK TIME (y)= x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
5v5	10	5	4	20	0.3125
7v7	13	6.5	8	52	0.8125
9v9	23	11.5	10	115	1.796875
11v11 (Youth)	37	18.5	32	592	9.25
11v11 (Adult)	49	24.5	32	784	12.25

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Table A.3: Number of 3G AGPs that may be required - scenarios

Local Authority	Full sized 3G pitches required to accommodate:			
	All mini soccer (5v5 & 7v7)	All mini soccer (5v5 & 7v7) & youth 9v9	All mini soccer & youth football	All formats of affiliated football
Nottingham	1.13	2.92	12.17	12.25

- ◀ Transferring all matches for teams currently playing competitive football on local authority managed natural grass pitches may equate to a demand for 13 full sized floodlit 3G AGPs (rounded up from 12.25) for all the different formats of the game. However, this is not realistically feasible to deliver.
- ◀ In order to accommodate just mini soccer (both formats) and youth 9v9 football on Saturday mornings there would be a need for three full sized pitches (rounded up from 2.92). This could also accommodate a proportion of adult demand (six matches across three pitches) on Sunday mornings, as the peak time for mini soccer and youth 9v9 play is Saturday mornings.
- ◀ The FA approach for estimating the number of full size floodlit 3G AGPs that teams may demand for competitive matches is based on:
 - ◀ A team playing a 'home' match every other week - therefore dividing the number of teams by two with the result rounded up to provide a figure for the number of matches a week during the peak period (Table A.2 Column y).
 - ◀ A 3G AGP being available for 4 hours⁵⁴ a day during the peak period (e.g. 10am to 2pm). Therefore, all demand being programmed over the four hour period.
 - ◀ Using a unit measure which can be applied to the different formats of the game to quantify how a pitch can be used during this 4 hour period (Table A.2 Column z). One unit is taken as equating to a quarter of a full size 3G AGP for 15 minutes. Therefore, a full size 3G AGP provides 4 units per 15 minutes and 16 units per hour. Across the four hour period this totals a capacity of 64 units (16 units per hour x 4 hours).
 - ◀ As set out in Table A.3 below, each format of the game will require a certain amount of units of a full size 3G AGP per match based on the required pitch size and match duration.

Table A.3: FA set units of a full size 3G AGP per match for each format

Format of the game	Number of pitches that fit on a full size 3G AGP	Number of matches per hour on a full size 3G AGP	Number of matches per 2 hour period on a full size 3G AGP	Number of units per match
5v5	4	4	8	4
7v7	2	2	4	8
9v9	2	2	2	10
11v11 Youth	1	0	1	32
11v11 Adult	1	0	1	32

⁵⁴ The rationale for 4 hours is based on a standard approach for match programming nationally and the ability to facilitate 2 adult games.

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APPENDIX TWO: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

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: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

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:

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- ◀ 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 (2015 – 2019)

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:

- ◀ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
 - ◀ *Kids*
 - ◀ *Communities*
 - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Pathway*
 - ◀ *Support*
 - ◀ *Elite Teams*
 - ◀ *England Teams*

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- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Fan focus*
 - ◀ *New audiences*
 - ◀ *Global stage*
 - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Integrity*
 - ◀ *Community programmes*
 - ◀ *Our environments*
 - ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - ◀ *People*
 - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
 - ◀ *Insight*
 - ◀ *Operations*

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

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 1.5 million players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

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

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

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

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

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

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England Hockey Strategy

Vision: For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission: More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result, only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

We currently have over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively).

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to be more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

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.rffacilitiestrust.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

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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

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APPENDIX THREE: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities⁵⁵

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/	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 http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
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.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

⁵⁵ Up to date as of April 2017.

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Protecting Playing Fields

Sport England's Strategy: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021) will simplify the funding reducing the number of investment programmes from 30 to 7:

- ◀ Tackling Inactivity
- ◀ Children and Young People
- ◀ Volunteering
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sports core markets
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Creating welcoming sports facilities

The current funding streams listed below will remain operational during 2016/17 but will be phased out and replaced by one or more of the seven listed above.

It launched Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme and is investing £10 million of National Lottery funding in community sports projects.

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 funding rounds and where clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local authorities can apply for grants of between £25k and £150k where there is a proven local need for a facility to be modernised, extended or modified to open up new sporting opportunities.

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also provide opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces. For further up to date information please go to: <http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/>

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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 and sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

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

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

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

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

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APPENDIX FOUR: GLOSSARY

Displaced demand generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

Unmet demand is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

Future demand is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

Casual use or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ◀ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ◀ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ◀ Informal training sessions
- ◀ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ◀ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

Carrying capacity is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB

Overplay is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

Spare capacity is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

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Match equivalent sessions is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.