



# **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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# **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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## GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
EA	England Athletics
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MES	Match Equivalent Sessions
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFL	Rugby Football League
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
STC	South Tyneside Council
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
UKA	UK Athletics

# SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for South Tyneside Borough Council (STC) and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2019 and 2035, in line with population projections. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor sports:

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

Pitch sports were assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS (2013). 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.

The main drivers for updating the 2015 Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide a robust and up-to-date evidence base to support new planning policies and land use allocations within the emerging South Tyneside Local Plan and to assist in the determination of planning applications. It will also contribute to the effective management and enhancement of sport and recreational provision within the Borough.

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. Paragraph 96 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. Paragraphs 96 and 97 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". The 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.

The main drivers for undertaking a new Playing Pitch Strategy are:

- ◀ Provide a clear understanding of current and anticipated sport participation and playing pitch provision in South Tyneside.
- ◀ Provide a framework and action plan to support growth in participation in sport in line with National Governing Bodies objectives.
- ◀ Establish an up to date understanding of the demand for playing pitches and playing pitch sports (Football, Rugby Union, Cricket and Hockey), and an understanding of cross boundary participation of sports teams.
- ◀ Outline current and future demand for playing pitches and sports up to 2035 (Local Plan) and identify deficiencies or surpluses in provision and options for addressing these.
- ◀ Update strategic recommendations relating to the management of sites and potential enhancement of existing sites.

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## 1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been updated from research and analysis of playing pitch provision and usage within South Tyneside to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for South Tyneside, which should be implemented from 2019 to 2035. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding will be identified where it is viable to do so.

The recommendations that come out of this strategy must be translated into local plan policy so there is a policy mechanism to support delivery and secure provision/investment where the opportunity arises.

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

## 1.2: Monitoring and updating

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 and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

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.

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 7 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.

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## 1.3: Study area

The local authority boundary of South Tyneside will provide the geographic scope of the PPS. South Tyneside Borough is considered to be the most appropriate functional area to conduct the review, with consideration given to Temple Park, Monkton Stadium and Chuter Ede in particular being strategic sporting hub locations that serve a borough-wide area.

Further to this, sub areas, or analysis areas, have been created to allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch surpluses and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. South Tyneside is divided into three analysis areas:

- ◀ Hebburn & Jarrow
- ◀ Inner & Outer South Shields
- ◀ South

Please note whilst the assessment may identify shortages in one sub-area, capacity may exist in the other sub-areas to meet this need and will be explored further within the Strategy.

Figure 1.1: Analysis area map

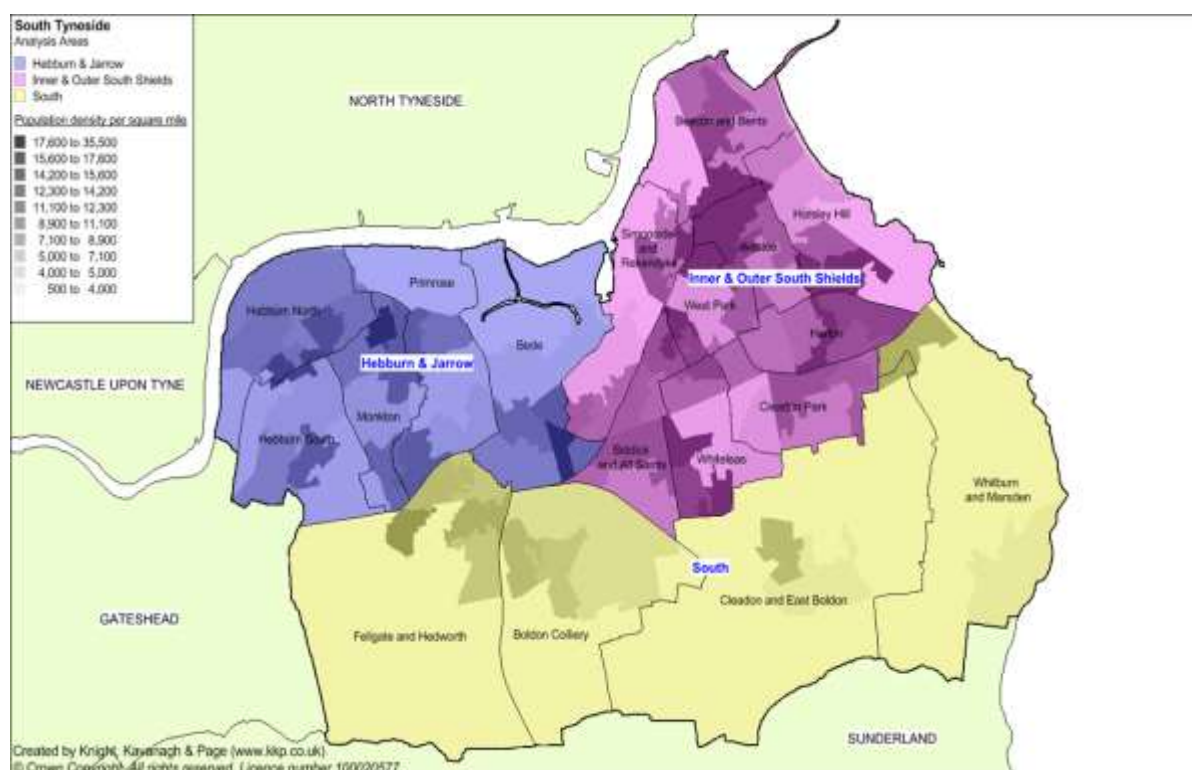


Table 1.1: Summary of analysis areas by ward

Analysis area	Ward
Hebburn & Jarrow	Bede
	Hebburn North
	Hebburn South
	Monkton
	Primrose

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Analysis area	Ward
Inner & Outer South Shields	Beacon and Bents
	Biddick and All Saints
	Cleadon Park
	Harton
	Horsley Hill
	Simonside and Rekendyke
	West Park
	Westoe
	Whiteleas
South	Boldon Colliery
	Cleadon and East Boldon
	Fellgate and Hedworth
	Whitburn and Marsden

## 1.4: Headline findings

The following table (overleaf) highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all sports included in the preceding PPS Assessment Report. Please note that this shows the picture on a local authority wide basis and does not include the findings for each specific analysis areas or for each specific site. For the analysis area breakdown see Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2035)
Football (grass pitches)	Hebburn & Jarrow	Shortfall of <b>5.5</b> MES on youth 11v11 pitches Shortfall of <b>1</b> MES on youth 9v9 pitches Spare capacity on adult pitches	Shortfall of <b>8</b> MES on youth 11v11 pitches Shortfall of <b>2</b> MES on youth 9v9 pitches Spare capacity on adult pitches
	Inner & Outer South Shields	Spare capacity on all pitch types	Spare capacity on adult and youth 9v9 pitch types Youth 11v11 pitches played to capacity
	South	Adult pitches played to capacity Youth 11v11 pitches played to capacity Spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches	Adult pitches played to capacity Shortfall of <b>0.5</b> MES on youth 11v11 pitches Spare capacity on youth 9v9 pitches
Football (3G AGPs)	Borough wide	Shortfall of <b>2</b> 3G pitch based on FA training model.	Shortfall of <b>2</b> 3G pitch based on FA training model.
Cricket	Hebburn & Jarrow	Pitches are at capacity	Shortfall of <b>23</b> MES per season
	Inner & Outer South Shields	Shortfall of <b>30</b> MES per season	Shortfall of <b>58</b> MES per season
	South	Shortfall of <b>5</b> MES per season	Shortfall of <b>25</b> MES per season

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2035)
Rugby union	Hebburn & Jarrow	Spare capacity of 0.75 MES on senior pitches	Spare capacity of 0.5 MES on senior pitches
	Inner & Outer South Shields	Shortfall of 3.25 MES	Shortfall of 4.5 MES
	South	Pitches are at capacity	Pitches are at capacity
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Hebburn & Jarrow	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected
	Inner & Outer South Shields	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected
	South	Current demand being met with spare capacity	Pitch will require <b>resurface</b>
Rugby league	Borough wide	Pitch is played to capacity	<b>Potential future shortfall</b>
Bowls	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Supply meets future demand
Tennis	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Potential unmet demand at West Park, Jarrow
Athletics	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium

### Summary

The existing position for all pitch sports is either demand is being met or there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and additional shortfalls in some areas and for some sports. Only hockey is without any current or future shortfalls, although it remains imperative that the current number of hockey suitable AGPs used for hockey are protected and that security of tenure and quality is improved.

For football, there is evidence of some shortfalls at one or more pitch formats, and in particular, in Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. Further to this there is also a boroughwide shortfall for full sized 3G pitches for football team training and matches.

Pitch shortfalls are expressed in all analysis areas for cricket, as well as for senior rugby union pitches in Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area. There is also a potential future shortfall for rugby league should future demand be realised.

In terms of non-pitch sports, supply meets current demand for tennis, bowls and athletics. Although there is sufficient current and future capacity for athletics demand to be met, there is a future need to improve track quality at Monkton Stadium. There is also potential unmet demand to bring tennis courts back into use at West Park, Jarrow.



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## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1: Vision

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

*"To provide a range of high quality facilities for the provision of playing pitch sports to encourage participation and enable South Tyneside to meet current and future needs."*

To achieve this Vision, the strategy seeks to deliver the following objectives:

- ◀ Working collectively with partners to create opportunity for everyone to participate
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Implementation and delivery of the Sports Hub mode of provision.
- ◀ 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 1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of pitches and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs up to 2035.

### AIM 2

To **enhance** pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

### AIM 3

To **provide** new pitches and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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 each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations. Please note that these recommendations are not just for the Council, but also for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

### 4.1: Football (grass pitches)

**There is currently sufficient supply of adult and 9v9 pitches. However, there are shortfalls of the youth 11v11 pitch type (two match equivalent sessions) which is exacerbated when future demand is considered (8.5 match equivalent sessions).**

#### Summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 119 grass football pitches within South Tyneside across 53 sites. Of these, 97 are available, at some level, for community use. The total number of pitches in South Tyneside has increased by 13 (since 2015), whilst the number available for community use has increased by 10.
- ◀ In South Tyneside many adult pitches double up as youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, 12 are assessed as good quality, 71 as standard and 14 are deemed to be poor.
- ◀ Numerous clubs express a desire to lease land on a long term basis.
- ◀ Changing facilities are generally viewed as being adequate by clubs with 38% rating provision as good and a further 46% rating provision as standard. However, 16% of clubs deem changing accommodation to be poor and a further eight clubs report not having access to changing facilities at all.
- ◀ Bents Park Recreation Ground is specifically highlighted by users as having a problem with the changing rooms. Complaints have been made that the facilities have become too dangerous for use.
- ◀ A total of 284 teams were identified as playing or training within South Tyneside during the 2018/19 season; an increase of 57 teams since the previous study in 2015.
- ◀ Since 2015, the number of adult teams utilising provision in South Tyneside has decreased by 31%. However, the number of youth teams has increased by 7%; whilst the number of mini teams has more than doubled, increasing by 109%.
- ◀ Future population growth forecasts the creation of three youth 11v11 boys' teams, with one new team to be established in each analysis area. Further to this, clubs also predict growth of 33 teams.
- ◀ There are 133.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity in South Tyneside. However, only 43 match sessions are available within the peak period with most of this being on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are 13 community use pitches currently overplayed across seven sites, totalling 18 match equivalent sessions per week. Nine of the overplayed pitches are adult size.
- ◀ Most overplayed pitches (nine pitches) are assessed as standard quality; with the remaining four considered poor. Whilst overplay can be relatively sustainable with improvements made to pitch quality, consideration should be given to the transfer of play at overplayed sites to pitches with actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Overall there is spare capacity to accommodate adult teams both now and, in the future, with 19.5, match equivalent sessions of capacity. When future demand is considered this capacity reduces to 15.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

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- ◀ There is currently a shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches which is exacerbated when future demand is considered; however, there is sufficient capacity of youth 9v9 pitches which is retained when future demand is considered. There are specific shortfalls in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area for both pitch types.
- ◀ The conclusions and future development of mini football in South Tyneside should be considered in the context of the Russell Foster Youth League and its central venue format both in and outside of South Tyneside.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Improving pitches at priority sites (LFFP)*

The Local Football Facility Plan identifies ten grass football pitch sites for quality improvements. Each of these sites contains at least three grass pitches, with exception being (Former) Temple Park Junior School, totalling 40 pitches of various sizes. The sites highlighted for improvement are:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ◀ Boldon Community Association (Inc. Boldon School)             | ◀ Hedworthfield Community Association |
| ◀ Cleadon Lane Sports Ground                                    | ◀ Luke's Lane Playing Fields          |
| ◀ Cleadon Recreation Ground                                     | ◀ Monkton Stadium                     |
| ◀ Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School) | ◀ St Wilfrid's RC College             |
|   | ◀ Temple Memorial Park                |
|   | ◀ Temple Park Junior School (Closed)  |

Improving the quality of all the pitches at these sites to good would create 65 match equivalent sessions per week of additional capacity, whilst also removing overplay from all of the three overplayed sites.

Specifically, improving quality will create 18 match equivalent sessions per week of additional capacity on adult pitches; ten on youth 11v11 pitches; 13 on youth 9v9 pitches; and 18 on mini 7v7 pitches. Increasing the quality and, consequentially, the capacity of these pitch formats would also address current and future shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitches.

#### *Loss of unsecure sites*

There are currently 72 match equivalent sessions per week across 23 sites, taking place on pitches with unsecure tenure across South Tyneside. Of this, 53.25 match equivalent sessions are from curricular and extra-curricular demand; meaning that 18.75 match equivalent sessions of community use are taking place on unsecure pitches. These pitches are all located at education sites, with no form of community use agreements in place.

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Academy accommodates 9.25 match equivalent sessions of match demand from community football teams, with none of those having security of tenure. Should there be a loss of access to the site, this would generate the need to re-accommodate 19 teams (18 youth and one mini team), all representing Hebburn Town Juniors FC.

#### *Removing single pitch local authority sites*

There are currently 15 single pitch sites in South Tyneside. These are sites with a single football pitch marked out, only; and does not include those sites that have one grass football pitch in addition to pitches for other sports, Jack Clark Park for example.

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Four single pitch sites are currently owned and/or managed by South Tyneside Council; and accommodate four match equivalent sessions of demand. Three of the pitches are adult size with the remaining site having one youth 11v11 pitch marked out. The sites are:

- ◀ Gypsies Green Stadium
- ◀ Hebburn Riverside Park (Findus)
- ◀ King George V Playing Fields – Hebburn
- ◀ The Shack Field

If these four sites ceased to be maintained, potentially due to budgetary constraints, then there would be a requirement to re-accommodate this demand elsewhere in the locale. The table below demonstrates changes in the current total capacity for each analysis area if the four single pitch sites managed by the Council were removed.

*Table 4.1: Change in supply & demand analysis if single pitch sites, managed by the Council, were lost*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>1</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overlay	Current total capacity	Capacity from single pitch sites	Current total capacity
<b>Adult pitches</b>					
Hebburn & Jarrow	8	0.5	7.5	2	5.5
Inner & Outer South Shields	12.5	0.5	12	-	12
South	5	5	-	1	1
<b>South Tyneside</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Youth 11v11 pitches</b>					
Hebburn & Jarrow	1	6.5	5.5	-	5.5
Inner & Outer South Shields	3.5	-	3.5	1	2.5
South	-	-	-	-	-
<b>South Tyneside</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

As shown, loss of these single pitch sites would reduce the amount of spare capacity available in each of the analysis areas. For adult pitches, there would be a reduction in the amount of spare capacity in the Hebburn & Jarrow and South analysis areas, with the latter becoming overplayed. Overall for adult pitches spare capacity would reduce from 19.5 match equivalent sessions to 16.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

The current shortfall of youth 11v11 provision in South Tyneside would be exacerbated by the loss of the single pitch site (Gypsies Green Stadium), increasing the shortfall by one match equivalent session to a total of three match equivalent sessions per week. Although the loss of this pitch would not generate a shortfall in the Inner & Outer South Shields Area, where it is located, the loss of this pitch would affect the overall shortfall.

Alternatives to losing single pitch sites could be to reconfigure these sites, accommodating multiple smaller format pitches which could address shortfalls in specific analysis areas. An example of this could be re-marking the single adult pitch sites in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area to help address shortfalls of youth 9v9 pitches in the same analysis area.

<sup>1</sup> In match equivalent sessions

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### *Pitch reconfigurations*

Given current demand for mini 5v5, mini 7v7 and adult pitches is being met in the Borough by current supply on some sites there may be an opportunity to reconfigure pitches to address the shortfalls of other pitch types, notably youth 11v11 and 9v9.

Nationally, there is a trend of mini football being accommodated on 3G pitches; with full size 3G pitches able to accommodate multiple matches simultaneously whilst also being impacted less by local weather. Should this trend continue then the demand for mini grass pitch provision may decline providing greater scope for pitch reconfiguration across South Tyneside to address residual shortfalls.

The supply of adult pitches in South Tyneside can accommodate current and future demand with none of the analysis areas having any overplay. It should, therefore, be considered that some adult pitches be reconfigured to cater for youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 demand, both of which display shortfalls in some areas.

### *Relocation of mini football demand from Monkton Stadium to Downhill (Sunderland Parklife site)*

Sunderland Parklife programme is currently under construction in the neighbouring local authority (Sunderland City). The development will see the establishment of ten full size 3G pitches across three sites. Community North Sports Complex (Downhill) is one of those sites and is located close to the boundary of South Tyneside Local Authority. Once the sites are fully operational it is likely that some 3G pitch provision will be more accessible to some South Tyneside residents than those currently in the Borough. This is most likely to affect those located in the South Analysis Area.

It is also understood that the Russell Foster Youth League could potentially relocate away from Monkton Stadium to Community North Sports Complex due to a preference for 3G pitches. Should this happen then five match equivalent sessions demand would be removed from the mini 7v7 pitches at Monkton Stadium.

Although this would not affect the supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches in the Borough (supply already being sufficient); there could then be an opportunity to re-mark the site to accommodate demand from other formats, youth 11v11 being preferred due to the current shortfall; or to cater for current and/or future shortfalls of provision of other pitch sports, i.e. rugby union or rugby league.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure that a sufficient level of grass pitch provision is retained to meet current and future demand.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to reduce the number of one pitch football sites which are unsustainable and reinvestment in the development of Hub and Key sites.
- ◀ In accordance with the Local Football Facility Plan, improve the quality of pitches at the ten priority sites to good quality; to increase capacity across the Borough.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes in order to help address shortfalls.
- ◀ Carry out pitch reconfigurations to address remaining shortfalls, particularly at sites with unused mini pitches or adult pitches which are solely accommodating youth 11v11 demand.
- ◀ Work with education providers to secure access to football pitches through establishing community use agreements.

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- ◀ Seek to improve changing provision at Key and Hub sites, ensuring that each site has a sufficient number of changing rooms to service all pitches on site.
- ◀ Ensure clubs in the football pyramid can progress by being compliant to FA ground grading regulations.
- ◀ Determine the most economically advantageous grass pitches to maintain and invest in moving forward, subject to available funding.

### 4.2: Third generation turf (3G) pitches

**There is a shortfall of 3G pitches to meet current and future demand for football training based on the FA training model.**

**This shortfall equates to two full size 3G pitches across the Borough to meet football training demand.**

**Given the shortfall of grass rugby union provision and low amount of spare capacity on the WR compliant 3G pitch in the Borough, there is a shortfall of 3G provision to appropriately cater for rugby union demand.**

#### *Summary*

- ◀ There are five full size 3G pitches; Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School, Harton Academy, Mortimer Comprehensive School, Mariners Park and Temple Park Centre.
- ◀ Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School), Harton Academy, Mariners Park and Temple Park Centre are FA approved to host competitive matches, whilst Harton Academy is also World Rugby compliant.
- ◀ In the main, availability of provision in the peak period is good. However, as three pitches are provided on education sites, community use can be limited on weekdays.
- ◀ Two of the 3G pitches area assessed as good quality; two are standard quality; and one, at Mortimer Comprehensive School is deemed poor.
- ◀ 36% of football clubs expressed a need for access to more training facilities, with 79% of those highlighting more 3G pitches as a requirement.
- ◀ On the basis there are 273 teams playing football within South Tyneside, there is a recommended need for at least seven full size 3G pitches to accommodate midweek training demand. If each team was to stay within their analysis area, there is a potential need for six.
- ◀ Limited spare capacity exists on the current stock of 3G pitches, meaning an increase in 3G provision is required. Using the FA model, there is a shortfall of one pitch in the South Analysis Area, but a shortfall of two throughout the Borough.
- ◀ Current and future shortfalls across South Tyneside would be met by the establishment of full sized 3G pitches at Perth Green Community Association and, one at, Harton Academy or Temple Park Centre.
- ◀ Community North Sports Complex (Downhill) in Sunderland is set to become a central venue for the Russell Foster Youth League, which may result in demand relocating away from Monkton Stadium due to a preference for 3G pitches. This will be further tested as a scenario in the Strategy document.

#### *Scenarios*

##### *Moving all mini teams to play on 3G pitches*

There are currently 134 mini (5v5 and 7v7) teams playing competitive football in South Tyneside, regardless of site management type.

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Based on the FA model for competitive football, five full size FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.94) would be required to accommodate all mini soccer teams currently playing in South Tyneside. This is on the basis that both playing formats can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.

On this basis, there is enough existing provision across the Borough to cater for this demand if programming is maximised. However, it is not necessarily all ideally located to service where the demand is based, nor is it certified for competitive football activity or fully available throughout the peak period.

### *Use of 3G pitches to accommodate current and future grass pitch shortfalls (football)*

In order to accommodate current grass pitch shortfalls, additional capacity equivalent to one FA/FIFA certified 3G pitch would be required in South Tyneside. This increases to a total need for four 3G pitches when accounting for future growth.

However, when the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area is considered alone, there is a requirement for three full sized 3G pitches to address current shortfalls, increasing to four when future growth is considered. This disparity is due to the amount of actual spare capacity available in the South and Inner & Outer South Shields analysis areas which could be accommodated by some demand currently based in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area. Given the size of the Borough it may be realistic to assume that some demand will reasonably be able to travel across analysis area boundaries to access suitable provision.

Creating this many additional 3G pitches for competitive match play may be unrealistic, however, it may be suitable within specific localities to better accommodate demand. Consideration should also be given to any pre-existing small sided 3G pitches in South Tyneside which may be able to provide opportunities for match play, if able to gain certification onto the FA register.

### *Use of 3G pitches to accommodate current and future grass pitch shortfalls (rugby union)*

Currently there is a shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on grass rugby union pitches in the Borough. When future demand is considered this shortfall increases to four match equivalent sessions per week. In order to accommodate current grass pitch shortfalls of rugby union provision, additional capacity equivalent to one WR compliant 3G pitch would be required in the Borough. This remains the same when future demand is considered given that the overplay in South Tyneside can be attributed to mini and junior teams using senior pitches; and training demand being accommodated on floodlit match pitches.

Given that all current and future shortfalls for rugby union provision are located in the Inner & Outer South Shields Analysis Area it would be appropriate to establish any new provision in this Area; particularly given that two of the three community rugby union clubs in the Borough are based there.

### *New pitches*

Should new 3G pitches be created, there is a likely impact on the future sustainability of hockey suitable AGPs as some football demand is likely to transfer onto 3G pitches as more are provided.

Access to this capacity should be sought for hockey use to accommodate and facilitate participation growth including access for South Shields HC, the only hockey club based in the Borough.



## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Conversion of sand based AGPs to 3G should not take place unless consultation with England Hockey identifies the AGP is not required to meet existing or future predicted hockey demand, otherwise this could result in South Shields HC being displaced out of the Borough to access appropriate provision.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Provide additional 3G pitches in South Tyneside aligned to identified shortfalls in football training.
- ◀ Retain all certified 3G pitches on the respective sporting 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 all existing 3G pitches at weekends to accommodate match play in order to accommodate all mini demand and additionally to reduce grass pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, ensure they are constructed to required specifications and to meet FA, RFL and RFU recommendations rather than minimum dimensions where land footprint allows, so to maximise opportunities for use for all formats of competitive play.
- ◀ Further to this, seek to secure access through usage agreements where possible as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of any spare capacity on the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at the Harton Academy site by South Tyneside based rugby union clubs.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long term sustainability of provision, such as an adequate sinking fund for repairs or resurfacing formed over time.
- ◀ Through the creation of new full sized 3G pitches, consider options to deliver a wide variety of sporting opportunities, including new formats of competitive football such as central venue midweek flexi and vets leagues, as well as walking football and female development centres.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, consider potential to certify for competitive use by sports additional to football as part of a shared scheme, for example, to reduce shortfalls for rugby union or rugby league.
- ◀ Clear modelling is required to consider a Temple Park in relation to community access and a sustainable business plan.

### **4.3: Cricket**

**Existing supply of outdoor cricket facilities is insufficient to cater for levels of both current (35 match equivalent sessions) and anticipated future (106 match equivalent sessions) demand for weekend and midweek cricket.**

### **Summary**

- ◀ There are seven senior grass cricket pitches in South Tyneside, all of which, are available for community use. There was previously a grass square at Hebburn Sports and Social Club, but it has ceased to be maintained and is, therefore, currently disused.
- ◀ In addition, there are five non-turf pitches (NTPs) in South Tyneside. All, of which, are available for community use and standalone. In addition, there are two, disused, standalone NTPs at St Wilfrid's RC College and Temple Park Junior School.
- ◀ Club consultation suggests that pitch quality has improved at five of the sites; through improved maintenance and reduced overplay, meaning that the majority of grass squares (five) are good quality.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Whitburn CC, South Shields CC, Simonside CC and Marsden CC all report that the quality of ancillary facilities is poor with improvements required.
- ◀ Two clubs have issues with the lease length of its pitches: Boldon CC and Simonside CC.
- ◀ South Shields CC is seeking to relocate to Temple Park, as part of the whole South Shields and Westoe Club relocating to the site with an aspiration of having two squares to increase capacity.
- ◀ All clubs in South Tyneside have at least two adult teams, with five also having at least one junior team; Boldon CA CC and Simonside CC both being exceptions. Demand for cricket is high with a total of seven clubs generating 48 teams. There is a total of 23 senior and 25 junior teams. There are no female teams.
- ◀ There is no LMS league operating within South Tyneside or surrounding local authorities.
- ◀ Hebburn CC was previously based at Hebburn Sports & Social Club. In 2015, the Club had two senior men's and a junior team. Combined the teams provided 23 match equivalent sessions per season. When the Club folded, and the pitch ceased to be maintained and latent demand in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area has been created.
- ◀ Four clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams. Boldon CA CC aspires to establish two new junior boys' teams; whilst Marsden CC, South Shields CC and Whitburn CC hope to create senior women's teams. Marsden CC & South Shields CC also aspire to establish junior girls' teams in the future.
- ◀ There are four sites that show potential spare capacity, totalling 41 match equivalent sessions per season. Previously, there were five sites that showed potential spare capacity totalling 112 match equivalent sessions per season. One reason for the reduction in potential spare capacity is that the ECB has introduced a new capacity scoring system which now links to quality.
- ◀ Three sites are considered to be overplayed beyond capacity by an accumulative 35 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ Overall there is a current shortfall of 35 match equivalent sessions per season across South Tyneside; which is exacerbated when future and latent demand are considered, increasing to a shortfall of 106 match equivalent sessions per season.
- ◀ In conclusion, the existing supply of outdoor cricket facilities is insufficient to cater for levels of both current and anticipated future demand for weekend and midweek cricket. All of the overplayed sites in the Borough are of good quality.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Improving quality*

Improving the quality of all natural grass squares by one increment (poor to standard or standard to good) where possible, increases potential spare capacity in the Borough by 22 match equivalent sessions per season; however, the shortfall at overplayed sites does not reduce given that all overplayed sites are currently considered to be good quality.

Therefore, an alternative venue for some capacity or the use of NTPs to accommodate some junior formats should be considered to reduce shortfalls at particular sites in the Borough.

#### *Using NTPs*

Currently, none of the leagues which cricket demand from South Tyneside participates in allow the use of NTPs for match play. If all club sites, with junior teams aged U15 or younger on, had an NTP installed alongside grass squares; and this demand was then allocated to the NTP, then 106 match equivalent session per season of potential capacity would be created, eliminating overplay at all sites in the Borough.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Alternatively, installing and utilising NTPs for U13 and younger match demand would provide an additional 84 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity per season. This would also eliminate overplay at all sites; whilst also allowing older junior teams to utilise grass wickets for match demand.

### *New provision*

New natural turf provision requires a period of time to become established and therefore it is not recommended that clubs transfer to new sites until it is considered by the ECB that grounds are able to accommodate competitive fixtures.

It should be noted that the ECB states that where there is either new cricket provision being put in place or more commonly development which may prejudice the use of the sporting facility there would be a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such the ECB recommends that the clubs/organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

### *Meeting an increase in junior demand*

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, All Stars Cricket delivers cricket programmes aimed at introducing cricket to children aged from five to eight. It is predicted that this will subsequently lead to increased participation in junior cricket at clubs. Given the target age demographic of All Stars participants, it should be considered that much future demand will be generated in more than five years, when participants will then be aged between ten and 13 years old.

In the meantime, outfielders should be improved to encourage and sustain participation in All Stars Cricket programmes as these, as opposed to grass wickets, provide the playing surface for this activity.

Clubs not currently operating the All Stars programme should either seek to commence the activity at home venues, or link with other clubs to increase current participation levels throughout the Borough.

### *Meeting latent demand*

Hebburn CC previously rented a square at Hebburn Sports & Social Club; with the Club having two senior men's teams and a junior team utilising the square for a combined 23 match equivalent sessions per season. It is felt that demand remains in the Analysis Area without a club or pitch available to accommodate this. Should Hebburn CC be re-established in the Area then there would be a need to accommodate, up to, 23 match equivalent sessions of demand to meet latent demand figures.

The primary solution to this would be to re-establish the square at Hebburn Sports & Social Club; but it is understood that site developments now mean that re-establishing the square may not be feasible due to ball-strike requirements. As such, an alternative site would need to be provided with a ball-strike assessment undertaken to ensure that sufficient safety requirements are met.

Alternatively, addressing latent demand in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area could be to establish a satellite club for one of the larger cricket clubs in South Tyneside. This would mean that latent demand could be addressed without the need to fully establish the background club structure. However, a pitch would still be required in the Analysis Area with the same parameters as previously mentioned.

# **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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# SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
- ◀ Improve quality of ancillary facilities at Whitburn Cricket Club, Oakleigh Gardens and Jack Clark Park preferably through creation of a new buildings to ECB specifications, or through refurbishment of the existing provision if not feasible.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Work with clubs and leagues towards permitting use of NTPs to make greater use of NTPs to help alleviate overplay at club sites.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to install NTPs (in line with league regulations) alongside grass squares on club sites where the resident club has multiple junior teams and pitch capacity allows.
- ◀ Continue to deliver the All Stars Cricket and women and girls development programmes which seek to increase participation.
- ◀ Monitor future growth and ensure outfielders are improved to help increase capacity to accommodate future junior growth.
- ◀ Explore options to accommodate latent demand in the Hebburn & Jarrow Analysis Area, either by re-establishing Hebburn CC or by creating a satellite club in the Area to support the growth of a current club.
- ◀ Examine terms of lease agreements at Council owned sites ensuring that cricket provision on site is protected.

## **4.4: Rugby union**

**There is a current and future overall shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in South Tyneside on secure, long term agreements.**

## **Summary**

- ◀ There are now 12 rugby union pitches across ten sites, all of which, are senior size. Previously there were ten pitches located across eight sites. A senior pitch has been established at Brinkburn CIO which is used by South Shields RFC. All are available for community use, except for at Harton Academy (one pitch) and South Shields Community School (two pitches).
- ◀ In addition to the grass rugby union pitches, there is a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch located at Harton Academy. The pitch is full sized, floodlit and available for community use.
- ◀ As per the previous PPS, South Shields Westoe RFC (as part of South Shields and Westoe Club) has been in talks with South Tyneside Council over an agreement to lease land at Temple Park that would see the Club relocate from South Shields & Westoe Club to Temple Park.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches in South Tyneside, one is assessed as good quality, four are standard quality and four are poor quality.
- ◀ Two of the poor quality pitches available for community use are at Luke's Lane Playing Fields, the home venue of Jarrovians RFC. The other poor quality pitches are at South Tyneside College and Temple Memorial Park; which was a contributing factor for South Shields RFC relocating away from the former site.
- ◀ Although all clubs have access to changing provision, users report that provision at Luke's Lane Playing Fields, South Shields & Westoe Club and South Tyneside College are old and dated and in need of refurbishment.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Three rugby union clubs play within South Tyneside, consisting of six senior teams, one of which is a women's team; a colts' team; seven junior boys' teams; and eight mini squads.
- ◀ Although population increases are unlikely to generate any teams, all three clubs report demand for future teams.
- ◀ There is a total of 2.75 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Both Brinkburn CIO and Temple Memorial Park have one match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period for senior play. Luke's Lane Playing Field also has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity, however, site capacity reduces this to 0.75 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.
- ◀ Only South Shields and Westoe Club is overplayed; by 5.25 match equivalent sessions per week; four match equivalent sessions of which are from training demand.
- ◀ Overall in South Tyneside there is a shortfall of rugby union provision available for community use on secure, long term agreements.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Improving pitch quality*

As shown in the table overleaf, improving maintenance from poor (M0) to standard (M1) or standard (M1) to good (M2) at sites where clubs have security of tenure would create additional capacity of 1.75 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week.

Creating this additional capacity would eliminate current shortfalls but would not be located on the overplayed sites. Maintenance of one pitch at South Shields and Westoe Club cannot be improved further with a current maintenance rating of M2 the maximum possible for a community club. Therefore, overplay would be retained at this site unless some demand is relocated to alternative pitches in the Borough. With this in mind the Club, as part of South Shields and Westoe Club, is seeking to relocate to Temple Memorial Park; however, this is subject to appropriate planning, mapping and sport requirements.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.2: Impact of improving maintenance

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	Usage (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality	Capacity effect (MES per week)
5	Brinkburn CIO	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	1	No	0.25	2	1.75	M2/D1	2.75
24	Lukes Lane Playing Fields	Hebburn & Jarrow	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D0	2	No	2.25	3	0.75	M2/D0	1.25
37	Temple Memorial Park	Inner & Outer South Shields	Yes	<b>Secure</b>	Senior	M0 / D1	1	No	1	1.5	0.5	M1/D1	0.75

Overplay at South Shields & Westoe Club cannot be eliminated through qualitative improvements to the pitch; as the provision currently has a rating of M2/D2 from which the maintenance rating cannot increase, as mentioned previously; and improvements to the drainage system (D2 to D3) would only increase capacity by 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week. Therefore, the only viable solution to eliminate overplay at the site is to either relocate some match and training demand to existing secure venues or to create new provision in the Borough that the Club could securely access.

The three secure sites not currently used by South Shields Westoe RFC are Lukes Lane Playing Fields, Brinkburn CIO and Temple Memorial Park. The first two sites are currently used by Jarrovians RUFC and South Shields RFC, respectively, with the latter club expected to increase its use of Brinkburn CIO as the availability of the WR compliant 3G pitch at Harton Academy reduces due to commercial football activity.

The latter venue, Temple Memorial Park, was occasionally utilised during the 2017/18 season by the Club; but is not currently used due to one set of posts on site not being in place.

## **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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### *Creating new provision (South Shields RFC)*

South Shields RFC is currently seeking a permanent home venue following the Club ceasing to use the senior pitch at South Tyneside College due to quality issues. This search is hastened given that the full size, WR, 3G pitch at Harton Academy has recently increased its commercial football offering, reducing site capacity for rugby union use. In addition to this, the Club does not have security of tenure at Harton Academy, renting the WR compliant 3G pitch on a weekly basis; increasing the risk of the Club losing access to the site.

The Club does occasionally utilise the senior pitch at Brinkburn CIO for match demand but notes that the limited opening times of the site, particularly on Sunday inhibits its growth in the longer term as mini and junior rugby traditionally takes place on this day.

To accommodate the Club's current demand (three MES per week) there is a requirement for access to two senior rugby union pitches, a minimum of standard quality (M1/D1) (providing four MES per week). This would provide the Club with sufficient capacity to host matches and training sessions on match pitches; although accommodating the latter on pitches is less preferential by the RFU. This provision would also provide some capacity to accommodate the Club's future demand i.e. a senior women's team; with a view for the Club to then add mini teams once a dedicated home venue is secured.

Although it is a priority to resolve this issue, there are a number of options to be explored including, negotiating a long-term lease agreement at Brinkburn CIO. An agreement of this type could then enable the Club to successfully apply for funding to improve the ancillary provision on site, which could then be used to establish a bar/function room, establishing a secondary income for the Club. However, it should be noted that Brinkburn CIO is included in the list of SHLAA sites, specifically the lower field.

South Shields RFC also notes that it has aspirations to establish a senior rugby union pitch at Cleadon Recreation Ground, if the Club could have a long term lease agreement for the, now unused, ancillary provision attached to the bowling greens.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby union pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
- ◀ Seek to maximise use of the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at the Harton Academy, particularly for training to help address overplay. It should be noted, however, that spare capacity is at less preferable times for traditional rugby union activity i.e. Monday and Friday evenings.
- ◀ Given the establishment of a new commercial football league at this site; then an alternative may be that South Tyneside based clubs access the WR compliant 3G pitch that will be established at part of the Sunderland Parklife development as Northern Area Playing Fields (Sunderland).
- ◀ Improve pitch maintenance across the Borough through improved maintenance. Explore options for an equipment bank where clubs can share equipment.
- ◀ Work to ensure that all clubs have long term lease agreements to provide the clubs with security of tenure on all currently used pitches.
- ◀ As a priority, continue to explore options for a suitable home venue for South Shields RFC, with the Club having access to at least two pitches and appropriate supporting ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Provide Jarrowians RUFC with pitch maintenance guidance in order to sustain and improve pitch quality.



## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Ensure that a long term lease agreement for Jarrovians RUFC is financially sustainable; and that improvements can be made to the existing ancillary facilities on the Luke's Lane site.
- ◀ Should South Shields Westoe RFC not relocate to Temple Memorial Park, as part of South Shields & Westoe Club, then the alternative sites will need to be investigated given the current and future shortfalls on the site.

### 4.5: Hockey

**The current supply of available hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current and future level of hockey demand at peak time (Saturday) and midweek (for training) in South Tyneside.**

#### *Summary*

- ◀ Boldon School provides the only full size artificial pitch within South Tyneside suitable for hockey. An additional pitch at Whitburn C of E Academy is considered too narrow to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Through an audit assessment, both Boldon School and Whitburn C of E Academy were assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The surface of Boldon School is 12 years old and therefore will soon be in need of resurfacing. Whitburn C of E Academy is deemed by users to have poor grip underfoot.
- ◀ There is one hockey club in South Tyneside containing one ladies team. The team plays matches at Boldon School and trains at Lord Blyton Primary School due to the preferable price to access the small size AGP at the latter.
- ◀ Focus is on creating youth teams within the Club and re-establishing a senior men's team. It is anticipated that all future teams will be accommodated at Boldon School.
- ◀ Based on one senior team there is a requirement for one full size AGP. Therefore, supply is deemed sufficient enough to meet demand, and spare capacity for growth is considered available.
- ◀ Focus should be placed on ensuring the quality is maintained at Boldon School; and that funds are in place for the future resurfacing of the carpet.

#### *Scenarios*

##### *Loss of unsecure sites*

Both hockey suitable AGPs utilised by South Shields HC are located at unsecure sites; namely education sites at which the Club does not have either formal community use agreements or long term lease agreements.

If a situation did arise in the future which forced the Club to vacate either of the sites then there would be a need to re-accommodate one senior ladies' team. It may not be financially viable to establish a new, full size hockey suitable AGP in the Borough to accommodate this demand; therefore existing provision should be protected.

As the only hockey suitable AGP in South Tyneside located at a secure site is small size (Hedworthfield Community Association) this would likely result in the displacement of South Shields HC out of the Borough to access appropriate provision, resulting in no hockey activity remaining.

# SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect for hockey and resurface the AGP at Boldon School in the near future given that it is 12 years old and accommodates hockey match demand in the Borough.
- ◀ Maximise use of Boldon for matches and train in order to sustain use of the site for hockey.
- ◀ Seek to secure a formal community use agreement at Boldon School for South Shields HC to at least accommodate weekend match demand.
- ◀ Secure a formal community use agreement at Lord Blyton Primary School for South Shields HC to ensure that training can continue to take place on site.
- ◀ Increase participation driven through community clubs and schools.
- ◀ Secure increased access to midweek and non-peak time capacity to allow for both growth in training demand and development and delivery of alternative hockey formats, such as short format matches/leagues and less formal participation-based sessions.
- ◀ Maintain AGPs regularly and 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) in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long term.

## **4.6: Rugby league**

**Current supply of rugby league pitches in South Tyneside is considered to be sufficient to accommodate current levels of demand. Should the number of teams increase then there will be a need to increase pitch quality and/or supply, dependent on the number of new teams.**

## **Summary**

- ◀ There is one rugby league pitch in South Tyneside. It is senior size and available for community use, but it is not floodlit. The pitch is standard quality and is marked in the winter months with a youth 11v11 sized football pitch.
- ◀ Jarrow Vikings ARLFC is the only rugby league club based in the Borough. The Club has one, senior men's, team which competes in the North East Rugby League.
- ◀ The pitch, at Monkton Stadium, is considered to be at capacity, with half of the Club's training demand taking place elsewhere in the Borough.
- ◀ It is considered that there is currently sufficient supply to meet the rugby league demand in South Tyneside; however, any future demand could not be met.
- ◀ Alternatively, providing Jarrow Vikings ARLFC with a dedicated training area, preferably at Monkton Stadium would create additional capacity in the Borough to accommodate any additional demand.

## **Scenarios**

Increasing the quality of the rugby league pitch at Monkton Stadium from standard to good quality would create an additional one match equivalent session per week to accommodate any potential future demand. Further to this, given that the pitch is also used for football in the winter, improving quality would also help to sustain all year round play.

In addition, if the Club could be provided with a dedicated training area, potentially at Monkton Stadium, this would allow all training demand to take place away from the match pitch, creating capacity for additional match demand. Currently the Club has 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week of training on the match pitch.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Therefore, reducing usage by this amount would create 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week of spare capacity to either help protect/sustain pitch quality and/or accommodate any potential future demand.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Existing rugby league pitch to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality to increase capacity (for all year round use with football) and support potential future growth.
- ◀ Encourage Jarrow Vikings to utilise a dedicated training area (off the match pitch) and explore opportunities for this at either Monkton Stadium or elsewhere in the local vicinity.
- ◀ Support the growth of rugby league in South Tyneside, encouraging Jarrow Vikings to establish future primary and junior teams.

### **4.7: Tennis**

**There is currently sufficient supply of tennis courts in South Tyneside to meet current and future club demand expressed.**

### **Summary**

- ◀ There is a total of 72 tennis courts identified in South Tyneside located across 19 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools. An increase of two courts from 2015, with two new courts having been established at Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ There are 12 floodlit courts in South Tyneside, nine (75%) of which are available for community use.
- ◀ South Shields Tennis Club has two men's, one male vets' and one male over 55's team. The Club had 30 senior members and three juniors, in 2015. Membership at Boldon Tennis Club is unknown.
- ◀ Most tennis courts available for community use are owned/managed by education sites (27 courts or 43%); with Council owned/managed sites providing 32% (20 courts) of the provision available for community use. The least amount of provision (25%) is owned/managed by sports clubs.
- ◀ There are two tennis clubs playing in South Tyneside; Boldon Tennis Club and South Shields Tennis Club.
- ◀ There is reported demand from Friends of Jarrow West Park to have courts re-provided in the Park.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use, 29 courts (46%) are assessed as good quality, 16 (25%) are deemed standard and 18 are rated as poor (29%). The number of good courts has increased with the creation of two additional, good quality, courts at Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ Poor quality courts can be found at, Cleadon Recreation Ground, Springwell Park, Coulthard Park, Cornthwaite Park and South Shields Tennis Club.
- ◀ Three all-weather floodlit courts at South Shields Tennis Club are poor quality but usable. There are a further four tarmac courts that are inaccessible and unplayable.
- ◀ South Shields Tennis Club reports latent demand for additional court access. However, the courts appear to have spare capacity and it is poor quality which is currently inhibiting growth.
- ◀ South Shields and Westoe Club (South Shields Tennis Club) is seeking to relocate provision to Temple Park.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ On the whole it is believed that the current level of provision can accommodate current demand other than at West Park Jarrow where anecdotal evidence suggests that there is unmet demand in the area.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Addressing poor quality*

Nationally, LTA insight suggests that 18% of players that pick up a racket each year would play more often if key barriers such as poor promotion of opportunities to get on court, unclear booking journeys (especially those that are 'off line') and low quality facilities were addressed. Therefore, there is a clear opportunity to work with the Council to address these barriers amongst council operated sites, whilst also bettering understanding of court usage at these sites.

The courts assessed as poor quality in South Tyneside are all located at the following sites:

- ◀ Cleadon Recreation Ground
- ◀ Cornthwaite Park
- ◀ Coulthard Park
- ◀ South Shields and Westoe Club
- ◀ Springwell Park
- ◀ Robert Redhead Park

The LTA recommends that the need to refurbish tennis courts is based typically on its current quality. Good quality courts typically need resurfacing in eight (plus) years, standard quality courts between four and seven years and poor quality courts within the next three years.

Combining targeted court improvements at key sites with a Clubspark style booking system should significantly address latent demand in the Borough. Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and pay and play users (where relevant) access through the use of a fob or access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Improve the quality of the courts currently available in the Borough, with priority of those assessed as poor quality with community use.
- ◀ Improvements at Council owned sites should include, resurfacing, floodlighting and implementation of the LTA Clubspark system.
- ◀ Explore opportunity to develop recreational opportunities within South Tyneside.
- ◀ Seek to establish Tennis for Free in a phased approach across the Borough at key sites.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for investment through the LTA's Transforming British Tennis Together funding initiative.
- ◀ Support clubs, as required, to improve ancillary facilities to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

#### **4.8: Bowls**

**Overall existing supply of bowling greens is sufficient for both current and future demand in South Tyneside.**

**Quality issues require addressing at multiple sites in the Borough to support continued bowls activity.**

# SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **Summary**

- ◀ There are 17 flat green bowling greens in South Tyneside provided across 10 sites; a decrease of two greens since 2015. These are now disused and located at Coulthard Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground.
- ◀ The quality of the greens within South Tyneside is considered to be good. The Bowling Association reports that quality has decreased on the Council maintained greens over the last three years.
- ◀ Quality issues at the following sites are highlighted as being a priority to address, Cornthwaite Park, North Marine Park, West Park Jarrow, Cleadon Recreation Ground and Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ There are now (2018) 28 clubs using bowling greens in South Tyneside. This is a decrease of one club, with it assumed that Cleadon Park Vets BC has folded resulting in the green on site becoming disused.
- ◀ The majority of clubs access council greens to compete. Almost all sites have more than one club using the greens.
- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership bowls remains strong in South Tyneside. However, there is no demand for additional greens as the current number is able to accommodate current and future demand.

## **Scenarios**

Bowls England supports that a green accommodating less than 60 playing members is considered to have spare capacity for further play and those accommodating more than 60 could be considered to be overplayed. Consideration should also be given to the sustainability of greens which operate with a playing membership of less than 20.

Generally, it is considered that most bowling clubs are able to accept additional members should demand increase. The current numbers of greens are well used as demand for bowls is still strong in the North East. It is, however, unlikely that demand would increase such that additional greens will be needed, any investment instead should be focussed on improving existing greens and associated ancillary facilities. To that end it is unlikely that the disused greens at Coulthard Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground will be required in the future.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Improve quality at used greens as required, particularly at Cornthwaite Park, North Marine Park, West Park Jarrow, Cleadon Recreation Ground and Carr Ellison Park.
- ◀ Encourage clubs to take on responsibility for maintaining greens by providing clubs with long term community use agreements.
- ◀ Consider alternative uses for the green and ancillary facilities at Coulthard Park and Cleadon Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Ensure that the sustainability of sites containing more than one bowling green and work with clubs to ensure use is maximised.

# SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## 4.9: Athletics

**Key priority for formal athletics facilities should be to improve the surface at Monkton Stadium; whilst also ensuring that the site meets EA requirements for field events.**

### *Summary*

- ◀ There is one athletics stadium within South Tyneside; Monkton Stadium. The track is synthetic and hosts regional and national events.
- ◀ The quality of the track was previously considered to be good quality; although there were issues highlighted by club consultation with the markings and evenness of the surface.
- ◀ Since 2015, the quality of the track is reported to have declined with age; and there is an acknowledgement that resurfacing will be required in the near future. Improvements are required for the throwing cage on the site.
- ◀ South Shields Harriers uses a smaller track (220m) and a disused cycle track at Gypsies Green. Both tracks are considered poor quality and not fit for purpose as a running track.
- ◀ There are two track and field clubs in South Tyneside, namely Jarrow & Hebburn AC and South Shields Harriers AC. Combined there are over 400 registered EA athletes participating in the Borough; with both clubs also having non-registered juniors.
- ◀ England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running. It is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and The Great North Run events, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.
- ◀ There is a future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium and as such maintaining the quality of the track should be a priority in order to sustain predicted growth at the Club.

### *Scenarios*

#### *Improving quality*

It is considered that for athletics tracks to be sustainable, nationally, a club membership of 200 is recommended by UKA<sup>2</sup>; however, other factors should also be considered such as club fees, track rates, income from other sports and track operation costs. Further to this, EA would also recommend a multi sport use of a track to sustain the facility.

Although registered membership of Jarrow & Hebburn AC does not meet the UKA recommendation to make the track at Monkton Stadium sustainable, it is considered that the Club has a number of non-registered members who regularly use the track as part of training sessions. Therefore, the track should be protected given its value to the wider community in the Borough.

The track should also be promoted for greater usage other than through the existing AC to help ensure its sustainability. This will also need to be linked to initial improvements to the track quality to encourage this greater use, whilst the AC should be provided with formal, long term, community use agreements to provide security of tenure (if not already in place).

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<sup>2</sup> Source: UKA Facilities Strategy recommends that Regional Outdoor Competition Venues should have a strong anchor performance club (i.e. 200+ track and field members).

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In addition to the tracks, focus should be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the wider running market and multi-discipline running clubs, including driving participation in running events taking place within South Tyneside as well as the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups and Parkrun.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Undertake a professional survey of the track at Monkton Stadium; or ensure that the facility operator completes UKA's TrackMark accreditation scheme.
- ◀ Resurface the track at Monkton Stadium in the near future to ensure that it remains of adequate quality to host competitions. This should include improving the throwing facilities in line with UKA safety guidance.
- ◀ Provide Jarrow & Hebburn AC with a formal community use agreement or lease of Monkton Stadium to provide the Club with security of tenure.
- ◀ Ensure a sustainable business model is adopted to manage and maintain the track, including promotion of greater usage other than from the AC.
- ◀ Retain the recreational tracks in the Borough to encourage running participation.
- ◀ Improve the ancillary facilities available to both athletics clubs and respective home venues ensuring that they meet all health and safety compliance.
- ◀ Support track and field clubs with plans to increase membership and community engagement.
- ◀ Explore establishing a second Parkrun event within the Borough and consider creating a Junior Parkrun.

### **4.10: Replacement of South Shields and Westoe Club**

The South Shields and Westoe Club site is currently identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) as a future potential housing development site. As a multi sports site, it currently accommodates cricket, rugby union and tennis facilities all serviced by a clubhouse and ancillary facilities. The Club owns the site.

*Table 4.3: Summary of site provision*

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Current status</b>
Cricket	One good quality pitch with 10 grass wickets. Overplayed by 22 matches per season. The outfield is overmarked with the rugby pitch.
Rugby union	One good quality senior pitch, with pipe drainage. The pitch also has floodlights for training. The site is the current home venue of South Shields Westoe RFC. The pitch is overplayed by 5.25 MES and is subject to both match and training demand. The pitch is marked out on the outfield of the cricket pitch.
Tennis	Seven poor quality courts. Three artificial surface and floodlit which are poor quality but usable. Four macadam surface and not floodlit which are unplayable. South Shields TC reports latent demand for additional court access. However, the courts appear to have spare capacity and it is poor quality which is currently inhibiting growth.

In addition to the above, the changing rooms servicing the site (i.e. all the sports) are assessed as poor-quality.

Given the above issues and the lack of opportunity to increase the footprint of the site to address the need for access to more grass pitches, the Club and South Tyneside Council are currently seeking options of relocating to Temple Memorial Park. However, should this not be considered a viable option, there is still a need to explore options for relocation of the site to allow the Club to develop its facility offer.

## **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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Overall, 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, if the site was to be developed for housing, replacement of playing field land should be re-provided to equal or better quality in the locality and in line with SE Playing Field Policy.

The following sections explore the current and future demand for each pitch type and the extent to which provision would need to be replaced should the site be lost to development.

### ***Re-provision of rugby***

The current pitch is assessed as good quality (M2/D2) with a recommended capacity of 3.25 MES per week and is overplayed by 5.25 MES per week.

To accommodate South Shields Westoe RFC's current use of the pitch at South Shields and Westoe Club (8.5 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week) for matches and training, then three good quality senior grass pitches are required (i.e. 3.25 MES x 3 pitches = 9.75 MES). This would also provide 1.25 MES of additional spare capacity to help meet any future demand that may be realised (the Club has aspiration to establish two new teams, one junior and a senior team). At least one pitch would need to be floodlit. There is also a need to ensure re-provision is for dedicated rugby pitches and not overmarked with other pitch types.

As an alternative to providing all three grass pitches, if access to a 3G World Rugby compliant pitch could be secured, this would reduce the need for grass pitches to be provided. Please note that the Club also trains on 3G pitches at Harton Academy and Mortimer School. For example, if all training (3.5 MES per week) and some matches (1.75 MES per week) could be accommodated on a 3G pitch this would reduce the need for grass pitches to just one. This would require further work around peak time usage; with programming for both pitches confirmed based on demand.

### ***Re-provision of tennis***

The three usable floodlit artificial courts have a recommended capacity of 180 members. However, the courts are poor quality, which may adversely impact capacity and the Club believes that this has resulted in latent demand from juniors in the area and that it would grow if it had more, or better quality courts. There are also four macadam courts which are also poor quality but unavailable for community use and currently used as car parking.

Despite Westoe TC previously reporting that it was near capacity for the number of teams it had, supply and demand analysis (based on 2015 membership) suggests that there is sufficient capacity at South Shields and Westoe Club to accommodate, at least, 147 additional members on the artificial courts alone. The Club does also have an extensive coaching programme in place which considerably adds to the overall usage of courts.

On this basis, there is a need to at least re-provide the three floodlit artificial courts and increase quality to a good standard. It is likely that with increased, good quality provision that there will then be a future need to increase provision further.

### ***Re-provision of cricket***

The current pitch is assessed as good quality with a recommended capacity of 50 MES per season and is overplayed by 22 MES per season.

To accommodate South Shields CC's current use of the pitch at South Shields and Westoe Club (72 MES per season) then one senior pitch containing 15 grass wickets is required.



## **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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However, there would be no peak time capacity available for further use of this pitch and based on future demand expressed for one senior women's team, this could not be accommodated.

In addition to above, South Shields CC hosts an All Stars Cricket programme and although it only currently has 15 participants, it is highly likely that junior participation will increase and will also result in the development of more junior teams at the Club.

Therefore, in order to accommodate all current and future demand, there is a need for two cricket pitches to be re-provided. This could be provided as one smaller (junior) sized pitch and one standard (senior) sized pitch, for example.

New natural turf provision requires a period of time to become established and therefore it is not recommended that clubs transfer to new sites until it is considered by the ECB that grounds are able to accommodate competitive fixtures.

It should be noted that the ECB states that where there is either new cricket provision being put in place or more commonly development which may prejudice the use of the sporting facility there would be a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment<sup>3</sup> to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such the ECB recommends that the clubs/organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken. Further information can be provided by the ECB.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

As previously identified, the changing rooms servicing the site are assessed as poor-quality. In line with relevant NGB guidelines, re-provision should not only improve the current quality but also seek to minimise duplication to achieve a sustainable multi-sport offer. Facilities should be able to sufficiently cater for planned junior development activity and increased female participation across the different sports.

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<sup>3</sup> The boundary must be considered when planning the site; the boundary should be a minimum of 45.72m (50 yards) from the centre of the pitch in use although the ideal planning size should be a minimum of 50 yards from the centre stump of any designated pitch to be used on each side of the square to allow for League and Premier legislation ruling.

## PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across playing pitch facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and 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 needed.

#### 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 97 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 97 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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Table 5.1: Disused/lapsed sites

Site name	Site address	Settlement	Current status
Charlie Hurley Centre	Cleadon Lane, Whitburn, SR6 7NS	Whitburn	Lapsed site – the former training ground of Sunderland AFC prior to the Club's relocation to The Academy of Light in 2003. The site had three adult football pitches. The Club is looking to sell the land to a housing developer.
Croft Terrace	Croft Terrace, Jarrow, NE32 5UW	Jarrow	Lapsed site – last had three football pitches marked on in 2010.
South Tyneside College (Hebburn Campus)	Mill Lane, Hebburn, NE31 2ET	Hebburn	Lapsed site - A former education site. Previously a second site for South Tyneside College. There were previously three football pitches, last marked in 2009. The site has not been used since.

As far as possible the PPS audit and assessment aims to capture all of the pitches within South Tyneside. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. 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 and disused sites should also be protected from development or be replaced (in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

It is recommended that the Council adopts the following priority order of options with regards to addressing any disused/lapsed playing field sites that may be identified for disposal:

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

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 robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

should the development be permitted, 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 area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field’:

- ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
- ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
- ◀ in a suitable location, and
- ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and 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 97 of the 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.

### *Potential playing field sites for housing allocations*

Further to the above, there are also several designated playing field sites that are identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The majority of these are not currently marked as pitches, and in some cases have never had formal playing pitches marked out. Although these sites are included in the SHLAA this does not mean that they will necessarily be allocated for housing in the new Local Plan. However, if they do get allocated, as per above, due to the current shortfalls expressed across the sports, any playing field site in South Tyneside cannot be deemed surplus to requirements and the loss of any site would need to be justified.

*Table 5.2: Potential playing field sites for housing allocations*

Site name	Site address	Settlement	Current status
Brinkburn CIO (lower playing fields)	McAnany Avenue	South Shields	Used 2018/19 season Site ID: 5
Land at Chuter Ede Education Centre (excluding Brydon Court)	Galsworthy Road	South Shields	Unknown
Playing Fields at Chuter Ede	Galsworthy Road	South Shields	Used 2018/19 season. Site ID: 6

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Site name	Site address	Settlement	Current status
South Shields and Westoe Sports Club	Dean Road	South Shields	Used 2018/19 season Site ID: 29
South Tyneside College - South Shields Campus playing fields	Grosvenor Road	South Shields	Not used in 2018 due to poor quality Site ID: 33
The Clock Playing Field	Victoria Road East	Hebburn	Pitches maintained but unused 2018/19 season. Site ID: 39

### *Impact of loss of SHLAA sites*

Five sites currently providing playing pitches are identified as potential sites for housing allocations within the SHLAA. These sites provide a total of 14 pitches of varying quality, sporting need and level of community use. The table below indicates what pitches each of these sites currently has marked, as well as, the current level of demand accommodated on site.

*Table 5.3: Summary of current usage and capacity on SHLAA sites*

Site ID	Site name	No. of pitches and quality	Current pitch capacity (MES) <sup>4</sup>	Current play (MES)
5	Brinkburn CIO	2 standard quality adult football pitches.	4	1
		2 standard quality youth 9v9 pitches.	4	Unused
		1 standard quality (M1/D1) senior rugby union pitch.	2	0.25
6	Playing Fields at Chuter Ede	2 poor quality adult football pitches.	2	1
		1 poor quality youth 9v9 football pitch.	1	0.5
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	1 good quality cricket square consisting of ten grass wickets.	50 (per season)	72 (overplayed)
		1 good quality (M2/D2) senior rugby union pitch.	3.25	8.5 (overplayed)
33	South Tyneside College	1 standard quality adult football pitch.	2	1 (curricular demand)
		1 poor quality (M0/D0) senior rugby union pitch.	0.5	0.5 (curricular demand)
		1 floodlit training pitch	-	1 (training demand)
39	The Clock Playing Field	1 standard quality adult football pitch.	2	Neither of the pitches are currently subject to formal community demand.
		1 standard quality youth 11v11 football pitch.	2	

The total current level of demand accommodated equates to:

- ◀ 3.5 MES of football pitch demand (curriculum and community use).
- ◀ 8.5 MES of rugby union demand (match and training demand).

<sup>4</sup> Match equivalent sessions (MES) per week (per season, for cricket) based on quality as identified within in the Assessment Report.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### ◀ 72 MES of cricket demand.

The impact of the loss of these sites/pitches from available stock would reduce actual spare capacity available on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football pitches; as well as on senior rugby union pitches.

Actual spare capacity on adult football pitches would reduce from 19.5 MES to 16.5 match equivalent sessions and from 3.5 MES to 1.5 MES on youth 9v9 pitches and would result in an increased shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches from two MES to three MES.

Current shortfalls of rugby union provision in the Borough would increase from 2.5 MES to 4.5 MES with the removal of Brinkburn CIO from available supply alone. Further, there would also be a requirement to relocate the 8.25 MES of demand from South Shields and Westoe Club which is more than current capacity due to overplay. It is also worthy of note that one MES of training demand from South Shields RFC is accommodated on a dedicated, floodlit, training area but would still require to be relocated.

In terms of cricket, existing provision is unable to accommodate 72 MES of cricket demand per season (more than current capacity due to overplay) from South Shields and Westoe Club as there is no actual spare capacity currently available at any sites in South Tyneside.

As the PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future, the above sites should be protected from development or re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4, as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.

**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.

**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 a playing field will use the PPS to help assess relevant planning applications against paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and their Playing Fields Policy.

### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

A number of schools, commercial and private sites are being used in South Tyneside for competitive play. In many cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of activity, such as St Joseph's Roman Catholic Academy or Harton Academy.

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NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the agreement.

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 to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>5</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.

Each club interested in leasing a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability.

*Table 5.4 Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
Clubs to have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award but this should discuss with the relevant NGB.	Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough-wide significance) but that offer development potential.
Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.	For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.
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.	As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).
Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any	Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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Club	Site
<p>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>improvement of the site.</p>

The Council could 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. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. 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. A key issue in South Tyneside is a lack of secure access to provision located at education sites.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. The following school sites are identified as being able to accommodate large user groups and should be further explored for securing community access through the appropriate methods:

- ◀ Harton Academy
- ◀ Mortimer Comprehensive School
- ◀ South Shields Community School
- ◀ St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School
- ◀ St Wilfrids RC College
- ◀ Whitburn C of E Academy

Community use agreements were established at Harton Academy, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School and St Wilfrid's RC College by South Tyneside Council with those at Harton Academy and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School running for three years from the agreement. The agreement at St Wilfrid's RC College is to remain in place as long as the School remains in operation. There is also a long term agreement in place at Jarrow School (25 years) running from the date at which it was agreed by the Council.

In some instances, outdoors sports facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these pitches sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.



## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

### **AIM 2**

To **enhance** pitches and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

#### **Recommendations:**

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

#### **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 councils.

#### **Addressing quality issues**

Quality in South Tyneside is variable but generally pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

Based upon 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 as

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to 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 quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to provision with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

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

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. If a poor-quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality sites may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to South Tyneside, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.

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/](http://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 outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, as seen in the table below. With the exception of rugby union and rugby league, no guidelines are set by the NGBs for other grass pitch sports, although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

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Table 5.5 Carrying capacity of pitches

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	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	4 per season	None
	One non-turf wicket	60 per season		None

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

### ***Increasing maintenance***

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

The FA and ECB are part of the Ground and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.

All local authority sites in South Tyneside receive a basic level of maintenance, consisting of regular cutting and lining with adhoc works undertaken during the football off season.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, 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 it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the IOG.

### ***Improving changing provision***

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in South Tyneside, including some local authority sites. It is recommended that a holistic view is taken in regard to improvements and provision on site. Sites identified as priority projects for this are:

- ◀ Bents Park Recreation Ground
- ◀ Boldon Community Association
- ◀ Cleadon Recreational Ground
- ◀ Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)
- ◀ Hebburn Sports Club
- ◀ Hedworthfield Community Centre
- ◀ Jack Clark Park
- ◀ Luke's Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ Oakleigh Gardens
- ◀ Perth Green Community Association
- ◀ South Shields and Westoe Club
- ◀ St Wilfrid's RC College
- ◀ Whitburn Cricket Club

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.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners 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 pitches and accompanying ancillary 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 Strategy Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group 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.

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One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. 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.

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

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches the Council is encouraged to work with Sport England to devise a process for securing developer contributions which may include the use of Sport England's strategic planning tool 'New Development Pitch Calculator'. The Calculator uses information from the PPS to estimate the demand from individual or cumulative housing developments. The PPS should be used to help determine whether there is sufficient capacity in existing to accommodate the new demand, if improvements are required, or new provision should be secured.

Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches. A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.

## **SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

### AIM 3

To **provide** new pitches and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

#### Recommendations:

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

#### **Recommendation (h) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Council should use, and regularly update its 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) may also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which maybe a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

#### **Recommendation (j) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

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

- ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation of facilities.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of playing pitches.

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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 and are not necessarily area specific.

*Table 5.6: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Future sports development trend</b>	<b>Strategy impact</b>
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on the FA key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGPs.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Demand is likely to slightly increase for grass wickets for adult participation. The ECB targets participation increases at junior level through the All Stars Cricket programme which may have a subsequent future impact on requirement for grass and non-turf cricket provision.	A requirement may be needed to utilise additional natural turf provision in the peak period for senior cricket. pitches are operating at capacity. A need to encourage greater use of non-turf wickets particularly for junior use to help meet shortfalls. A need to improve facilities to create family friendly environments.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams. By 2024, women should be able to access a format of cricket they would like to play.	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 South Tyneside 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	A need to improve pitch quality and address overplay.



## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL.	Seek 3G pitch venues for training, Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase.	Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey in the future and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure the subjected pitch is not required. Secure long term tenure for clubs.
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	Play Hockey	The launch of Play Hockey and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.
Tennis	The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both a club and wider community level such as local parks.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through improving court quality and increasing floodlighting at key sites. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.
Bowls	No expected net increase in membership, although an increasing elderly population could change this.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Athletics	Increase affiliate club membership to above 200 to ensure that track facilities are sustainable.	Improve quality and secure tenure at Monkton Stadium in order to help increase and sustain membership.

# SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding 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 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. As stated in Recommendation (e), 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.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-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 Council area as a whole.

*Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites
<b>Site location</b>	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
<b>Site layout</b>	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
<b>Type of sport</b>	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.
<b>Management</b>	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.
<b>Maintenance regime</b>	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.
<b>Ancillary facilities</b>	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.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

It may be appropriate to consider rationalization of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.

**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.

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

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

**Local sites** refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one facilities or a low number of facilities that service just one 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. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the provision. 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.

### 6.1: 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.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.

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- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private hub sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with the FA.

## 6.2: Action plan columns

### **Partners**

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

### **Site hierarchy tier**

Although Hub sites are mostly likely to have a **high** priority level as they have 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. Therefore, some Key sites and even some Local sites 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).

Further to this, football sites in South Tyneside have already been prioritised for investment (for both grass pitches and ancillary facilities improvements) as part of the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) and are identified as such within the action plan.

The majority of Key sites 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 tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance 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:

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

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:  
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

### **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 indicative timescales included relate to delivery times and are not necessarily priority based: Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

### **Aim**

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

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## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 6.3: Hebburn & Jarrow Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2035)
Football (grass pitches)	Hebburn & Jarrow	Shortfall of <b>5.5</b> MES on youth 11v11 pitches Shortfall of <b>1</b> MES on youth 9v9 pitches	Shortfall of <b>8</b> MES on youth 11v11 pitches Shortfall of <b>2</b> MES on youth 9v9 pitches
Football (3G AGPs)	Borough wide	Shortfall of <b>2</b> 3G pitch based on FA training model.	Shortfall of <b>2</b> 3G pitch based on FA training model.
Cricket	Hebburn & Jarrow	Pitches are at capacity	Shortfall of <b>23</b> MES per season
Rugby union	Hebburn & Jarrow	Spare capacity of 0.75 MES	Spare capacity on senior pitches.
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Hebburn & Jarrow	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected
Rugby league	Borough wide	Pitch is played to capacity	<b>Potential future shortfall</b>
Bowls	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Supply meets future demand
Tennis	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Potential unmet demand at West Park, Jarrow
Athletics	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>6</sup>	Cost <sup>7</sup>	Aim
8	Clegwell Community Association (Hebburn Comprehensive School)	Football	Community Association/ School	Three adult pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches; all assessed as standard quality, the adult pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES and the youth pitches have one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The maintenance of the pitches is poor and has been identified in the LFFP as part of the FA PIP.	Improve pitch quality in order to cater for overplay. Seek resolution to management issues.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		One standard quality artificial wicket.	No immediate need for pitch for community use, continue school use and consider as strategic reserve for community use.	School Council ECB		L	L	
		Football		Full size 3G pitch assessed as good quality. Split management between the School and the Community Association has resulted in restricted opening times and therefore a lack of profitability. No sinking fund is in place. The pitch is FA certified for competitive matches.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Seek resolution to management issues in order to increase opening hours. Ensure sinking fund for eventual resurfacing.	School FA DCFA		S	L	
		Tennis		Five standard quality courts available to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	
13	Hebburn Riverside Park	Football	Council	One good quality adult pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity during peak time.	Consider future use of the site for formal pitch sports given investment required for a one pitch site. Potential to not maintain and reinvest in a Key/Hub site development.	Council FA DCFA	Local	M	L	Provide
14	Hebburn Sports and Social Club	Football	Club	Two good quality adult pitches with one MES available at peak time.	Retain spare capacity in order to maintain pitch quality.	FA DCFA	Key Centre	L	L	Protect Provide
		Cricket		One disused 12 wicket square. The square ceased to be maintained following the folding of Hebburn CC.	Consider re-providing the square to address latent demand in the Analysis Area. Should Hebburn CC re-form then provide the Club with a long term lease agreement to give security of tenure.	ECB DCB		M	M	
		Hockey		Half sized sand based pitch assessed as standard quality.	Consider value of pitch in current state. Explore the possibility of converting the pitch 3G to accommodate some local football training demand. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	EH FF DCFA		M	M	
		Tennis		Three floodlit artificial courts which are good quality.	Sustain good quality.	LTA		L	L	
		Bowls		One good quality green used by Hebburn Sports BC.	Sustain good quality.	Club		L	L	

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

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

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>6</sup>	Cost <sup>7</sup>	Aim
17	Jarrow School	Football	School	One adult and one 9v9 pitch. The adult pitch is at capacity from both curricular and community demand; whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is solely used by the School despite being available for community use.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Consider providing community clubs with formal, long term, community use agreements.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Tennis		Three good quality courts available to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	
19	King George V Playing Fields - Jarrow	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches which are currently unused. There is also a youth 9v9 pitch on site which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Explore options to maximise use of the site. Consider remarking the adult pitches to accommodate shortfalls of other formats or alternative pitch sports.	Council FF DCFA	Key Centre	S	L	Enhance Provide
20	King George V Playing Fields - Hebburn	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch currently unused.	Consider future use of the site for formal pitch sports given investment required for a one pitch site. Potential to not maintain and reinvest in a Key/Hub site development.	Council FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Enhance
24	Luke Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two adult pitches, a mini 7v7 and a youth 9v9; all of which are poor quality. The adult pitches are at capacity whilst the youth and mini pitches have actual spare capacity during the peak period that has been discounted due to the poor quality. The site is potentially subject to a lease agreement by Jarrovians RFC, with the Club then responsible for the maintenance of the site.	Improve pitch quality to create additional capacity. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to accommodate shortfalls in youth pitches. Ensure football use is maintained after the lease is taken on by rugby club. Improve the ancillary provision on site to encourage use of the site. Ensure the pitches are used by football teams to protect sustainability of maintenance from Jarrovians RFC.	Council FF DCFA Jarrovians RFC	Key Centre	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union		Two poor quality senior pitches which have issues with drainage. The supporting ancillary provision on site is also poor quality. The pitches have 0.75 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period, reduced from one MES due to pitch capacity. Jarrovians RFC are in the process of securing a long term lease on the site.	Secure a suitable long term lease agreement for Jarrovians RFC, providing the Club with security of tenure. Ensure that the lease agreement is financially sustainable for the Club. Improve pitch quality by increasing the maintenance programme and installing a formal drainage system on site. Improve the supporting ancillary provision.	Council RFU		S	H	



**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>8</sup>	Cost <sup>9</sup>	Aim
25	Monkton Stadium	Football	Council	Four mini 7v7 pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch; all are standard quality. The mini pitches have one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period; but the youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week. The youth 11v11 pitch is also marked for rugby league during the summer months.	Improve the maintenance regime to enhance pitch quality and increase site capacity. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Should the RFYL relocate away from the site, consider reconfiguring provision on site to eliminate overmarking and to reduce shortfalls throughout the Borough on youth 11v11 pitches.	Council FF DCFA	Hub	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football		Small size 3G pitch which is suitable for 7v7 football. The pitch is not certified for competitive use but is used by a number of community teams.	Retain the pitch for community use, sustaining quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Undertake the appropriate testing to obtain FA certification; allowing competitive football to take place.	Council FF DCFA		L	L	
		Athletics		An eight lane, 400m track with a synthetic surface. Users assess the track as standard quality due to water lifting the surface. Improvements are required to the throwing cage on site with UKA developing new safety guidelines. The site is currently used by Jarrow & Hebburn AC for both training and competitive activity.	Undertake UKA's TrackMark accreditation scheme to obtain a full understanding of the track's condition. Enhance the current maintenance programme to improve track quality. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Complete improvements to the throwing cage in line with UKA's requirements. Continue to make the track available for community use. Provide Jarrow & Hebburn AC with a formal, long term, community use agreement giving the Club security of tenure on the site. Explore the possibility of relocating the jumping provision on site, allowing competitions to take less time.	Council EA		M	M	
		Rugby league		A senior rugby league pitch which is available for community use and used by Jarrow Vikings ARLFC. The pitch is at capacity during the rugby league season. A youth 11v11 football pitch is marked on the pitch during the winter months.	Improve the maintenance regime to enhance pitch quality and increase site capacity. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Provide Jarrow Vikings ARLFC with a long term, formal, community use agreement to give the Club security of tenure.	Council RFL		L	L	

<sup>8</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

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

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>8</sup>	Cost <sup>9</sup>	Aim
28	Perth Green Community Association	Football	Community Association	One standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The wider site also contains an old redgra pitch which has been identified as a site for a full size 3G pitch in the LFFP.	Enhance the current maintenance regime to improve pitch quality and maximise use. Secure the land and continue with proposals to develop a full size 3G pitch to help meet identified shortfalls.	Community Association FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Enhance
32	Mariners Park	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch with 0,5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is leased by South Shields FC and adheres to the football pyramid's ground specifications.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements for the Club's league in the football pyramid.	FF DCFA	Key Centre	S	L	Protect Enhance
				One standard quality 3G pitch which is FIFA certified. The pitches dimensions are appropriate for youth 11v11 football. The pitch was installed in 2016.	Enhance the maintenance regime to improve pitch quality. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. When certification is due for renewal ensure that appropriate testing is completed.			S	L	
34	St Joseph's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. The pitches are available for community use and are currently used. The youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by five MES and the 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 4.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality by establishing a consistent, high quality, maintenance regime. Provide Hebburn Town Juniors FC with a formal, long term, community use agreement to give the Club security of tenure. Consider relocating some demand to alternative sites with capacity to reduce current levels of overplay.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Four standard quality courts unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use.			School LTA	L	
35	St Matthews RC Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community due to no capacity existing beyond school use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Retain for school use. Consider making the pitch available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
39	The Clock Playing Field	Football	Council	One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch both standard quality. Both pitches are currently unused and both have one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Site identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).	Improve quality and reconfigure adult pitch to accommodate youth football. Maximise use from overplayed sites. Should the site be developed upon, re-provide the provision of equal or better quality in the locale in line with SE Playing Field Policy.	Council FF DCFA Sport England	Local	S	L	Enhance
49	Springwell Park	Tennis	Council	Three poor quality, macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and ensure appropriate maintenance. Consider establishing a user-friendly booking system to encourage latent demand to access the site.	Council LTA	Local	S	L	Enhance
52	North Marine Park	Bowls	Council	Three good quality greens used by four clubs.	Sustain good quality.	Council BE	Local	L	L	Protect

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>8</sup>	Cost <sup>9</sup>	Aim
53	West Park (Jarrow)	Bowls	Council	Two good quality greens used by three clubs.	Sustain good quality.	Council BE	Local	L	L	Protect
54	Carr Ellison Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality 9v9 pitches which are currently unused and have two MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Explore options to maximise use of the site. Consider relocating some demand from overplayed sites to utilise the provision effectively.	Council FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		Two good quality greens used by five clubs.	Sustain good quality.	Council BE		L	L	
		Tennis		Two good quality courts that area available for community use but are not floodlit.	Sustain good quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider establishing a user-friendly booking system to encourage latent demand to access the site.	Council LTA		S	L	
59	Keelman's Way Special School	Football	School	Good quality adult and youth 9v9 pitch both with spare capacity in the peak period. Despite being available for community use neither is currently used.	Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
63	Hebburn Lakes Primary School	Football	School	Standard quality adult pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain the pitch for school demand.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect
65	Valley View Primary School	Football	School	Poor quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Retain the pitch for school demand.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect
66	St Bedes RC School	Football	School	Good quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community due to staffing issues.	Retain the pitch for school demand.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect
70	St Aloysius RC VA Junior School	Football	School	Good quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community due to staffing issues.	Retain the pitch for school demand.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect
72	Hedworthfield Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality and unavailable to the community.	Retain the pitch for school demand.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 6.4: Inner & Outer South Shields Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2035)
Football (grass pitches)	Inner & Outer South Shields	Spare capacity on all pitch types	Youth 11v11 pitches played to capacity
Football (3G AGPs)	Borough wide	Shortfall of 2 3G pitch based on FA training model.	Shortfall of 2 3G pitch based on FA training model.
Cricket	Inner & Outer South Shields	Shortfall of 30 MES per season	Shortfall of 58 MES per season
Rugby union	Inner & Outer South Shields	Shortfall of 3.25 MES	Shortfall of 4.5 MES
Hockey (sand AGPs)	Inner & Outer South Shields	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected
Rugby league	Borough wide	Pitch is played to capacity	Potential future shortfall
Bowls	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Supply meets future demand
Tennis	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Potential unmet demand at West Park, Jarrow
Athletics	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
1	Bents Park Recreation Ground (The Dragon)	Football	Council	Five standard quality adult pitches with spare capacity for four MES during peak time. Used by numerous youth 11v11 teams as well as adult teams. One of the pitches is being rested for the 2018/19 season.	Reconfigure pitches to better accommodate youth teams. Enhance the current maintenance regime to improve pitch quality.	FF DCFA	Key Centre	S	L	Enhance Provide
2	Biddick Hall Junior School	Football	School	Two standard quality 7v7 pitches unavailable to the community.	Retain the pitch for school demand.	School FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
5	Brinkburn CIO	Various	Community Association	The lower playing fields have been identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).	Should the site be developed upon, re-provide the provision of equal or better quality in the locale in line with SE Playing Field Policy.	SE NGBs	Local	M	H	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two adult and two youth 9v9 pitches; all standard quality and available for community use. The youth 9v9 pitches are currently unused. There are four MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period available on the site.	Improve pitch quality in line with the LFFP. Enhance the current maintenance regime. Consider reconfiguring the site to accommodate alternative formats, addressing shortfalls. Should the site be developed as part of SHLAA, there is a need to re-locate one match equivalent session of football demand.	FF DCFA		S	L	
		Rugby union		One senior rugby union pitch which is standard quality. The pitch is occasionally accessed by South Shields RFC when alternative sites are unavailable. The changing provision on site is standard quality. Access to the site is limited on Sundays.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Extend the sites opening times to encourage community use. Consider providing South Shields RFC with a lease of the site if the Club's aspirations for other sites are not met. Should the site be developed as part of SHLAA, there is a need to re-locate 0.25 match equivalent sessions of rugby union demand.	RFU		S	L	

<sup>10</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

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

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
6	Chuter Ede Community Association	Football	Community Association	Two poor quality adult pitches and a poor quality youth 9v9 pitch. All are available for community use and used. There is 1.5 MES of capacity during the peak period, but this is discounted due to the poor quality of the pitches. There are issues with the drainage of the pitches; whilst the ancillary provision on site is also poor quality. Site identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).	Improve pitch quality through enhance maintenance; and with the installation of a formal drainage system. Improve the ancillary provision on site to encourage community use. Should the site be developed upon, re-provide the provision of equal or better quality in the locale in line with SE Playing Field Policy. Should the site be developed as part of SHLAA, there is a need to re-locate 1.5 match equivalent sessions of football demand.	FF DCFA SE	Local	S	L	Enhance
7	Cleaton Recreation Ground	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches, one of which is not currently marked. The pitches are available for community use and used, with 2.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Improve pitch quality in line with the LFFP. Enhance the current maintenance regime.	Council FF DCFA	Key Centre	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Bowls		One good quality green used by Cleaton Vets BC. It is reported that the Club has folded recently.	Sustain good quality.	Council BE		L	L	
		Tennis		One poor quality court that is available for community use but not floodlit.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and ensure appropriate maintenance.	Council LTA		S	L	
		Rugby union		Currently there are no rugby union pitches on the site; although South Shields RFC has expressed an interest in establishing a senior rugby union pitch on the site whilst also taking control of the bowling ancillary facilities given that it is understood that Cleaton Vets BC has folded.	Explore whether establishing a senior rugby pitch on this site is viable. Consider providing South Shield RFC with a long term lease agreement for the site to give security of tenure.					
10	Gypsies Green Stadium	Football	Council	One good quality youth 11v11 pitch which has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Changing facilities are rated as poor quality by users.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Improve the supporting changing provision to encourage community use.	Council FF DCFA	Local	M	M	Enhance Protect
		Athletics		An informal 220m track and a disused cycle track, both considered poor quality. The site is currently the home venue of South Shields Harriers AC, although the Club is displaced outside of the Borough for competitions.	Improve track quality by improving site maintenance. Improve the supporting changing provision to encourage community use.	Council EA		S	M	
11	Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare	Football	Club	Two good quality adult pitches with one MES of spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Retain the pitches for community use.	FF DCFA	Key Centre	L	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Cricket		One standard quality pitch with 12 grass wickets. Spare capacity of 10 matches per season. Whiteleas & Harton Welfare CC rent the ground from CISWO.	Enhance pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime. Provide the Club with a long term lease of the site to give security of tenure.	ECB DCB		S	L	

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
		Football		Half size 3G AGP assessed as standard quality.	Consider value of pitch in current state and explore options to improve given local shortfalls.	FF DCFA		M	M	
		Bowls		One good quality green, used by Hebburn Sports BC.	Sustain good quality.	Club BE		L	L	
12	Harton Academy	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches which are available for community use but are currently unused.	Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Enhance Protect
		Rugby union		One grass pitch assessed as poor and unavailable to the community due to quality.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options as a means to reduce overplay on other pitches.	School RFU		S	M	
		Football Rugby union		A good quality full size 3G pitch both FA certified and World Rugby compliant. Well used by the community and the School.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for eventual resurfacing. Sustain high levels of use. Encourage greater use by local rugby union clubs. Ensure that certification is renewed.	School FF DCFA RFU		M	M	
		Tennis		Six standard quality courts unavailable to the community.	Retain the courts for school demand.	School LTA		L	L	
16	Jack Clark Park	Football	Council	Standard quality adult pitch with one MES of spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to enhance pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime. Consider reconfiguring the pitch to accommodate shortfalls of other pitch types.	Council FF DCFA	Key Centre	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Cricket		One good quality pitch with 14 grass wickets. Overplayed by eight matches per season. Marsden CC has a long term lease from the Council. Ancillary facilities are poor quality with improvements required.	Monitor pitch quality to ensure that prolonged overplay does not adversely affect quality. Consider installing an NTP on site to accommodate club training and junior match demand, thus reducing overplay. Improve the ancillary provision on site.	Council ECB DCB		S	M	
		Bowls		Two good quality greens used by three clubs.	Sustain good quality.	Council BE		L	L	
23	Lord Blyton Primary School	EH	School	Half size sand based AGP of standard quality. Used by South Shields Hockey Club for training purposes.	Retain pitch for school and hockey club use. Ensure quality is sustained. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	School EH	Local	L	L	Protect
26	Mortimer Comprehensive School	Football	School	Standard quality adult pitch with one MES of spare capacity at peak time, however, this has been discounted due to the site being unsecure.	Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect
		Rugby union		One senior pitch of standard quality. The pitch is currently available for community use but is unused.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Retain the pitch for school use.	School RFU		S	L	

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
		Football		A poor quality full size 3G pitch that is well used by the community and the School. The pitch is not FA tested for competitive matches.	Ensure sinking fund is in place for eventual resurfacing. Improve the current maintenance regime to enhance quality. Once pitch quality is improved, through either resurfacing or maintenance improvements, then seek to obtain certification to accommodate competitive football activity.	School FF		M	M	
		Cricket		One poor quality, standalone, non-turf wicket.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	School ECB		M	L	
		Tennis		Three poor quality courts unavailable to the community.	No local demand. Improve and retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	
29	South Shields and Westoe Club	Various	Club	Site identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Current proposal for the Club to relocate to Temple Park.	Replacement of playing field land should be re-provided to equal or better quality in the locale in line with SE Playing Field Policy.	ECB DCB	Key Centre	S	M	Enhance
		Cricket		One good quality pitch with 10 grass wickets. Overplayed by 22 matches per season. The rugby union pitch and cricket outfield are overmarked. Changing rooms are poor quality servicing the site.	To address overplay and accommodate future demand access to a second pitch should be explored. Current proposal for the Club to relocate to Temple Park include provision of two cricket pitches, each with access to changing and social space to cater for demand of junior cricket. Practice nets are also required. Should the site be developed there is a need to re-locate 72 match equivalent sessions of cricket demand.					
		Rugby union		One good quality senior pitch, with pipe drainage. The pitch also has floodlights for training. The site is the current home venue of South Shields Westoe RFC. The pitch is overplayed by 5.25 MES and is subject to both match and training demand. The rugby union pitch and cricket outfield are overmarked. Changing rooms are poor quality servicing the site.	To address overplay and accommodate future demand access additional pitches including a dedicated training pitch. Current proposal for the Club to relocate to Temple Park include provision of one adult grass pitch and a WR 3G pitch; or three grass pitches, both subject to further mapping work. Should the site be developed there is a need to re-locate 8.5 match equivalent sessions of rugby union demand.	RFU		S	L	
		Tennis		Seven poor quality courts. Three artificial surface and floodlit which are poor quality but usable. Four macadam surface and not floodlit which are unplayable and currently used for car parking. South Shields TC reports latent demand for additional court access. However, the courts appear to have spare capacity and it is poor quality which is currently inhibiting growth.	Resurface currently used courts to an appropriate surface and quality for current usage. Current proposal for the Club to relocate to Temple Park include provision of three floodlit artificial courts with room for expansion to nine courts. Should the site be developed there is a need to re-locate 54 tennis members.	LTA		S	M	



**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
30	South Shields Community School	Football	School	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES and the youth pitches have some actual spare capacity that has been discounted due to the unsecure nature of the site. The pitches are available for community use and used by teams.	Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Rugby union		One pitch unavailable to the community in order to protect it for school use.	Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L	
		Cricket		A standard quality, standalone NTP that is available for community use but unused.	Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality courts available to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	
33	South Tyneside College	Various	College	Site identified within the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).	Should the site be developed upon, re-provide the provision of equal or better quality in the locale in line with SE Playing Field Policy.	Council SE NGBs	Local	M	H	Protect Enhance
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch unused by the community. There is some spare capacity during the peak period but this has been discounted due to the unsecure nature of the site.	Continue with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Retain the pitch for college use. Should the site be developed there is a need to re-locate one match equivalent sessions of football demand; all from curricular demand.	School FF DCFA		S	L	
		Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch which is available for community use but is unused. The pitch is at capacity from college demand. South Shields RFC was previously based at the site for match and training demand but relocated due to the poor maintenance on site. The Club's new women's section occasionally trains on the site.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Continue to allow South Shields RFC's women's section to train on the floodlit area. Should the site be developed there is a need to re-locate 0.5 match equivalent sessions of rugby union demand from the pitch (curricular demand) and one match equivalent session of rugby union training demand on an unmarked training area (community use).	School RFU		S	L	
36	St Wilfrid's RC College	Football	School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is at capacity whilst the adult pitches have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period but this has been discounted due to the unsecure nature of the site.	Seek to improve the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Five standard quality courts available to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
37	Temple Memorial Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with peak time capacity of 1.5 match sessions per week. Previously accommodated five standard quality adult pitches but pitches were reconfigured to meet current demand as adult pitches were solely used by youth teams.	Relocation proposals for South Shields and Westoe Club to this site should retain access to football pitches currently marked out (two youth 11v11 pitches). There is an adequate current and future supply of football pitches within the analysis area. Improve quality as required. Access to existing changing room provision at the leisure centre should also be retained.	Council FF DCFA RFU	Key Centre	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Rugby union		An unused, poor quality senior pitch. Previously the pitch was utilised by South Shields Westoe RFC for some junior demand but for the 2018/19 season the pitch has not been fully restored and is therefore unused.						
38	Temple Park Centre	Football	Council	One standard quality full size 3G pitch which is FA tested for competitive matches and used as a central venue for mini football. However, usage has reduced due to the level of unofficial use (and anti social behaviour) which is having an adverse impact on use by the wider community.	Improve measures to reduce unofficial use such as higher fencing. Increase usage and maximise for competitive fixtures. Relocation proposals for South Shields and Westoe Club include relocation of the 3G pitch within the site. Ensure sinking fund is in place for eventual resurfacing.	Council FF DCFA	Key Centre	S	H	Protect
40	The Dell (Quarry)	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with two MES of spare capacity during peak time.	Explore options to maximise use of the site potentially through reconfiguration. Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	Council FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect Provide
48	West Park (South Shields)	Bowls	Council	Two good quality courts used by four separate clubs.	Sustain good quality.	Council	Club	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Seven good quality courts.	Sustain good quality.	Council LTA		L	L	
61	Sea View Primary	Football	School	One standard quality 9v9 pitch unused for community use.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate to sustain use. Retain the pitch for school use. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect
62	Temple Park Junior School (Closed)	Football	Council	Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches which are available for community use and used.	Improve pitch quality as identified in the LFFP. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	Council FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect Enhance
64	Westoe Crown Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community as the School is not staffed out of hours.	Retain for school use.	School FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
67	Robert Redhead Park	Bowls	Council	One good quality green used by Redhead Vets BC and St Stephens BC.	Sustain good quality.	Council BE	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>10</sup>	Cost <sup>11</sup>	Aim
		Tennis		Three poor quality courts.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and ensure appropriate maintenance. Consider establish a user-friendly booking system to encourage latent demand to access the site.	Council LTA		S	M	
69	Marine Park Primary	Football	School	One adult, one 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community and assessed as poor quality.	Retain the pitches for school use.	School FF DCFA	Local	M	M	Protect Enhance
73	Sutton Trust	Bowls	Club	A good quality green used by Sutton BC.	Sustain good quality.	Club BE	Local	L	L	Protect
74	St Oswald's RC VA Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community due to a perceived lack of demand.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options with the school to reduce shortfalls.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
76	Hadrian Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options with the school to reduce shortfalls.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 6.5: South Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2035)
Football (grass pitches)	South	Adult pitches played to capacity Youth 11v11 pitches played to capacity	Adult pitches played to capacity Shortfall of <b>0.5</b> MES on youth 11v11 pitches
Football (3G AGPs)	Borough wide	Shortfall of <b>2</b> 3G pitch based on FA training model.	Shortfall of <b>2</b> 3G pitch based on FA training model.
Cricket	South	Shortfall of <b>5</b> MES per season	Shortfall of <b>25</b> MES per season
Rugby union	South	Pitches are at capacity	Pitches are at capacity
Hockey (sand AGPs)	South	Current demand being met with spare capacity	Pitch will require <b>resurface</b>
Rugby league	Borough wide	Pitch is played to capacity	<b>Potential future shortfall</b>
Bowls	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Supply meets future demand
Tennis	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Potential unmet demand at West Park, Jarrow
Athletics	Borough wide	Supply meets current demand	Future need to improve the track surface at Monkton Stadium

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>12</sup>	Cost <sup>13</sup>	Aim
3	Boldon Cricket and Squash Club	Cricket	Club	One good quality pitch with 15 grass wickets. Spare capacity of eight matches per season. Boldon CC has 20 years remaining on a lease from the Church.	Retain spare capacity. Explore extension of lease for Boldon CC. Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB DCB	Local	M	L	Protect
4	Boldon School	Football	School/Community Association	Four adult pitches assessed as standard quality. They are at capacity from both school and community use. Community use is managed by the Community Association.	Improve pitch quality to increase site capacity. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		A standalone non-turf wicket pitch of standard quality. Available to the community, however, unused.	Explore community use options in order to reduce overplay at club sites.	School ECB DCB		S	L	
		Hockey		Full sized floodlit sand-based AGP. The pitch is rated as standard, however, the carpet is 12 years old and will soon need re-surfacing. Community use is handled by the Community Association, with spare capacity existing every day. Used by South Shields Hockey Club for matches.	Ensure carpet is replaced. Protect as a hockey suitable surface. Explore ways to increase community use. Provide South Shields HC with a long term community use agreement to give security of tenure.	School EH		M	M	
		Rugby union		One standard quality, senior pitch available to the community however unused.	Retain for school use. Sustain pitch quality.	School RFU		L	L	
		Tennis		Four good quality courts available to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	
15	Hedworthfield Community Association	Football	Community Association	Three adult pitches, a youth 9v9 pitch and a mini 7v7 pitch. The adult pitches are overplayed by one MES; whilst the other formats have an accumulative 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Improve pitch quality to cater for overplay. Explore transfer of teams from overplayed pitches to sites with spare capacity.	FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Football		A half size short pile 3G pitch assessed as standard quality. Floodlit and available to the community.	Retain pitch for school and community use.	FF DCFA		L	L	
27	Oakleigh Gardens	Football	Council	An adult pitch and a youth 9v9 pitch, both are poor quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by one MES; whilst the youth 9v9 pitch is currently unused. Any actual spare capacity has been discounted due to the poor quality.	Improve pitch quality in order to provide actual spare capacity and eliminate overplay. Retain the pitches for community use.	Council FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance

<sup>12</sup> Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

<sup>13</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>12</sup>	Cost <sup>13</sup>	Aim
		Cricket		One standard quality pitch with 10 grass wickets. Spare capacity for 20 matches per season. Simonside CC lease (open ended) the ground from the Council free of charge. Ancillary facilities are poor quality with improvements required.	Seek to enhance pitch quality by improving the maintenance programme. Improve the ancillary facilities on site to encourage club growth.	Council ECB DCB		S	L	
41	The Shack Field	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with 1.5 MES of spare capacity during the peak period.	Consider future use of the site for formal pitch sports given investment required for a one pitch site. Potential to not maintain and reinvest in a Key/Hub site development.	Council FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Enhance
43	West Boldon Primary School	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is utilised by a local club for midweek training when daylight allows. The pitch has one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity during the peak time. The building on site, the former school building, is subject to planning to be converted to housing.	Retain the pitch for community use, ensuring that site developments do not impact on its presence or quality. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Sustain current pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	Council FF DCFA	Local	L	S	Protect
44	Whitburn C of E Academy	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch overplayed by four MES. Pitch is heavily used by the School and community.	Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate overplay. Relocate some demand to alternative sites to reduce overplay. Retain the pitch for community and school use.	School FF DCFA	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		A standalone non-turf wicket pitch of standard quality. Available to the community, however, unused.	Explore community use options in order to reduce overplay at club sites.	School ECB DCB		S	L	
		Hockey		A sand based AGP measuring 100x55, making it slightly too small for competitive hockey. Although the pitch is only seven years, users deem the surface to be dangerous due to poor grip underfoot. The pitch is not floodlit due to nearby residential housing, therefore limiting community use.	Improve surface quality to allow for more school use.	School EH		S	M	
		Rugby union		One standard quality, senior pitch available to the community however unused.	Retain for school use. Sustain pitch quality.	School RFU		L	L	
		Tennis		Two standard quality courts unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	
45	Cleadon Lane Sports Ground	Football	Council	Two adult, two mini 7v7 and a youth 9v9 pitch; all are standard quality and unused. There is five MES of actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Relocate some demand from overplayed sites to the pitches. Sustain quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme.	Council FF DCFA	Local	S	L	Protect

**SOUTH TYNESIDE  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales <sup>12</sup>	Cost <sup>13</sup>	Aim
47	Whitburn Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One good quality pitch with 16 grass wickets. Overplayed by five matches per season. Ancillary facilities are poor quality, with the site also having inadequate car parking.	Monitor pitch quality to ensure that prolonged overplay does not adversely affect quality. Improve the ancillary facilities on site to encourage club growth.	ECB DCB	Local	S	M	Protect Enhance
55	Boldon Community Association, The Villa FC	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch with one match equivalent of spare capacity during the peak period.	Retain the pitch and sustain quality.	FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
56	Boldon Community Association (Formerly Jarrow Roofing FC)	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch with one match equivalent of spare capacity during the peak period.	Retain the pitch and sustain quality.	FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect
57	Coulthard Park	Bowls	Council	One disused green.	No local demand for the green to be re-provided.	Council	Local	L	L	Enhance
		Tennis		Two poor quality courts.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and ensure appropriate maintenance. Consider establish a user-friendly booking system to encourage latent demand to access the site.	Council LTA		M	L	
58	Cornthwaite Park	Bowls	Council	Two good quality greens used by Whitburn BC and Whitburn Ladies BC.	Sustain good quality.	Council	Local	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Two poor quality courts.	Improve court quality through resurfacing and ensure appropriate maintenance. Consider establish a user-friendly booking system to encourage latent demand to access the site.	Council		S	L	
60	Boldon CA Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	One good quality pitch with eight grass wickets. Spare capacity of just three matches per season. The Club has a long term lease for the ground from CISWO.	Monitor pitch quality to ensure that quality is sustained.	ECB DCB	Local	S	L	Protect
68	Boldon Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Six good quality courts. Three are floodlit. The Club has access to adequate ancillary provision.	Sustain quality.	LTA	Local	L	L	Protect
71	Hedworth Lane Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch available to the community but unused.	Retain for school use. Improve quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime.	School	Local	S	M	Protect
75	Whitburn Village Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch. Community use is only available during school holidays, therefore, no regular use is recorded.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	Protect
77	Academy of Light	Football	Club	The training base of Sunderland AFC, the site consists of seven adult pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch; all of good quality. The pitches are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality. Retain for club-use.	FF DCFA	Local	L	L	Protect

## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2035 (in line with the emerging Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) 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 team generation rates (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.

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For large scale developments, it is likely that demand will be potentially generated for larger sports such as football and/or cricket. Consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and carparking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for pitch sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from 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. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 per dwelling and are applied to two exclusive scenarios as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One: Per annum housing requirement of 342 forecasted dwellings (2014 ONS projections)**
- ◀ **Scenario Two: Accumulative housing requirement up to 2035 of 6,960 forecasted dwellings (2014 ONS projections)**

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 projections, changes in the housing requirement 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.



## SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Scenario 1: Per annum housing requirement of 342 forecasted dwellings (2014 ONS projections)

The estimated additional population derived from per annum housing growth is 821 (based on 342 dwellings being delivered). This population increase equates to 0.82 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.01 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 2.36 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 1.56 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.01 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.05 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch factored in.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (per annum)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>14</sup>	Training demand <sup>15</sup>
Adult football	0.15	1.56 hours
Youth football	0.26	
Mini soccer	0.37	
Rugby union	0.04	0.05 MES
Adult hockey	0.01	0.02 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	-	-
Cricket	2.36 per season	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifecycle costs.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (per annum)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>16</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>17</sup>
Adult football	0.15	£13,288	£12,534
Youth football	0.26	£18,587	£3,903
Mini soccer	0.37	£8,832	£1,855
Rugby union	0.04	£5,339	£1,143
Cricket	0.05	£14,008	£2,830
Sand based AGPs	0.00	£1,055	£1,496
3G	0.04	£38,818	£33

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £136,289.

<sup>14</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>15</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>16</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>17</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### Scenario 2: Accumulative housing requirement up to 2035 of 6,960 forecasted dwellings (2014 ONS projections)

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth to 2035 is 16,704 (based on 6,960 dwellings being delivered).

This population increase equates to 16.71 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.11 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 48.05 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 31.74 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.34 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.95 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch factored in.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from housing growth (2035)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2035)	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>18</sup>	Training demand <sup>19</sup>
Adult football	3.13	31.74 hours
Youth football	5.25	
Mini soccer	7.49	
Rugby union	0.84	0.95
Adult hockey	0.11	0.34
Junior & mixed hockey	-	-
Cricket	48.05 per season	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs.

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision (2035)

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>20</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>21</sup>
Adult football	3.13	£270,357	£57,045
Youth football	5.25	£378,178	£79,417
Mini soccer	7.49	£179,702	£37,737
Rugby union	0.84	£108,626	£23,246
Cricket	1.04	£285,013	£57,573
Sand based AGPs	0.03	£21,457	£30,440
3G	0.84	£789,785	£665

Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide a total of 17 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £2,777,308.

<sup>18</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>19</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>20</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>21</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

## **PART 8: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

### **8.1: Delivery**

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across South Tyneside. 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 South Tyneside can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

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

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered. Key uses for the PPS include evidence for supporting funding bids, guidance to inform planning decisions and planning applications and decision making for capital investment.

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.

### **8.2: Monitoring and updating**

It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the local authority and supported by all members of, and reported back to, the steering group. Understanding and learning lessons from how the PPS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should form an on-going role of the steering group. It is possible that in the interim between annual reviews the steering group could operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

Furthermore, the process of refreshing the PPS would be much less resource intensive if changes and updates have been made throughout the five years. If there are no updates to the document within the period the nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is likely to have changed. 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).

## SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Alongside the regular steering group meetings it is recommended that South Tyneside Council holds annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant organisations. These meetings should 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. Things to consider include formation of new teams or loss of teams, any new formats of the sports that would impact on facilities, changes in quality or creation of new facilities.


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 or other private sites in the future. Updating the action plans will make the task of updating the PPS much easier.

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, 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.

### 8.3: 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/>

<b>Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date</b>	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
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?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		

## SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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1.	Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2.	Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3.	Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4.	Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5.	Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6.	Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

## APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

### National context

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

### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

### ***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***

## SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association’s (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period. The Strategy is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *“Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed”*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government’s shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).



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The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;  
**Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

### *Local Football Facility Plans*

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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## ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

## ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan (2016-2021)***

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*
- ◀ **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*

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- ◀ **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*

### *Inspire Generations*

The ECB’s refreshed strategy called “Inspire Generations” was announced in January 2019. It builds on the strong foundations laid by Cricket Unleashed and supports the growth of cricket in England and Wales between 2020 and 2024. At the heart of this strategy is a single unifying purpose, which gets to the core of what the game can do for society both on and off the field to ensure that cricket is in an even stronger position that it is in 2019.

Inspire Generations has six key priorities and activities including transforming women’s and girls’ cricket to increase the representation of women in every level of cricket by:

- ◀ Growing the base through participation and facilities investment.
- ◀ Launching centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure.
- ◀ Investing in girls’ county age group cricket.
- ◀ Delivering a girls’ secondary school programme.

There will be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket. At the time of writing the pathways and clubs involved in Bradford are still in the planning stages.

### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7’s offering

### ***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

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- ◀ Geographical Spread
- ◀ Non-club Facilities

The RFL Facilities Trust website [www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.rflfacilitiestrust.co.uk) provides further information on:

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

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

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

### ***Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme***

The Rugby League World Cup 2021 will develop a £10 million legacy programme with funds driven into local clubs and community projects. The government investment, delivered by Sport England, is part of RLWC 2021's ambitious plan to grow the sport and make it more visible, engaging and welcoming to current and potential participants.

The funding will be split into large transformational community projects, such as changing room improvements and new artificial grass pitches with the remaining funding used for smaller scale initiatives such as supplying new kit and equipment to promote club and community development. The investment will focus on the following four key areas:

- ◀ Creating welcoming environments
- ◀ Encouraging participation growth
- ◀ Building community engagement
- ◀ Cultivating further investment

### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

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The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

## *Club participation*

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.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

## ***England Hockey Strategy***

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

### **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

- There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important 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. England Hockey works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

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### 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.

England Hockey has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. 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.

#### **British Tennis Strategy 2019**

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

**Vision:** tennis opened up

**Mission:** to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

#### **Objectives**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
  - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
  - The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

#### **Strategies**

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.
6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

#### **Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017**

Although the Plan is currently being updated, this version remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

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In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ◀ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ◀ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ◀ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.

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3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".



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## APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

### Funding opportunities<sup>22</sup>

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
<p>Big Lottery Fund <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>The Big Lottery Fund distributes over £500m a year to communities across the UK, raised by players of The National Lottery.</p> <p><b>Awards for All</b> – this fund offers National Lottery grants between £300 and £10,000. Applications can be made by: voluntary or community organisations, registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies or community interest companies, social enterprises, schools and statutory bodies (including town, parish and community councils). To receive funding, the applicant must meet at least one of the funding priorities listed for these grants. The funding priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities.</li> <li>◀ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.</li> <li>◀ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Empowering Young People</b> – this grants programme is designed to support projects in Northern Ireland that give young people aged 8 to 25 the ability to overcome the challenges they face. Funding between £30,000 and £500,000 is available and is available to projects which meet one or more of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Equip young people with the skills they need for the future.</li> <li>◀ Improve young people’s relationships with their support networks and communities.</li> <li>◀ Improve the health and well-being of young people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reaching Communities England</b> – this programme provides flexible funding over £10,000 for up to five years to organisations in England who want to act on the issues that matter to people and communities. Grants will be awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises to fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. Ideas must meet one or more of the following funding priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities.</li> <li>◀ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.</li> <li>◀ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul>

<sup>22</sup> Up to date as of December 2018.

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Awarding body	Description
<p>Sport England The current funding streams may change throughout 2017/18 so refer to the website for the latest information: <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/funding/">https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a></p>	<p>Sport England’s vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability.</p> <p><b>Small Grants</b> – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.</p> <p><b>Community Asset Fund</b> – this programme is dedicated to enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p><b>Major Events Engagement Fund</b> – Sport England’s ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.</p>
<p>Football Foundation <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a></p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund</b> – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Grass pitch drainage/improvements,</li> <li>◀ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms,</li> <li>◀ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTP) and multi-use games areas,</li> <li>◀ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches.</li> </ul> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme</b> – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Replacement of unsafe goalposts,</li> <li>◀ Portable floodlights,</li> <li>◀ Storage containers,</li> <li>◀ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Grounds maintenance equipment,</li> <li>◀ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> </ul>

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Awarding body	Description
	<p>◀ Fencing.</p> <p>The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes.</p> <p><b>Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme</b> - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at <a href="http://plprimarystars.com">plprimarystars.com</a> can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.</p>
<p>Rugby Football Foundation (RFF)</p> <p><a href="http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113">http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=14&amp;Itemid=113</a></p>	<p><b>The Grant Match Scheme</b> 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.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights.</li> <li>2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors).</li> <li>3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).</li> </ol> <p><b>'Helping Hand Grants'</b> can award funding from £500 to £1,500. The Groundmatch Grant Scheme provides funding from £1,501 to £5,000. RFU Accredited clubs at level 5 and below are eligible to apply.</p> <p>The RFF also offer loan schemes for RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below. The first scheme is the Interest Free Loan scheme which can provide up to £100,000 as an interest free loan for capital works. Green Deal Loans up to the value of £20,000 are available to clubs to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period.</p>
<p>The England and Wales Cricket Trust</p> <p><a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a></p>	<p><b>The Interest Free Loan Scheme</b> provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.</p> <p><b>Cricket World Cup Club Fund (in 2019)</b> aims to support the ECB's national programmes with a focus on projects to digitise cricket clubs or improve catering facilities. Projects that are going to attract more people to the cricket club and ones which will create a social, welcoming environment for families. Clubs can apply for up to £1,000 which can be boosted by an interest free loan or other partnership funding.</p> <p>Project themes:</p>

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Awarding body	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Digitising cricket clubs</li> <li>◀ Improving catering facilities</li> </ul> <p>Small Grants Scheme (Sport England Funded)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Wet weather equipment – covers and rollers</li> </ul>
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. LIFE also finances some grants for non-governmental organisations active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: young people and hockey, young people and sport in Milton Keynes, enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level and smaller charities. There is no limit on the amount of funding that an organisation can request. However, the Foundation does not generally award grants for less than £10,000 or more than £75,000.
Rugby Football League <a href="https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities">https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</a>	<p><b>Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities Legacy funding.</b> Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming environments</li> <li>2. More players</li> <li>3. Community engagement</li> <li>4. Innovation fund</li> </ol>

### 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.

# SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## **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.

## APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

**Exported 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**.

## SOUTH TYNESIDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, 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