



Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

South Tyneside Council



South Tyneside Council

Strategy and Action Plan

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2022, South Tyneside Council appointed Sports Planning Consultants (SPC) to produce a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS). This strategy updates the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy produced in 2019.
- 1.2 It considers the adequacy of provision for football, cricket, rugby union, hockey, tennis, bowls and athletics. The assessment, which sets out the detailed picture of supply and demand for each sport and identifies the key issues that need to be addressed, is found under separate cover.
- 1.3 The primary purpose of this PPOSS is to provide a strategic framework that ensures that outdoor playing pitches and sports facilities in South Tyneside meet the needs of existing and future residents and visitors to the Borough up to 2040.
- 1.4 Since the 2019 PPS;
- Demand for football has increased. Although there are now more 3G AGPs, and greater use of these facilities for match play, the growing demand means that further capacity for football (both grass playing fields and 3G AGPs) is needed.
 - The number of cricket teams playing in the Borough has also increased, but the number of cricket grounds has reduced. Capacity remains constrained, and there is a need for additional pitch provision as well as improvements to the quality of both grass pitches and training facilities.
 - Demand for rugby has increased in the mini rugby age groups, but participation in adult and junior rugby has reduced slightly. Whilst the agreement of a lease for Jarrovians RUFC at Lukes Lane has had a positive impact, there remain capacity issues at South Shields Westoe RUFC and uncertainty about facilities for South Shields RUFC.
 - The recent provision of a new sand based AGP in Sunderland has freed up capacity in South Tyneside and there is now opportunity for South Shields Hockey Club to relocate their match play to South Tyneside. Improvements to the existing pitch are however still required to ensure that the pitch is fit for purpose.
 - The quality of facilities for tennis remains a key challenge and improvements are needed, particularly to public facilities.
 - The supply of bowling greens remains consistent, but demand has reduced slightly. There is a need to maximise participation growth in order to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the bowling infrastructure.
- 1.5 This strategy seeks to respond to the identified issues and to drive improvements to ensure that supply meets demand in future years. To maximise the opportunities that this PPOSS can bring, the strategy promotes collaborative working with key partners.
- 1.6 The production of this written strategy represents only the start of the process. The key task of the project steering group is now to deliver the recommendations and action plan.

Vision and Objectives

- 1.7 The vision set as part of the 2019 strategy document remains valid. This is;
- 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*

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- 1.8 To support the Council and its partners in the achievement of the above vision, this PPOSS seeks to;
- present information on the quantity, quality and accessibility of all current playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in South Tyneside, including facilities in private and public ownership and at education sites;
 - establish a clear understanding of the current and projected future demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports (Football, Rugby Union, Cricket, Hockey, Tennis, Bowls and Athletics);
 - provide an understanding of current and future demand for Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs);
 - assess the quality and demand for individual playing pitches in the Borough;
 - identify deficiencies or surpluses in provision and options for addressing these.
 - develop an action plan based on findings and recommendations.
- 1.9 The preparation of a new Local Plan is the key driver for the production of this PPOSS. This PPOSS provides an evidence base to underpin strategic and detailed planning policies related to playing fields and outdoor sports facilities, including allocations.
- 1.10 Other key drivers include;
- the creation of a strategy that protects valuable existing facilities and identifies where new provision is required
 - stimulation of qualitative improvement of existing playing fields and outdoor sports facilities
 - the provision of evidence to help secure internal and external funding
 - contribution to wider local and national goals to improve health and wellbeing through participation in sport
 - inform update of the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP).
- 1.11 Overall therefore, the key aims reflect those set out in 2019; specifically;
- Protect the existing supply of pitches and ancillary facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs up to 2040
 - Enhance pitches and ancillary facilities through improvements to the quality and management of sites
 - To provide new pitches and ancillary facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Methodology

- 1.12 This PPOSS has been produced in line with guidance by Sport England (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities; 2014, (ANOG)) and 'Playing Pitch Guidance, An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 1.13 The Playing Pitch Guidance sets out the process for delivering a strategy for football, cricket, rugby (league and union) and hockey. It advocates a 10 step approach summarised in Table 1.1. The assessment report encompasses Stages 1 – 6 and this document covers the strategy development phase (Stages 7 and 8). The implementation phase (9 and 10) will take place over the life of the strategy document and will be led by South Tyneside Council.

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Table 1.1 – Ten Step Approach

Stage	Step
1. Undertaking an Assessment	1. Prepare & Tailor the approach
2. Gather Information on Supply & Demand	2. Gather Supply information and views
	3. Gather demand information and views
3. Assessment Bring the Information Together	4. Understand the situation at individual sites
	5. Develop the current and future picture of provision
	6. Identify the key findings and issues
4. Strategy Development	7. Develop the recommendations and action plan
	8. Write and Adopt the strategy
5. Implementation	9. Apply and deliver the strategy
	10. Keep the Strategy Robust and up-to-date

- 1.14 For tennis, bowls and athletics, the ANOG guidance has been applied. Consideration has been given to the quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities.
- 1.15 For all sports, recommendations and priorities have been developed following extensive consultation, analysis and scenario testing and in conjunction with the following key stakeholders;
- Officers of South Tyneside Council
 - Representatives of the Durham FA, The Football Foundation, The ECB, the RFU, England Hockey, The LTA and England Athletics
 - Sport England.
- 1.16 The views of these groups have been used to shape this strategy and to finalise the action and implementation plan. The consultation process does not stop here - many of the identified short-term actions will involve ongoing consultation with wider groups, ensuring that any priorities implemented are reflective of the needs and aspirations of current pitch users.
- 1.17 As detailed in the assessment report, as far as possible the strategy aims to capture all playing fields and associated pitches, as well as participation within South Tyneside Borough. There may however be instances where a site / club is unknowingly omitted. Where pitches / playing field sites have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches / playing field sites and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusion of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.
- 1.18 The strategy monitoring process will ensure that the document is kept up to date as any omissions / errors arise and where changes occur.

Context and Wider Links

- 1.19 The strategy contributes to the delivery of many national, regional and local targets, in particular, the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The strategy will provide an evidence base for decision making, but will also help to deliver on the priorities of Sport England and the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport.

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- 1.20 The key principles of each strategic document, and how the delivery of this PPOSS will contribute is outlined in full in the assessment report. The links between the achievement of the objectives in this strategy document and other national, regional and local strategies and policies are summarised in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 – Contribution of PPS towards national and local priorities

Document	Protect the existing supply where it is needed to meet current and future needs	Enhance outdoor sports facilities and playing fields	Provide new sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.
National Planning Framework	√	√	√
Sport England – Policy on Playing Fields	√	√	√
Sport England: Uniting the Movement	√	√	√
National Football Facilities Strategy (2020)	√	√	√
Survive. Revive. Thrive – Grassroots Football Facility Strategy 2020 - 2024– Delivered through Local Football Facility Plans	√	√	√
Inspiring Generations, ECB, 2020 - 2024	√	√	√
RFU Strategic Plan	√	√	√
England Hockey National Facilities Strategy (2017 - 2021)	√	√	√
Our South Tyneside, The South Tyneside Vision 2023-2043	√	√	√
Live Healthy South Tyneside (2022) -	√	√	√
South Tyneside Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2022	√	√	√
South Tyneside Borough Core Strategy	√	√	√
South Tyneside Draft Local Plan	√	√	√
South Tyneside Local Football Facility Plan	√	√	√

- 1.21 It is clear that the effective provision of sports facilities playing fields can directly contribute to the achievement of many of the strategic goals of local and national organisations.
- 1.22 Sport England's recently published strategic outcomes planning guidance demonstrates that sport and physical activity are increasingly seen as a co-producer of local outcomes and local

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authorities across the country are using their services, assets, partnerships and infrastructure to make a significant contribution to their residents' lives as a direct provider, commissioner or enabler. Sport England's guidance shows that having a clear, strategic and sustainable approach to sport and physical activity is essential to making effective investment into provision – both facilities and services.

Demographics and Population Profile

- 1.23 The Borough of South Tyneside is bordered by the North Sea to the East and the River Tyne to the North. The majority of the Borough is urban and densely developed, with the main urban areas being South Shields, Hebburn and Jarrow. The Southern part however, which includes the settlements of the Boldons, Cleadon and Whitburn is more rural. These areas are separated from the main urban area (and each other) by farmland.
- 1.24 The small size of the Borough means that there is a degree of movement between the different settlements. It is however essential that local facilities are provided if participation is to be maximised. For this reason, supply and demand has been explored by sub area (see later in this section) as well as across South Tyneside Borough as a whole.
- 1.25 2018 based subnational population projections suggest that the population of the Borough in 2023 is 151,426. This population has slowly risen in recent years, increasing the demand for sport, and is projected to continue growing. Analysis of the population structure however suggests that compared to national averages, South Tyneside has;
 - A slightly larger proportion of people aged 50+
 - A similar percentage of younger people
 - A lower proportion of younger working aged adults.
- 1.26 The above profile suggests that participation in pitch and outdoor sports may be lower than national averages, as these sports typically attract younger residents. There are proportionately fewer people in these age groups than there are nationally and this means that participation may be lower than otherwise expected.
- 1.27 By 2040, the population will reach 158,825. This represents an increase of 3.9%. Population projections however demonstrate that the age profile will become even more skewed towards the older age groups by 2040 and the number of people aged up to 18 will drop in real terms. The number of people aged 18 – 45 will also reduce very marginally. Critically, almost all of the population increase will take place in those aged 46+. These groups have a lower propensity to participate most of the sports covered in this assessment and this may therefore impact the type of facilities that are required in the Borough.
- 1.28 The key conclusion therefore is that while the population will likely grow, it is unlikely that this will impact participation in pitch and outdoor sports at the same rate and this needs to be taken into account in planning of future needs. This strategy document evaluates both current demand, and future demand, taking into account these likely changes to the population profile.
- 1.29 It is important to note that the strategy is based on the assessment report which was completed in June 2023. Since then, the Council has adjusted the Local Plan to cover a period up to 2040 and is now using the 2018 Sub National Population projections as a base. Although the modelling in the assessment report is based on 2014 sub national projections up to 2039, it is still reflective of the issues that will be evident up to 2040.
- 1.30 The Borough also has a number of challenges, and overall is ranked 27th out of 317 local authorities nationally in terms of deprivation. There are stark differences between the poorest and wealthiest areas of the Borough, but overall, life expectancy is below the national average.

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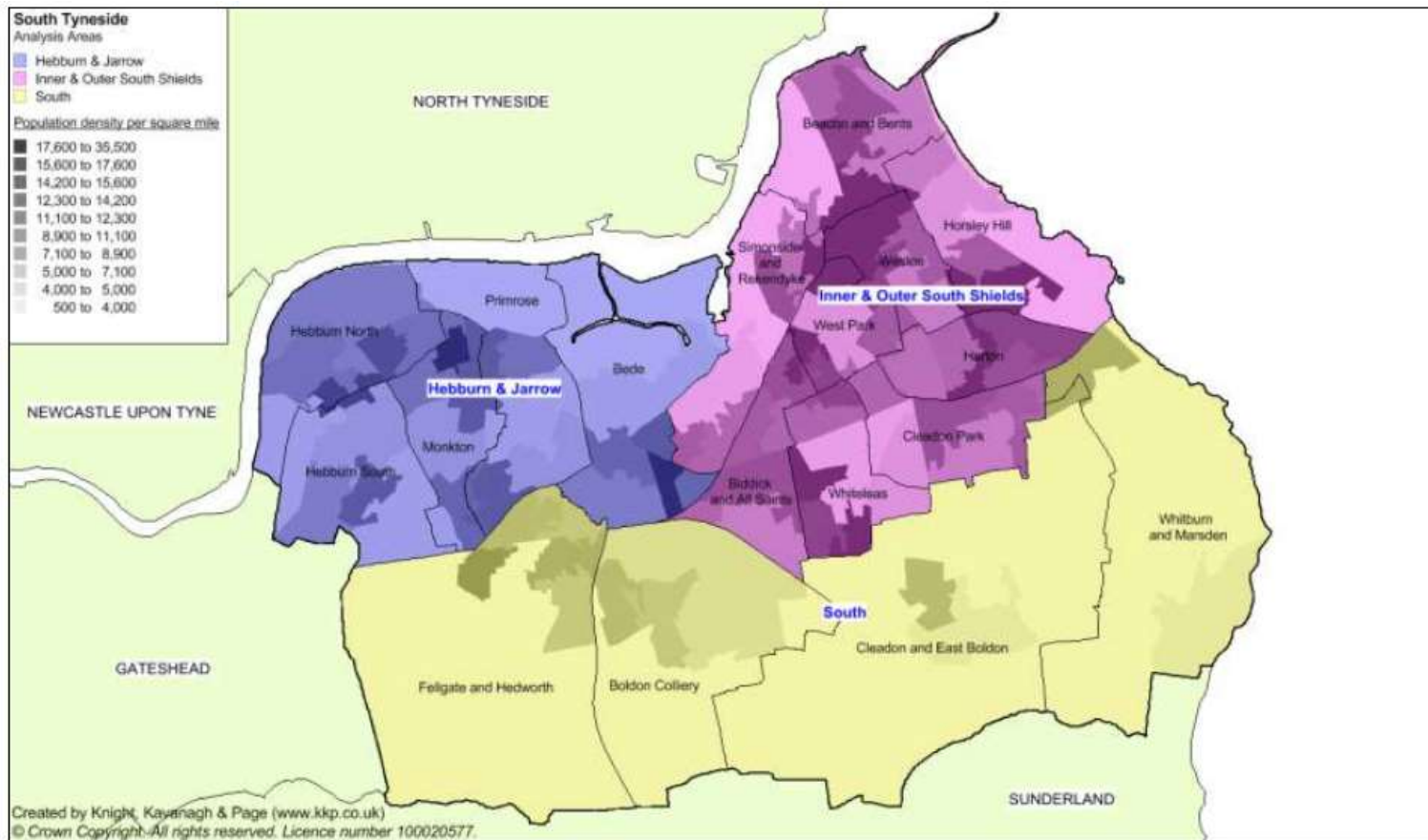
This exacerbates the importance of providing accessible and appropriate facilities for sport and active recreation which can contribute to healthy lifestyles.

Sub Areas

- 1.31 As a consequence of the demography of the Borough, it is important to understand how needs differ between areas of the borough, as well as the overall need across South Tyneside. To facilitate this, as in the 2019 PPOSSS , the Borough has been subdivided into 3 sub areas specifically;
- **Hebburn and Jarrow** - (Bede, Hebburn North, Hebburn South and Monkton wards)
 - **Inner and Outer South Shields** (Beacon and Bents, Biddick and All Saints, Cleadon Park, Harton, Horsley Hill, Simonside and Rekendyke, West Park, Westoe and Whiteleas wards)
 - **South** – (Boldon Colliery, Cleadon and East Boldon, Fellgate and Hedworth, Whitburn and Marsden).
- 1.32 Map 1.1 overleaf (extracted from the 2019 PPOSS) illustrates these areas.
- 1.33 The subdivision of the Borough into these areas has enabled us to understand how the adequacy of provision varies in different geographical areas and to take into account the different characteristics of these areas in terms of supply and demand.

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Map 1.1 – Sub Areas in South Tyneside Borough (extracted from 2019 PPOSS)



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Housing Growth and Location

- 1.34 The Local Plan sets out the level of growth that needs to be planned for in the Borough and sets out where that growth will be located. It is important that this is considered, as it impacts on how demand will vary spatially in future years.
- 1.35 Local Planning Authorities (LPA) are required to plan for their Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) which is calculated using the governments Standard Method formula. This produces a minimum housing number for each LPA. The draft Local Plan (2022) reported that the local housing needs assessment concluded that for the plan period (1st April 2021 to 31st March 2039) 321 dwellings are required every year. This produces an overall minimum housing requirement of 5,778 new homes over the Plan period.
- 1.1 The calculations set out in this document are based upon this draft version of the Local Plan as it provided the most up to date position on the strategic approach to playing pitch issues at the time of undertaking this PPOSS.
- 1.2 The Regulation-18 Local Plan notes that housing development will largely take place in the main urban areas of South Shields, Hebburn, Jarrow and the Villages on allocated sites. The Spatial Strategy allocates Urban and Village Sustainable Growth Areas at Whitburn, Cleadon, East Boldon and West Boldon. In addition, the Plan has identified land south of Fellgate as a Sustainable Urban Extension. Demand is therefore likely to increase in these areas.
- 1.3 The Regulation 18 draft Local Plan (2022) Policies SP4 and SP5 identifies several strategic allocations for the delivery of growth, some of which include playing field land, specifically;
- South Shields and Westoe Sports Club and playing fields (H.2)
 - Former Brinkburn Comprehensive School (H.4)
 - Land at Former Chuter Ede Education Centre (H.5)
 - Perth Green Youth Centre (H.25)
 - Hebburn Campus (GA3).
- 1.4 In relation to South Tyneside College (H3), it should be noted that the Reg-18 Local Plan only allocated the brownfield area of the site and sought to retain the playing fields. A planning application has now been submitted for the whole site and was recently approved (December 2023).
- 1.5 During the production of this PPOSS, South Tyneside Council have consulted upon a Regulation 19 Local Plan. The Regulation-19 Local Plan reflects the spatial strategy proposed at Regulation-18, however it includes changes to the sites identified as strategic allocations for growth which are listed above, including;
- Withdrawal of South Shields and Westoe Sports Club and playing fields as a housing allocation.
 - Retention of playing field land at Former Brinkburn Comprehensive School and Land at Former Chuter Ede Education Centre.
- 1.6 The scenarios and mitigation strategy included in the PPOSS takes into account the Regulation-19 site considerations identified above and considers the effect of the South Tyneside College planning application (H3).
- 1.7 This PPOSS provides an important evidence base in decision making in relation to the Local Plan and where relevant, sets out any mitigation required to bring the above sites forward.

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- 1.8 The specific impact of new housing development will be considered in Section 4 of this strategy, and the action plan takes into account how the proposed loss of any playing field sites will be mitigated.

Role of the Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.9 The end goal of this strategy is to deliver the overarching vision and achieve the specific aims and objectives set out on the previous pages. To do this, it is essential that provision for each sport continues to evolve and improve to meet with changing needs and aspirations.
- 1.10 The focus of a PPOSS is on facilities. Sport England states that building the right thing in the right place makes taking part in sport and physical activity a realistic option for many and leads to a better experience for those who are already engaged. The clear messages from the government and Sport England are that people need to be more active – this strategy therefore seeks to ensure that the network of facilities in the Borough facilitates this.

Structure

- 1.11 The remainder of this strategy is set out as follows;
- Section 2 – Sport Specific Issues and Scenario Testing
 - Section 3 - Recommendations
 - Section 4 – Impact of New Development
 - Section 5 - Action Plan and Monitoring and Review.

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2.0 Sport Specific Issues

Introduction

- 2.1 This section summarises the current and projected future position for each sport and the key issues that need to be addressed. The detail behind the headlines is provided in the supporting assessment report (June 2023).
- 2.2 To help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are also tested in this section. The results of these scenarios have helped to drive the sport and site-specific recommendations.
- 2.3 Recommendations for delivering on the key issues identified on a sport by sport basis are set out in Section 4, while Section 5 contains a site specific action plan.

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Sport Specific Issues

Cricket

Cricket-Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 6 grass cricket squares. This represents a reduction of one grass square since the 2019 PPS. • There are two sites that previously included cricket but are now used just for football – the former cricket use on these sites has been displaced elsewhere, placing greater pressures on other cricket grounds. • Four out of six squares are located in the South sub area. There are no cricket facilities in Hebburn and Jarrow (one of the squares that is no longer provided was situated in this area). • There is opportunity to improve security of tenure – whilst Whitburn CC, Marsden CC, Boldon CC and Boldon CA all lease their facilities, at the pitch at Oakleigh Gardens is rented from the Council and the long term future of South Shields and Westoe CC is uncertain. Discussions are currently underway with to secure a long term use agreement for the facility at Oakleigh Gardens for Simonside CC. • Whilst most clubs believe that quality has improved, further work is needed. Enhanced maintenance was viewed as the main reason for the improvements seen and this will need to remain a key focus. • All grounds are functional and playable for the standard of cricket that they sustain, but most facilities would benefit from investment. Wickets are typically well maintained but the quality of outfield is varying, with the surface uneven and some weeds evident. • The quality of training facilities is a concern, with a lack of facilities on some sites and poor-quality facilities on others. Where clubs do not have off field training resources, there is a greater reliance on the use of the square. • The majority of clubs have pavilions that are functional, and many have recently invested in them. That said, several clubs identify further works and some pavilions are very basic and this may potentially impact on cricket development, particularly where clubs are seeking to support women and girls cricket.
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 59 teams in total, of which 20 are senior teams, 4 are midweek teams and 35 are junior teams. This represents an overall increase in participation since 2019. • With 61% of teams running in the Borough being junior teams, it is clear that there are strong foundations for cricket. There are no female senior teams but clear evidence of growing participation by younger girls. • Boldon CC, South Shields CC and Whitburn CC all engage with ECB programmes including All Stars and Dynamos. These programmes add additional wear and tear, although this is typically focused on the outfield rather than the square itself but also increases the challenges with scheduling fixtures as well as training. These programmes also stimulate cricket development, meaning that there is likely to be growth in cricket in future seasons. • Access to training facilities was highlighted as one of the key issues, with the availability of both winter facilities and summer on site facilities limited.

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Adequacy of Provision

2.4 Analysis of the adequacy of provision demonstrates that;

- All active grass pitches accommodate cricket during the season. In general, the existing cricket grounds are very busy. There is;
 - a small amount of spare capacity at Boldon Squash and Cricket Club and Boldon CA Ground
 - No remaining spare capacity at Oakleigh Gardens and Jack Clark Park
 - Significant overplay at South Shields CC and Whitburn CC.
- Spare capacity is also constrained at peak time, with Oakleigh Gardens (Simonside CC) the only site that is available at peak time (0.5 MES). Use of this site by an additional senior team would however generate overplay on the wicket and it is therefore not actual spare capacity – this means that there is no scope for additional play at peak time.
- Boroughwide therefore, there is no spare capacity. The amount of overplay that is evident (at Oakleigh Gardens and Jack Clark Park) currently exceeds the amount of spare capacity that is available at other grounds. Overplay is particularly high in the Inner and Outer South Shields sub area (due to high demand at South Shields CC).
- The amount of pressure on cricket grounds in the Borough has been exacerbated by the loss of two former cricket grounds due to club aspirations to use the sites only for football. This has seen cricket demand displaced to the remaining grounds;
- Future population growth alone will have limited impact on demand for cricket, with increases equivalent to only one adult team;
- There is however likely to be greater impact on demand for cricket arising from the implementation of sports development initiatives. There has been an increase in participation since the 2019 PPS, and The Durham Cricket Board, working alongside the ECB through their Strategy 'Inspiring Generations' are seeking to grow cricket, looking at both traditional and non-traditional forms of the game and particularly focusing upon juniors, women and girls. Successful delivery of these aims may have longer term impact on demand for cricket (as players transition into the formal club environment) but in the short term require use of good quality outfield which means that maintenance and management are of increasing importance;
- Clubs themselves have growth aspirations, mostly focusing on the development of female sections and improvements to junior participation. At Whitburn CC and South Shields CC, there is already no scope to accommodate these growth aspirations and there is little room for growth at other clubs;
- Borough wide, demand may outstrip supply by at least 30 strips by 2039 based on club development aspirations. Adding the demand generated by the team through population growth will increase this to 33 strips. This means that additional capacity may be required within the cricket infrastructure by 2039
- There is also a potential requirement for a public non turf wicket which provides opportunities for grass roots cricket and stimulates the growth of the sport. This is a key priority of the ECB strategy.

2.5 Table 2.1 summarises the overall position across the Borough in terms of capacity, whilst Table 2.2 summarises the specific position at each of the Club Bases.

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Table 2.1 – Boroughwide Capacity for Cricket

Sub Area	Number of Wickets Required	Total Number of Wickets Available	Spare Capacity (wickets)	Spare Capacity (MES)	Peak Time Spare Capacity (MES)	Comment
Inner and Outer South Shields	33	26	0, and overplay requiring access to 7 additional wickets	0 (overplay equivalent to 37 MES)	0	No spare capacity at either site
Hebburn / Jarrow	0	0	0	0	0	No grass cricket squares available
South	63	60	7 (but overplay on other sites equivalent to 10 additional wickets)	0 (Overplay equivalent to 13 MES)	0	Overplay at Whitburn CC. Small amount of spare capacity at Boldon CC and Boldon CA.
Total	96	86	0 (overplay equivalent to 10 wickets)	No spare capacity. Overplay equivalent to 50 MES	0	

Table 2.2 – Current and Future Position at each of the Cricket Club Bases

Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
Boldon CC	Scope to increase play across the season (4 strips, 20 matches), no availability at peak time	U9 and U11 mixed teams, female teams.	Achievement of goals likely to result in facility at capacity (0 wickets remaining)		Good ground, although some issues with drainage. Training nets ageing and poor. NTP and training facilities required, as well as changing facility improvements to facilitate female teams.
Boldon CA	Scope to increase play across the season (5 strips, 25 matches), no availability at peak time	Unknown	Position remains consistent (5 strips)		None identified
Marsden CC	Small amount of overplay (3 strips short), no remaining capacity at peak time	Additional male team, female team and junior teams	Creation of additional teams will generate overplay (by an additional 6 strips / 30 MES)		Standard quality, outfield lumpy and scope to improve. Changing facilities basic and require improvement to accommodate female teams.

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Club	Current Position	Growth Aspirations	Future Issues	Capacity	Other Issues
Simonside CC	No remaining spare capacity across the season, although peak time availability	None, but club have strong relationship with South Shields CC who share their site. In reality, growth at South Shields CC is likely to impact this site.	Position remains consistent (-1 strips / -4.5 MES)		Outfield slightly uneven, scope for improvement – standard quality facility. NTP requires replacement and off field training surface would be of benefit. Changing facilities require investment.
South Shields CC	No remaining spare capacity available – overplay evident (4 strips / 22 MES).	Further women and girls teams, additional junior teams. Reinstatement of senior team.	Creation of additional teams will exacerbate overplay. Estimate additional 36 MES. Future unmet demand equivalent to 11 strips.		No off field training facilities, NTP at side of square ripped and unusable. Pavilion also requires investment. Lack of security over future location of club means investment is currently limited.
Whitburn CC	No remaining spare capacity available – overplay evident (8 strips / 44 MES).	Female and junior team.	Existing deficiency will remain and increase (by circa 18 MES) if capacity is not increased. Total unmet demand equivalent to approximately 12 strips.		Heavy usage. Lack of practice facilities and changing facilities undersized / require refurbishment.

2.6 The key issues that need to be addressed in relation to cricket across South Tyneside are therefore.

Cricket - Key Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to address qualitative issues and continue the focus on maintenance – almost all sites have improvements that are necessary to retain standard quality and improve facilities to a good level. This will also directly generate capacity improvements at some sites. • The need to increase capacity for clubs who are at capacity or are overplaying facilities both in the short term, and longer term as demand increases • The need to provide additional capacity across the Borough – there is no peak time availability and increasing demand for play at other times (junior / senior) • Opportunities to improve facilities for South Shields CC if the club relocates • Decisions in relation to the former squares at Harton Miners Welfare and Hebburn Cricket Club • The potential to develop cricket through the use of NTP in areas of higher population.

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Potential Opportunities - Scenario Testing

- 2.7 With insufficient capacity across the Borough and particular pressures at South Shields and Westoe Cricket Club and at several sites, scenario testing is needed to evaluate how this can be addressed.

Qualitative Improvements

- 2.8 Sites that are currently rated as standard, and therefore offer the opportunity to increase capacity through qualitative improvements are;
- Jack Clark Park (Marsden CC) – qualitative improvements would see supply would equal demand (as opposed to existing deficit)
 - The unmet demand at Oakleigh Gardens could also be accommodated
 - Boldon CA Sports Ground – there is already sufficient capacity. Improving quality would enhance the position.
- 2.9 Table 2.3 sets out the position that would be achieved at all sites in the Borough if all wickets were good quality. It demonstrates that qualitative improvements would be of benefit particularly at Jack Clark Park and Oakleigh Gardens. There are no options to increase capacity at other sites through qualitative improvements alone however as quality of these facilities is already good.
- 2.10 This means that whilst qualitative improvements will have positive impact, they will not fully address the issues identified, particularly as there is no opportunity to improve the quality rating at South Shields CC and Whitburn CC, the sites where the capacity pressures are most prevalent.
- 2.11 Even if all sites are improved to good therefore, there will remain an overall deficiency in provision, and this will increase to 33 strips (165 senior games) in future years.

Table 2.3 – Cricket – Qualitative Improvements

Site Name	Club	Number of wickets (Natural)	Number of Games (Senior)	Number of Games (Midweek)	Number of Games (Junior)	Additional Games / Usage on Square	Number of Wickets Required (Senior)	Number of Wickets Required (Junior)	Estimated Position	Number of additional matches that could be sustained
Boldon Cricket And Squash Club	Boldon CC	17	36	6	24	6	9.6	3.4	4.0	19.9
Boldon CA Sports Ground	Boldon CA	16	36	6	18	0	8.4	2.6	5.0	25.1
Jack Clark Park	Marsden CC	14	48	0	18	6	10.8	3.6	-0.4	-2.0
Oakleigh Gardens	Simonside CC	12	12	6	0	42	3.6	8.4	0.0	0.0

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Site Name	Club	Number of wickets (Natural)	Number of Games (Senior)	Number of Games (Midweek)	Number of Games (Junior)	Additional Games / Usage on Square	Number of Wickets Required (Senior)	Number of Wickets Required (Junior)	Estimated Position	Number of additional matches that could be sustained
South Shields And Westoe Club	South Shields CC	12	48	0	30	12	12	4.3	-4.3	-21.4
Whitburn Cricket Club	Whitburn CC	15	60	6	60	10	15.2	8.6	-8.8	-43.9

Non-Turf Wicket

- 2.12 Table 2.3 therefore shows that even after qualitative improvements, significant amounts of unmet demand will remain. An artificial wicket is able to sustain 60 MES throughout the season; while a grass wicket will sustain only 4 (or 5) depending upon quality. This significantly increases the amount of play that can be sustained at a site and (where permitted by league regulations) can therefore provide a sustainable option for improving capacity.
- 2.13 Installation of an NTP on the square would address capacity issues at each site across the season based upon current levels of demand and should therefore be considered at all sites, prioritising those where there is overplay already evident. This will significantly reduce deficiencies that arise from overuse of the wickets, particularly facilitating the addition of female cricket (which takes place outside of peak time). Significant increases in participation in future years would however mean that supply remains closely balanced with demand.
- 2.14 Installation of a hybrid wicket may provide a more viable alternative at some sites, in particular where the facility is to be used by teams playing at a higher level (NTP are not always permitted in league regulations). Hybrid wickets offer additional capacity than grass pitches. They are currently in early stages of testing, but may become a key part of the solution for improving capacity in South Tyneside.
- 2.15 Whilst seasonal capacity issues can be addressed by NTP / hybrid wicket, it is important to note that this will not address scheduling issues, or provide additional capacity at peak times, which is also limited.

Additional Capacity

- 2.16 The lack of spare capacity within the cricket infrastructure, even taking into account the above scenario testing which demonstrates the impact the qualitative improvements and installation of NTP can have, remains a concern.
- 2.17 Additional capacity should therefore be considered, as well as improvements at existing club bases through qualitative improvements / installation of NTP. There are several options as to how additional capacity could be used;

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- Additional club site (likely for primary use of either South Shields CC or Whitburn CC, given current capacity issues)
 - Ground to support overspill / midweek / female cricket (thereby supporting all clubs with capacity). This may be managed by the Council (or another body) rather than the club.
- 2.18 The recent loss of two cricket pitches provides an opportunity to deliver the necessary additional capacity. Evidence contained in the assessment, as well as the scenario modelling above suggests that;
- There are capacity pressures for cricket in South Shields that cannot be addressed by qualitative improvements alone. The former cricket pitch at Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare can therefore not be considered surplus to requirements and the pitch should be replaced.
 - Demand is less apparent in the Hebburn area and there is no clear rationale to replace the pitch in this area. Instead, contributions should be required towards improving capacity for other clubs. It is understood that the retrospective planning application for Hebburn Town FC (which generated the loss of the cricket pitch) was recently approved on the condition that a contribution would be made towards the delivery of new cricket training nets at Whitburn CC.

Mitigation for Proposed Loss of South Tyneside College Playing Fields

- 2.19 The playing fields at South Tyneside College previously contained two rugby and two football pitches. They were disused at the time of the PPS calculations. Proposals were approved (December 2023) for the residential development of these playing fields on the basis of a mitigation strategy for the loss of playing fields being delivered.
- 2.20 Whilst the South Tyneside College site did not accommodate cricket, in recognition of the pressures on cricket pitch provision in the Borough, the proposed mitigation strategy involves the provision of two new cricket pitches, alongside rugby pitches on playing field land at Epinay School, with a view to creating a community hub. The new cricket pitches will be used by South Shields CC and will enable the cricket club to relocate, and to free up space at their existing site for the provision of an additional rugby pitch (to support the rugby club).
- 2.21 For cricket, final discussions are still ongoing with the ECB and Durham Cricket Board regarding the size and scale of the cricket pitches, as well as whether any NTP and / or hybrid wickets will be installed on the square.
- 2.22 This reconfiguration will therefore provide one additional cricket ground (one will be lost at South Shields CC) and will see the overall deficiency in South Tyneside reduce to circa 25 strips if all wickets are grass. Further provision may therefore be required longer term as unmet demand will still exist, although as set out above, much of this can be addressed through the use of NTP/ hybrid wickets.

Training Facilities

- 2.23 A lack of / poor training facilities creates additional wear and tear on the square. This is critical when there are already capacity issues.
- 2.24 Whitburn CC and South Shields CC also have poor / no / limited training facilities – this means that some training takes place on the square. Transferring training off field will therefore further

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boost the level of capacity for match play at each ground. There are also poor training facilities at Boldon CC and Simonside CC, which again means that training activity must take place on the square.

- 2.25 Given the scenario testing above, which indicates that deficiencies in capacity will remain, improvements to training facilities will be critical across all sites. The recently approved planning application at Hebburn Town will see investment into training facilities at Whitburn CC as part of the planning conditions, meaning that improvements will soon be underway.
- 2.26 Section 3 draws upon the above position statement and scenario testing and sets out the strategic recommendations and sport specific recommendations for cricket, whilst a site specific action plan is provided in Section 5.

Rugby Union

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 7 full sized rugby union pitches, all of which are available for community use on either a secured or unsecured basis. Additionally, there is a 3G AGP at Harton Academy which is WR22 compliant for rugby use. Two of the three rugby clubs have security of tenure, but South Shields RUFC only rent their pitch. This club has recently been displaced from South Tyneside College. Whilst the new lease has enabled Jarrowians RUFC to take on the maintenance at Lukes Lane Playing Fields, pitch quality at South Shields Westoe RUFC is declining and there have also been no improvements at Brinkburn CIO. At all sites, there is evidence of compaction and maintenance programmes are restricted. The quality of facilities therefore significantly impacts the capacity of the rugby pitches in the Borough. There are issues with ancillary facilities, particularly at South Shields Westoe. The lack of facilities appropriate for women and girls was highlighted as a key issue by both Jarrowians RUFC and South Shields Westoe and improvements are required if clubs are to become more inclusive.
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 3 rugby union clubs - South Shields Westoe RUFC, Jarrowians RUFC and South Shields RUFC. This remains consistent with the previous PPOSS Overall, there has been a significant increase in mini rugby since the 2019 PPS, but a decline in junior and adult participation. There are no female rugby teams (senior or youth) in the Borough. Whilst there are some female players in the mini sections at both Jarrowians RUFC and South Shields RUFC, when these players reach older ages they will currently need to join other clubs, as the ancillary facilities at the existing club bases do not accommodate women and girls. With the development of women and girls rugby being a key priority, this means that improvement of ancillary facilities to accommodate this moving forwards will be a critical issue to address. Female rugby is currently exported to neighbouring authorities. Training for clubs primarily takes place at the club base.

Adequacy of Provision

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2.27 When taking into account just competitive activity;

- At South Shields and Westoe RUFC, there is evidence of overplay equivalent to 3.75 MES. Although the existing capacity is limited by the restricted maintenance programme, it is the fact that the club only has access to one pitch that is the reason for the overplay. With age grade sections as well as two senior teams, the capacity offered by one pitch is insufficient to meet current demand (5.25 MES)
- At South Shields RUFC, there is a small amount of spare capacity (1 MES) when taking into account just competitive activity. This is because the pitch is used by only one team
- With two pitches and a training pitch, Jarrovians RUFC currently have adequate capacity. All competitive activity can be accommodated on 2 pitches (with 1.25 MES spare), leaving the other pitch / area to meet training demand.

2.28 The impact of training means that;

- At South Shields Westoe, the overplay identified when taking into account just competitive fixtures is exacerbated further. With training equating to 5.75 MES, the total shortfall for the site increases to 9.5 MES. All training takes place on half of the main pitch, as this is the only area where there are floodlights
- Supply equals demand at South Shields RUFC, but there is no remaining spare capacity to accommodate any future growth
- There remains adequate capacity at Jarrovians RUFC to meet demand. All midweek training activity (3 MES) is however focused on the floodlit training area, which is overplayed as a result.

2.29 Population growth alone will have almost no impact on the adequacy of provision.

2.30 The growth aspirations of the clubs will see the deficiencies at all clubs increase, particularly at South Shields Westoe and Jarrovians. Achievement of growth targets is however currently restricted by the facilities that are available –in terms of both pitches (at South Shields Westoe) and ancillary facilities (both clubs). At both clubs, without action, the existing facilities are unable to accommodate the projected levels of growth. There is scope to increase rugby usage of the WR22 compliant 3G AGP at Harton Academy (and this may reduce pressures on grass pitches). The cost of pitch hire at external sites however (both AGP and grass), as well as competition with football clubs is highlighted as a key barrier to usage of pitches at other sites by clubs. This pitch is currently at capacity with football use.

2.31 Table 2.4 summarises the supply and demand position and the key issues for each of the rugby clubs.

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Table 2.4 – Adequacy of Provision at each rugby club

Club	Current Position (Training and Match Play)	Projected Growth (MES)	Future Position (Training and Match Play)	Key Issues Raised
South Shields Westoe RUFC	-9.5 MES	6	-15.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overuse causing quality deterioration. Scope to improve capacity by improved maintenance / drainage but site is significantly constrained as only one pitch is provided. Floodlighting concentrates training into one small area. Ancillary facilities require improvement – do not meet basic standard Facilities require upgrade / reconfiguration if aspirations for women and girls rugby are to be delivered.
South Shields RUFC	0	0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of security of tenure – site subject to potential development and will require replacement if land is lost. Capacity impacted by limited maintenance regime – improvements would provide scope for additional usage. Changing / ancillary facilities are of limited quality and not compliant with RFU guidance.
Jarrovia RUFC	0.25	6	-5.75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope to improve capacity through maintenance improvements Training usage concentrated on one pitch due to location of floodlights Ancillary facilities require improvement if aspirations for women and girls' rugby are to be delivered.

Key Facility Issues to Address

Rugby Union – Key Issues for Strategy to address
<p>The key priorities for the strategy to address in relation to rugby union are therefore;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to secure appropriate tenure or replacement site for South Shields RUFC The need to provide a facility with appropriate capacity for South Shields Westoe – there is significant overplay at the current site and access to additional pitches required The need to improve quality at Jarrovia RUFC to ensure that long term growth aspirations can be sustained The need to upgrade floodlighting at both South Shields and Jarrovia to enable a better spread of training activity on the existing pitch sites The need to improve ancillary provision at both Jarrovia and South Shields Westoe to ensure ongoing sustainability at the club bases, as well as to facilitate the growth of the female game.

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Scenario Testing – Rugby Union

2.32 With capacity pressures at all sites, there is a clear need to increase the amount of matches that can be sustained. There is scope to improve the quality at all rugby club bases. Scenario testing suggests that improvements to maintenance procedures at all club bases (M2) would see;

- The spare capacity at Brinkburn CIO increase to 1.5 MES
- Provision at Lukes Lane become adequate to meet current demand, but there would be a small deficit if further growth aspirations were achieved
- A reduction in the deficit of pitch provision at South Shields Westoe RUFC, although significant shortfalls will remain in both current and projected future scenarios.

2.33 This is summarised in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5 – Scenario Testing – Qualitative Improvements to Rugby Club Bases

Site Name	Pitch Number	Baseline Data		Current Picture			Impact of Improvements			
		Match Play Demand	Total Demand (including training)	Current Site Capacity	Current Position (excluding training)	Current Position (including training)	Improved Capacity (MES)	Shortfall / Surplus	Impact of Training	Total Future Unmet Demand
South Shields and Westoe Club	1	5.25	11	1.5	-3.75	-9.5	3	-2.25	-8	-14.5
Brinkburn CIO - South Shields RUFC	1	0.5	1.5	1.5	1	0	3	2.5	1.5	1.5
Luke Lane Playing Fields	1	0.5	1	2	1.5	1.5	3	2.5	2.5	-1.25
	2	2.25	2.25	2	-0.25	-0.25	3	0.75	0.75	
	3	0	3	2	2	-1	3	3	0	

2.34 Qualitative improvements would therefore address shortfalls in provision at Lukes Lane in the first instance, however longer term, if growth aspirations are achieved, there will be a need to mark out additional pitches for rugby. There is space on the site, but this area has been recently marked for football (and should therefore be considered temporary pitches for football).

2.35 Qualitative improvements alone will not address the issues identified at South Shields Westoe RUFC.

South Shields Westoe Requirements

2.36 The Reg-18 Local Plan proposed to allocate the South Shields Westoe site for residential development.

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- 2.37 Table 2.5 demonstrated that the current single pitch site does not offer enough capacity to meet the needs of South Shields Westoe RUFC, and that qualitative improvements will not address the needs adequately.
- 2.38 It is possible to use the modelling to determine the amount of pitches that are required to meet the needs of the club, specifically;
- With match play equating to 5.25 MES, two to three pitches would be required to accommodate competitive activity (assuming a pitch rating of M1/D2 – and therefore capacity of 2.5 MES per pitch)
 - If training is also to be accommodated, an additional 2 pitches would be required. Future growth aspirations would see this increase further (additional pitch to accommodate training and matches)
 - If training is to be delivered on site, access to 4- 5 pitches is therefore necessary
 - In order to spread training activity (5.75 MES currently) at least two pitches would need to be floodlit. This would increase to 3 pitches in future years.
- 2.39 If maintenance and drainage were to be of higher quality, capacity could increase to 3 MES per pitch. This would see a requirement for 4 pitches, potentially increasing to 5 if significant growth arose (assuming all activity is to be delivered on site).

Replacement of South Tyneside College – South Shields Campus

- 2.40 The playing fields at this site previously contained two rugby and two football pitches. They were disused at the time of the PPS calculations, and any replacement facilities would therefore have positive impact on the stated position.
- 2.41 A planning application was recently approved for residential development of the site, including the playing fields. The proposed mitigation strategy includes the provision of a new community hub at Epinay School. Current proposals will see the relocation of South Shields Cricket Club to the Epinay School site (where 2 pitches will be developed) which will facilitate the creation of a second rugby union pitch at South Shields Westoe RFC home ground. Small sized rugby pitches will also be provided at Epinay School.
- 2.42 Proposals are not yet finalised and exact number of rugby pitches that will be delivered at Epinay School however it is likely that pitches will be suitable for mini rugby union and younger age groups.
- 2.43 The creation of an additional pitch at South Shields Westoe will help to address the existing deficiencies. With 4.5 MES arising from adult play, and 4 from youth play (including both training and match play), total demand equates to 8.5 MES (assuming younger teams are relocated to Epinay School). Even if capacity reached 3 MES per pitch through qualitative improvements, there would therefore remain pressures at the club base. This would however see supply more closely meet demand, and use of a WR accredited 3G AGP for some training could see capacity become adequate.

Relocation of South Shields RUFC

- 2.44 South Shields RUFC were recently displaced following the closure of the playing field at South Tyneside College. The club are currently housed at Brinkburn CIO, but this site is allocated for housing in the draft Local Plan and may therefore not represent a long term home for the club.

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- 2.45 Modelling demonstrates that one pitch is sufficient to meet the club's current and future needs. Should either site be redeveloped (and playing fields lost), at least one rugby pitch should be reprovided to meet the needs of the club.
- 2.46 The recommendations section of this strategy proposes that this club will be relocated as part of the creation of a new sporting hub at Temple Park. This will be part of a wider strategy to mitigate the proposed loss of playing fields due to Local Plan allocations through the provision of new playing fields and reinstatement of existing playing fields for both football and rugby at Temple Park.

Floodlighting

- 2.47 Modelling in Table 2.4 and in the assessment document notes that training at Jarrovians is focused on one grass pitch (Pitch 3). There is insufficient capacity on this pitch currently (-0.25 MES), although pitch improvements would see it become just adequate (to meet current but not future demand).
- 2.48 Floodlighting an additional pitch would enable the training activity (currently 3 MES) to be spread across two pitches. There is capacity on both existing remaining pitches to accommodate this demand.
- 2.49 Section 3 draws upon the above position statement and scenario testing and sets out the strategic and sport recommendations for rugby union, whilst a site specific action plan is provided in Section 5.

Hockey

Supply	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is one sand based full sized AGP suitable for hockey at Boldon School. The pitch is owned by the school and accessed on a pay as you go basis. It is open every midweek evening as well as from 12pm – 10pm at weekends This pitch is 15 years old and is in poor condition. The pitch surface requires replacement and there are concerns about the security of the site, with issues with vandalism a regular occurrence. 	
Demand	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the beginning of 2023, there were three hockey clubs training at Boldon School. The assessment report noted that Sunderland Broom Hockey Club and Games Hockey Club had relocated their training activity to a new pitch at Raich Carter Sports Centre in Sunderland. Training demand from South Shields HC equates to 1.5 hours and is the only hockey training demand in the Borough Sunderland Broom HC (1.5 MES on a Saturday) and Games HC (0.5 MES on a Saturday) were playing at Boldon School. As with training demand however, this use has now relocated to Sunderland South Shields HC currently travel to North Tyneside (The Parks Leisure Centre) to play their home games. This requires use of the Tyne Tunnel (and payment of a toll) and the travel and 	

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associated costs present a barrier to participation. South Shields HC are therefore currently displaced

- It is anticipated that South Shields HC will relocate back to South Tyneside to play at Boldon School
- Since the assessment was completed, and during the time of the strategy preparation, South Shields HC have now relocated to Boldon School. It is understood that Games HC are also now using the pitch at Boldon School again.

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.50 The existing use of the sand based AGP is mixed between football and hockey. The pitch is used solely for hockey at a weekend, and until relocation of 2 clubs to Sunderland, was at capacity on a Saturday. Now usage has relocated, there will be spare capacity for 2 matches on a Saturday (2 MES). Even if South Shields HC and Games HC use the pitch at Boldon School, there will remain 1 MES spare capacity (and more if the facility was open longer). This means there will be opportunity for growth of these clubs.
- 2.51 Across the week, South Shields HC will continue to use the facility for 1 hour training per week. It is understood that Games HC may also now use the facility for a similar amount of training.
- 2.52 Whilst there is enough capacity, the quality of the facility is now poor and the pitch requires resurfacing in the short term. If it is not refurbished, it will soon become no longer able to sustain competitive hockey.
- 2.53 Based on current activity levels, hockey alone is insufficient to sustain the pitch commercially. With demand for hockey in the Borough however, it is essential that one facility suitable for hockey is retained. It is therefore essential that the future management of the facility is planned now however viability concerns will need to be considered as part of this plan
- 2.54 Projections demonstrate that population growth alone will have no impact on demand for hockey. Increases in participation are most likely to occur through the implementation of sports development initiatives, linking with England Hockey. Significant growth in the existing club could be accommodated before additional provision would be required, and indeed, growth in participation is required to ensure the sustainability of the facility.

Hockey – Key Issues

The key issues in relation to hockey are therefore;

- **The importance of retaining a pitch of suitable surface to meet the needs of hockey.**
- **The unsuitability of the existing AGP surface – this requires immediate refurbishment if it is to remain suitable for hockey**
- **Sustainability / viability of the existing pitch and the importance of growth in hockey participation.**

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Scenario Testing - Conversion of Sand Based AGP to Gen2

- 2.55 If the pitch at Boldon School was to become unavailable, there would be a deficit of 0.5 – 1 MES at peak time, and no match play or training opportunities in the Borough. This would have negative implications for hockey development in the Borough, but is a very real prospect if the pitch at Boldon School is not resurfaced in the very short term.
- 2.56 The small size of South Shields HC however and the limited demand that is generated, means that sustainability of any facility dedicated to hockey is a concern. Games HC who are also using the facility again are also a small club and neither club are known to have growth aspirations.
- 2.57 The provision of a Gen2 facility represents an alternative option to a sand based pitch and would mean that tennis / netball could be played on the site as well as hockey. This may offer greater potential for community bookings, as well as a greater potential variety of opportunity for curricular use but financial sustainability would still need to be considered.
- 2.58 In order to maintain a continued supply to two single team hockey clubs;
- Circa 2 hours would be required every Saturday for hockey
 - 2 hours would be required midweek (potential to increase this in the event of club growth).
- 2.59 This means that there would be scope to offer community netball and tennis activity on the site in addition to hockey. The assessment of tennis however suggests that there is no clear evidence of demand for additional facilities. Netball has not been considered as part of this assessment and we have found no alternative evidence base - demand is therefore unknown.
- 2.60 Section 3 draws upon the above position statement and scenario testing and sets out the strategic recommendations for hockey, whilst a site specific action plan is provided in Section 5.

Tennis

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 65 courts. Of these, 51 offer community use. This represents a reduction on the provision that was available in the 2019 PPS (72 courts). • Of the 51 courts that are available for community use, 14 are on school sites (Boldon School /Hebburn Comprehensive School and Harton Academy Sports Centre). These courts have more restricted opening hours due to the requirement for them to also meet curricular need. All of the courts not offering community use are located at school sites. • Just 6 out of the 50 courts available for community use are floodlit. All of these are located at club sites. This means that there are no opportunities to play tennis in an evening (outside of the summer) for people who are not / do not wish to be members of a club. • Courts are well distributed, with parks courts in each area of the Borough and some accessible school courts also in each area. There are no floodlit courts in Hebburn and Jarrow and no club base.

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- The quality of tennis courts is limited. 49% of all courts are rated as poor or unplayable, and the only good courts are situated at the club bases. In general;
 - *Public Facilities* – there is significant potential to improve the quality of parks courts. Recent LTA assessments (since initial assessment work was undertaken) have recorded courts at Carr Ellison Park, Cornthwaite Park, Springwell Park, Robert Redhead and Coulthard Park as poor. The key area for improvement is the playing surface – on many sites, weeds are growing out of the tarmac, there is debris and the surface contains loose tarmac.
 - *Club Provision* – is generally good, with clear markings and floodlighting at both sites. There are issues at both sites however that need to be addressed to ensure that facilities continue to meet demand
 - *Education Facilities* – have good potential but are typically overmarked. Many of the courts are now starting to age, with fading lines. The quality of facilities at Hebburn Comprehensive means that they are no longer usable
- Public facilities are available for free of charge. There is no promotion of how the courts are accessed, or when the facilities are open. Similarly, whilst facilities are in theory available at school sites, the customer journey is poor.

It should be noted that while there were 65 courts at the time of the assessment, in line with the recommendations of this strategy, work to upgrade courts at West Park has now been completed. Four courts have been repurposed for other sports, and the quality of the remainder have been improved.

Demand

- Access to the public facilities is free of charge and unmanaged and actual levels of participation are therefore unknown. Anecdotally however, there is thought to be significant scope to increase the amount of tennis played at public facilities, with the quality of courts currently a big barrier to usage.
- There is also little monitoring at school sites, although almost all schools suggest that there is scope to increase participation.
- Both tennis clubs in South Tyneside identified growth in participation immediately after covid 19 (stimulated by tennis being one of the first sports to be played). This has now reduced however and the total number of club members is now almost identical to the position in 2019.
- LTA participation profiles suggest that there is potentially strong demand particularly from those falling into the Senior Stalwarts / Tennis Titans category. Courts are well located to meet demand.
- Padel is new racket sport that is currently being piloted across the UK. Whilst most courts are currently club based, the LTA are also looking to explore the feasibility of padel in park environments. There are no padel courts in South Tyneside currently and no known demand for a court. This will need to be monitored and there may be a requirement to consider how this will be delivered in future years.

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.61 There is variety in the type of tennis court offered, but participation is primarily club based, with limited use of the public or education sites. This is impacted by both the quality and marketing of facilities - while club provision is standard to good, some qualitative improvements are required, particularly on the public courts which are poor. Courts are however well distributed and this means that there are strong foundations for tennis across South Tyneside.
- 2.62 Modelling suggests that there are enough courts to meet demand in quantitative terms, even if the highest participation growth scenarios are achieved. The quality of existing facilities, particularly public sites however represent a key barrier to participation.
- 2.63 LTA research demonstrates that all of the public facilities have strong catchment areas and high potential penetration rates. LTA insight also highlights the importance of the parks sector, with

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good proportions of grass roots tennis played on public facilities. Public facilities are therefore key to attracting new players to the game. Profiling of the population of South Tyneside suggests that there is significant potential to increase participation, and that there are population segments that are currently under represented. The facilities are well located to drive growth in tennis, but are not of sufficient quality.

- 2.64 As a consequence of the role that public facilities play in tennis development, the LTA is working to implement solutions to address this and has now successfully implemented technology that improves the customer journey to court. This involves the use of an access gate with key pad entry which is connected to the Clubspark venue management system. When a booking is made an automated code is generated and sent to the customer, thus allowing access to the court during the allocated booking time. Where implemented, the system has been successful in increasing participation rates. This opportunity can be provided at public parks, which are located amongst large populations and offer pay and play opportunities. Effective provision in parks then sees transition of players into clubs, as interest in tennis develops. Implementation of such initiatives will be important in South Tyneside if use of public courts is to be maximised.
- 2.65 With population growth of 3947, if 1.4% of residents participate, an additional 39 tennis players would be generated. If this rose up to 3%, there would be 118 additional players. The existing infrastructure would be able to accommodate this level of additional demand, but improvements to the quality of facilities will however be crucial if these aspirational levels of participation are to be achieved.
- 2.66 The existing club based infrastructure has capacity for additional players, although some qualitative issues are evident. As with public facilities, the quality of facilities is important if participation is to be sustained.
- 2.67 Analysis therefore suggests that focus should remain on addressing the qualitative and access issues that are evident with the facility stock.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Tennis - Key Issues
<p>The key issues for the strategy to address are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to improve the use and quality of public facilities. There are opportunities to work with the LTA to apply for grant funding to improve court quality, through the LTA Parks Investment Scheme' • There are also access issues to existing public venues, and sites would benefit from an improved customer journey, including online booking and gate access. There are opportunities to work with the LTA and benefit from grant funding to deliver this • A similar issue exists at school sites – use of these sites will be more critical in the longer term if participation increases • There are opportunities to increase engagement with tennis through targeted marketing, promotion and participation initiatives • The club based infrastructure is adequate, but there are qualitative issues that need to be addressed • Ongoing monitoring of demand for Padel

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Scenario Testing

- 2.68 Work is currently underway to repurpose four courts for other sports at West Park (number of courts at West Park reducing from 13 – 9). This will facilitate the creation of a new facility for young people whilst at the same time enabling the improvement of the remaining courts.
- 2.69 The reduction in courts will see an overall drop in the number of players that the infrastructure can accommodate from 2020 to 1860 players. This level of participation is significantly above that projected in the baseline modelling, as well as in the LTA Periscope Modelling. Should participation however reach levels predicted in the Sport England Market Segmentation, or when assuming a 3% participation level, the amount of players the infrastructure could sustain would be very slightly below demand. On the positive side however, this reduction will enable a significant improvement in court quality, which is likely to stimulate participation in an area where current demand is significantly below the potential propensity to play. Without these improvements, it is unlikely that participation anywhere near 3% target levels will be achieved.
- 2.70 Issues are also identified with the adequacy of facilities for South Shields Tennis Club. The courts are located on a multi-sport site, however the long term future of the site is unclear. The facility requires qualitative investment if it is to remain fit for purpose on the current site. Should relocation be the preferred model, with a membership of 89 current players (which has declined as a result of the poor quality of facilities), application of LTA parameters suggest that a minimum of 3 courts would be required (two if floodlit) to meet current demand. Aspirations to drive tennis participation however mean that in an ideal scenario, all three floodlit courts should be replaced.
- 2.71 Section 3 draws upon the above position statement and scenario testing and sets out the strategic recommendations for tennis, whilst a site specific action plan is provided in Section 5.

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Bowls

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 15 bowling greens on nine sites across South Tyneside. This represents a reduction since the PPS in 2015. Six sites offer two greens, which enables the creation of larger clubs as well as effective facilities for competition hosting and developmental activities. South Tyneside Council is the main provider of bowling greens. On sites owned by the Council, with the exception of North Marine Park, clubs maintain the greens themselves, whilst the Council continue to maintain the footpaths, pavilions and surrounding parkland. The quality of greens varies is standard. All greens were functioning and playable. While many sites would benefit from improvement, no greens were reported to be in poor condition, and it was clear that significant effort had been made with green preparation. Quality is one of the biggest issues for bowling clubs, with the irrigation the biggest area for improvement, with many greens brown and scorched. Maintenance was highlighted as perhaps the key challenge relating to quality, with lack of skill and lack of / inappropriate machinery being key concerns. Some issues with playing surface were also identified.
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 75% of current members travel less than 3 miles, with 30% of those travelling less than a mile. This demonstrates that greens have a local catchment National databases reveal a statistically significant decline in the number of people playing bowls. The profile of players is also much more focused towards the older age groups than other sports There are 618 playing members of responding clubs, of which 5 are junior players. Participation is skewed towards males, with 77% of club members being male Membership of clubs appears to be fluctuating, with some recent increase following a decline arising after the Covid pandemic, but struggles in finding and retaining members remaining. This reflects the national picture. Clubs raise concern about impact that this has on income, and consequently, facility quality, as well as the future of the game itself.

Adequacy of Existing Provision

- 2.72 Whilst assessments demonstrate that most greens are functional, there are qualitative improvements required at almost all sites – in particular, ongoing investment into maintenance is identified as a priority, both in terms of the work actually carried out, but also the processes, workforce and machinery.
- 2.73 There are no formal demand parameters for bowls. Guidance from Bowls England suggests that 80-100 members is considered a very healthy membership for a bowls club, while an average club will have 50 - 60 members. The average membership of bowling clubs in South Tyneside is 33 members. This suggests that there is significant capacity to increase participation. Reflecting

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this, all respondents indicate that they have capacity to accommodate additional members and are proactively looking to do so.

- 2.74 At any one time, a good quality green can accommodate circa 48 players and the number of club members that can therefore be sustained is significantly higher. Bowls England use membership levels as the key reference point for the sustainability of a green. They suggest that the retention of an existing bowling green is difficult to support where membership is below 16 - 20 people. Two greens are at this level and therefore require support to improve sustainability.
- 2.75 Analysis therefore suggests that the quantity of facilities is therefore adequate to meet current demand, and ongoing investment into quality is the key priority
- 2.76 Future population growth will generate between 125 and 183 new bowling club members by 2039. This can be accommodated within the existing stock. Proportionally, the largest growth in the population is expected in the older age groups. The profile of current participants in bowls therefore means that the ageing population is likely to influence participation more so than for most other sports.

Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Bowls - Key Issues
<p>The issues to address in relation to bowls are therefore;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that existing greens are protected • Support clubs in addressing ongoing improvements to quality, including; • Support improvements to maintenance procedures and machinery • Address specific site by site quality issues • Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and work with clubs to improve the promotion of bowls • Focus on sustainability of bowls This may include facilitating the merge of clubs where necessary alongside efforts to stimulate participation

Scenario Testing

- 2.77 No scenario testing is required for bowls.

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Athletics

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is one floodlit 8 lane synthetic track located at Monkton Stadium (Hebburn and Jarrow). This facility is also supported by a cinder track, as well as an indoor 60m athletics sprint facility. The athletics facilities are part of a wider sports hub which includes 3G and grass pitches In addition, there is a cinder track at Gypsies Green, South Shields. This is not quite 400m, and does not have any functioning field event areas Both facilities are managed by South Tyneside Council Monkton Stadium is currently accredited to host Level 1 competitions, England Athletics would like to see this upgraded to Level 2. The quality of the track at Gypsies Green is now poor and the ancillary facilities are also not fit for purpose Supplementing the facilities in South Tyneside, residents are also within the catchment area of Gateshead Regional Athletics Track.
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Lives Surveys report a decline in participation between 2015 – 2021 for both adults and young people. The proportion of young people in particular participating however remains significant Both tracks have resident clubs, with South Shields Harriers using the facility at Gypsies Green and Jarrow and Hebburn AC based at Monkton Stadium. Both Clubs offer opportunities for both adults and juniors and cover both track and field events as well as cross country. Both clubs are currently seeking to increase membership, but have seen positive trends following decline generated by Covid.

Adequacy of Provision

- 2.78 Analysis demonstrates that residents of the Borough are well served in terms of the facilities available, with all residents within the 20-minute drivetime catchment of the strategic venue at Monkton Stadium. The track at Gypsies Green ensures that large sectors of the population are able to access athletics tracks within a walk time and provides a local facility for residents of South Shields. This is considered important by England Athletics and South Tyneside Council.
- 2.79 Both tracks are well used, with strong clubs at both sites. There is scope to increase the number of members at both clubs (and a need to do this in order to ensure facilities remain sustainable).
- 2.80 Whilst in terms of the availability of facilities provision is good, improvements to the quality are required at Gypsies Green. The condition of the cinder track at Gypsies Green is poor and the site would benefit from resurfacing. The ancillary facilities are also unusable. The whole site is in danger of becoming unfit for purpose and the refurbishment of the ancillary facilities is also needed
- 2.81 The track at Monkton Stadium has achieved Track Mark accreditation. Work is required to ensure that the facility continues to meet the required standards. England Athletics also wish to see the stadium upgraded from a Level 1 to Level 2 specification.

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Key Issues for the Strategy to Address

Athletics - Key Issues

The above therefore suggests that the strategy will need to;

- **Protect the existing athletics tracks**
- **Ensure that accreditation at Monkton Stadium is maintained (and potentially improved to Secure Level 2 status)**
- **Seek to improve the ancillary facilities as well as the surface of the track at Gypsies Green, ensuring that it remains fit for purpose to meet the needs of South Shields AC**
- **Support ongoing efforts to sustain and increase participation and work with the clubs to support the promotion of athletics.**

Scenario Testing

2.82 No scenario testing is required for athletics.

Football

Supply

- There are 58 grass pitches available for secured community use and a further 16 grass pitches offering unsecured usage. Provision is evenly geographically dispersed.
- 45% of pitches are full sized adult pitches. The vast majority of other pitches are youth 11v11 or 9v9 pitches. The lack of 7v7 and 5v5 pitches arises as a result of the limited demand for pitches of these sizes due to the league structures in the Borough which means that most mini soccer is exported to play at central venues in other local authority areas.
- The total number of pitches available represents a decline on the pitches available at the time of the last PPS (2018). This is because;
 - The majority of primary schools are no longer available for community use, and many are not formally marking out their playing fields
 - There is also a reduction in access to secondary school sites
 - Some sites considered active in 2018 are not currently active sites
 - There are reduced pitch markings on other sites (i.e fewer pitches provided).
- 25% of all available pitches are unsecured – this means that there is scope to increase the amount of secured community use. Pitches at Boldon School (facilities available within CUA subject to regular review), Whitburn C of E and St Joseph's Catholic Academy are unsecured.
- South Tyneside Council remain the key provider of football pitches. Only a small proportion of sites are managed by clubs (either owned or leased), although there are many sites where clubs have some role in the maintenance of the facility. The FA National Strategy seeks to increase the number of asset owning and managing clubs.
- Six of the seven full sized AGPs have a surface suitable for football (3G) and all are on the FF 3G Pitch Register. The full size pitches are supported by numerous smaller pitches which have an important role to play in meeting demand.
- Just 11% of clubs are satisfied with the existing facilities. There are concerns about both the quality and amount of active pitches of appropriate quality. Larger clubs in particular highlight the challenges of securing adequate pitches for match play and the impact of overplay on quality

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- The quality of pitches is standard to poor. Most pitches fall into the standard categorisation and there are only 3 sites with good pitches. Eight sites contain at least one poor pitch
- Compaction and drainage are the biggest concerns– these are often interrelated. There are also issues with grass coverage and maintenance procedures on many sites are limited
- The quality of changing provision is varied and there are sites where clubs have no access to changing facilities at all. Improvement to changing facilities is a key priority on several sites.

Demand

- Football is the biggest sport in terms of the number of teams. Teams affiliate to Durham FA. The picture of participation across South Tyneside is complex, with lots of imported and exported demand. This primarily arises as a result of the league structures for teams in junior age groups (with the use of central venues across a wide geographical area). These structures mean that the majority of 7v7 and 5v5 football is played outside of the Borough.
- There has been an increase in participation since the previous PPS. There are now 319 teams playing and / or training in South Tyneside compared to 284 in 2018. There has been particular growth in the mini and younger youth age groups but participation amongst older players is static. 278 of these teams are based in South Tyneside and therefore require training facilities in South Tyneside
- There is a strong network of large and sustainable clubs. The size of clubs continues to grow (alongside the reduction in single team clubs) and this places greater pressures on the pitch stock, as clubs wish to accommodate as many fixtures as possible at one site. Some of the clubs in South Tyneside are now amongst the largest clubs in the country.
- Demand is highest in Jarrow and Hebburn, with similar levels of demand in Inner and Outer South Shields.
- Imported and exported demand is a key characteristic of how football is played in South Tyneside. The majority of displacement occurs due to the use of central venues for youth football, rather than other reasons.
- Monkton Stadium and Temple Park are both used as central venues for U10 football in the Russell Foster League and consequently large quantities of U10 teams are imported. There are no other central venues in South Tyneside, so all U9, U8 and U7 teams playing in the Russell Foster league represent exported demand.
- There are a small number of teams imported from Gateshead and Sunderland and a small number of youth teams from Jarrow / Hebburn and South Shields are exported to AGPs in Sunderland. This is said to be due to the challenges securing access to appropriate pitches within South Tyneside.
- Several teams play within leagues in the National League System (NLS) and have significant aspirations to progress. In season 2021 – 2022, South Shields FC transitioned to full time status and the club run an academy programme.
- The majority of clubs are dissatisfied with the training facilities that are provided. Challenges accessing 3G AGPs at suitable times emerges as the key issue for clubs. Some clubs also raise concern with the price of 3G pitch provision. Facilities however will need to be charged at a rate which ensures both sustainability and consistency across the Borough.

Adequacy of Provision

2.83 Since the previous PPOSS, it is clear that;

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- Demand has increased, in particular in the younger age groups (less impact in South Tyneside now, but this will have a potential knock on as these teams reach 9v9). The growing number of teams in younger age groups is also creating demand for additional AGPs for use in central league venues. Whilst this is across several local authorities, access to more 3G AGPs for the league within South Tyneside may be part of the solution
 - The number of available pitches has reduced. This largely impacts the adult pitch stock (with several pitches no longer provided) as well as some 7v7 and 5v5 primary school pitches that are not available for community use. Pitches of this size are rarely used for competitive matches in South Tyneside however so there is limited impact of this
 - Pitch quality is perceived to be declining – this directly effects the capacity of the pitch stock
 - An additional 3G AGP has been provided at Perth Green, but most importantly, all 3G pitches are now on Football Foundation Pitch Register, meaning that they can be used to accommodate match play
 - Increasing team numbers in larger clubs means that overplay is concentrated on fewer sites, likely those most local to the large clubs.
- 2.84 In general, demand has increased, and therefore whilst the 3G AGPs have brought about positive change and increased the capacity of the infrastructure, overall a similar picture exists. The recent decision by Gateshead Council to stop maintaining their pitch stock may place further pressures on pitches in South Tyneside in the near future.
- 2.85 Across the week, supply is very evenly balanced with demand. There are however significant pressures on 9v9 and youth pitches and a small amount of unmet demand. There are few sites with significant additional capacity remaining, particularly youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches and there is heavy use of the 3G AGPs at peak time, with no remaining spare capacity during a Saturday morning.
- 2.86 There is limited requirement for 5v5 and 7v7 pitches due to the use of central venues outside of the Borough. Once teams reach 9v9 football however, they are required to identify a home venue.
- 2.87 A small number of sites exhibit overplay. Overplay is typically evident on youth 9v9 and youth 11v11 pitches. Where overplay is identified, this is primarily attributed to high demand on the site accommodating a large club and / or the requirement for the pitch to accommodate curricular use as well as club based activity. Particularly for adult pitches however, the poor condition of facilities in some instances cause overplay. Sites where overplay is evident on at least one pitch are;
- Harton Westoe Miners Welfare -high demand
 - Cleadon Recreation Ground – poor quality
 - Gypsies Green – poor quality
 - Brinkburn CIO – high demand
 - Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association /– high demand
 - St Josephs Catholic Academy – high demand
 - Boldon CA – high demand
 - Oakleigh Gardens – poor quality
 - Whitburn C of E Academy – high demand
- 2.88 Boroughwide, there are few grass pitches with very limited or no use and therefore little opportunity to reduce overplay without qualitative improvement.

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- 2.89 With the exception of adult football, where demand is more evenly split, the majority of teams play competitive fixtures on a Saturday morning. This means that there must be enough pitches available at this time to meet this demand. While there is some flexibility that enables fixtures to be scheduled consecutively, scheduling multiple games relies on the use of high quality pitches, which have capacity to accommodate multiple games. The quality of pitches in South Tyneside restricts this. With pressures at peak time and concerns about pitch availability already evident at most used sites, it is essential to ensure that there are enough pitches to meet demand.
- 2.90 The same pattern is evident in each of the sub areas – there is not enough capacity on 9v9 and youth 11v11 pitches to meet current demand. There is some spare capacity on adult football pitches, but this is limited and offset by the shortages of pitch provision of other sizes.
- 2.91 The pressures on pitches are exacerbated further by the use of unsecured sites – the exclusion of these sites, and the impact of relocating the community use from these sites to other pitches significantly increases the levels of unmet demand. St Joseph's Catholic College, Boldon Academy and Whitburn C of E Academy are key unsecured sites.
- 2.92 Added to this, while the number of pitches currently categorised as poor is low, many pitches achieved low basic standards, suggesting that any deterioration will see them become poor. This would further exacerbate the position.
- 2.93 It is clear therefore that there is a need to increase the capacity of pitches to accommodate both match play (grass and 3G) and training (3G).
- 2.94 Population growth alone will have almost no impact on demand, due to the forecast changes to the population profile (which will see growth only offset the impact of the ageing population).
- 2.95 The Football Foundation and Durham FA however work to drive participation in football and the strong club base in South Tyneside means that football continues to grow at a rapid rate. A 10% growth target has been considered to be achievable and deliverable, particularly given recent spiralling demand in the female game. This would see the existing constraints exacerbated in future years. There would remain just adequate capacity for adult football, but capacity shortfalls for 9v9 football and youth football exceed this spare capacity.
- 2.96 Table 2.6 summarises the overall position for football currently (taking into account just pitches with secured community use) and in future years.

Table 2.6 – Current and Projected Future Adequacy of Provision

Pitch Type	Current Demand	Increase in Participation (10%)	Match Equivalents	Current Position at Peak Time (Secured Community Use)	Future Position at Peak Time (MES)
11v11	58	5.8	3	14	11
Youth 11v11	76	7.6	4	-3	-7
9v9	48	4.8	2.5	-1	-3.5

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7v7	48	4.8	2.5	N/a	N/a
5v5	48	4.8	2.5	N/a	N/a

2.97 Table 2.7 provides an overview of the adequacy of provision to meet current demand for football in each part of the Borough. Table 2.8 summarises the key sub area specific issues, including facility aspirations of large clubs.

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Table 2.7 – Adequacy of Provision by Sub Area

Sub Area	Adult Football				Youth Football				9v9 Football			
	Overall Position (taking into account Overlay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)	Overall Position (taking into account Overlay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)	Overall Position (taking into account Overlay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)
Jarrow	9	9	2	2	-0.5	-2.5	-1	-2.5	0.5	-1.5	0	-2
South Shields	8.5	8.5	6	6	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	3	3	-1	-1
South	6.25	3.25	6	3	1	-1	-0.5	-2.5	4	3	0	0
Boroughwide	23.75	20.75	14	11	-1	-5	-3	-6.5	7.5	4.5	-1	-3

Table 2.8 – Issues by Sub Area

Issue	Hebburn and Jarrow	Inner and Outer South Shields	South
Sites overplayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association –high demand, impacted by use by big club as well as school St Joseph's Catholic Academy – high demand, impacted by use by big club as well as school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brinkburn CIO, Cleadon Recreation Ground, Gypsies Green (all impacted by limited quality) Harton Westoe Miners Welfare,- high demand Mortimer Comprehensive School – high demand, impacted by use by big club as well as school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boldon CA Sports Ground – accommodates high demand, some of which is imported Oakleigh Gardens – impacted by poor quality Whitburn C of E Academy – sustains community use as well as educational demand.

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Issue	Hebburn and Jarrow	Inner and Outer South Shields	South
Sites not used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brinkburn Recreation Ground (Rear of Mortimer College AGP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitburn Village Primary is the only site not currently used by the community (9v9 pitch).
Key Unsecured Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Joseph's Catholic Academy Keelman's Way School. 	N/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boldon School Whitburn C of E Academy
Sites impacted by poor quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monkton Stadium 7v7 pitches poor quality. Keelman's Way School low standard, St Joseph's Catholic Academy low standard also Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association 3G – pitch registration only until August 2023, quality issues exist that need resolving to ensure full registration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brinkburn Recreation Ground, Chuter Ede Community Association, Cleadon Park, Cleadon Recreation Ground and Gypsies Green Stadium all poor Harton Academy Sports Centre and Brinkburn CIO rated as low standard with scope to become poor if quality not improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oakleigh Gardens – poor rating directly linked to overplay Whitburn Village Primary – likely to restrict demand for community use – pitch unusable for much of the season.
National League System Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jarrow FC, Hebburn Town. Hebburn Town require relocation of changing facilities due to distance from pitch. Club also highlight pressures on pitches that mean that they cannot fill growth aspirations Hebburn Town FC have aspirations to provide a new 3G AGP at their home base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Shields FC – key club with large number of junior sections as well as academy. No issues with first team facility, but significant pressures on other sites used by the club impacting ability to grow. Club host both men and womens NLS teams South Shields FC have aspirations to provide a new 3G AGP at at Harton Westoe Miners Welfare, alongside a new 9v9 pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boldon CA – cost of machinery is a barrier. Also used by Sunderland Women.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth Green Community Centre Monkton Stadium Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association Small amount of spare capacity outside of peak times at weekend and across week Clubs highlight issues securing appropriate training facilities, clubs highlight aspirations for additional AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mortimer Community Association, Harton Academy Sports Centre and South Shields FC all heavily used and with very limited spare capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No existing sites for training. Clubs travel to other areas. Particular unmet demand thought to be located in Whitburn area of this sub area.

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Football – Summary Issues

The key issues that need to be addressed for football are therefore;

- **The reliance on some unsecured sites – there are opportunities to secure the use of existing facilities (although there are challenges in doing so). There are also some additional sites that could be opened for community use**
- **The poor (and reducing) quality of several sites and limited maintenance programmes**
- **The need to provide additional capacity to address capacity shortfalls in both 9v9 and youth 11v11 football and in particular, to meet the needs of larger clubs.**
- **The requirement for at least 2 new 3G AGPs, one of which is required to service clubs in the South sub area (see AGP section)**

Football Scenario Testing

- 2.98 The assessment highlights that supply is closely matched with demand. There are enough adult senior pitches (14 MES capacity available at peak time), but pressures on youth (shortfall of 5 MES) and 9v9 (limited capacity of 4.5 MES available) pitches.
- 2.99 In future years, the shortfall of youth (7 MES) and 9v9 (2.5 MES) mean that supply almost matches demand ie. the spare capacity of adult pitches is absorbed by the growth in youth / 9v9 football. Absorption of the shortfalls in youth football with adult pitches would however rely on pitch reconfiguration. The poor quality of adult pitches may restrict this, and increasing demand for adult football (particularly female) as well as youth football may also limit the opportunities to use adult pitches to meet demand for youth football.

Role of Unsecured Pitches

- 2.100 The assessment report highlights a reliance on unsecured pitches and demonstrates that the impact of the loss of unsecured pitches (at the current time) and the relocation of teams to other sites would result in;
- 11 MES available on adult 11v11 pitches – this represents a reduction in spare capacity of 3 MES
 - An increase in shortfall from 3 MES to 6.5 MES on unsecured youth 11v11 pitches
 - A rise in shortfall from 1 MES to 3 MES on 9v9 pitches

- 2.101 The loss of these venues would therefore exacerbate existing deficiencies and result in further issues with the adequacy of provision. This demonstrates the importance of securing access to key unsecured venues – St Josephs Catholic College, Boldon Academy, Whitburn C Of E Academy.

Impact of Qualitative Improvements to Poor Quality Pitches

- 2.102 Pitch quality also emerged as a key concern across the Borough, particularly on adult pitches. Table 2.9 therefore evaluates the impact of improving all poor quality pitches to standard (and retaining the remainder of pitches at their current level). It suggests that these improvements would eliminate any existing overplay at these sites.

- 2.103 At Monkton Stadium, pitches are not currently used due to the poor drainage on the site.

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Table 2.9 – Impact of Improving all Poor Pitches

Site Name	Final Pitch Layout	Total Demand	Total Capacity (MES)	Position (all demand)	Overplay at Peak Time	Spare Capacity at Peak Time
BRINKBURN RECREATION GROUND	Adult 11v11	0	2	2	0	1
CHUTER EDE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	Adult 11v11	1	4	3	0	1
CLEADON PARK (The Dell / Quarry)	Adult 11v11	1	4	3	0	1
CLEADON RECREATION GROUND	Adult 11v11	3	4	1	0	0.50
GYPSIES GREEN STADIUM	11v11 Youth	2.5	2	-0.5	-1	0
HEDWORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE	11v11 Youth	2.5	4	1.5	0	0
MONKTON STADIUM	7v7	0	8	8	0	0
OAKLEIGH GARDENS	11v11 Youth	1.5	2	0.5	-0.5	0
WHITBURN VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL	9v9	1	2	1	0	0

2.104 Qualitative investment into poor pitches will improve player experience and will also create additional capacity, particularly for additional play across the week, which may be critical in meeting increasing demand outside of peak time, particularly for girls football. Boroughwide, capacity would increase by;

- 4 MES in the adult pitch stock across the week
- 3 MES youth pitches across the week
- 1 MES 9v9.

2.105 The above however assumes that all pitches are secured for community use. Whitburn Village Primary School is currently unsecured, and there are question marks over the future of facilities at Brinkburn Recreation Ground and Chuter Ede Community Association (considered later in this section). This means that the overall benefits would be lower than set out above if CUA were not successfully secured.

2.106 Even if all sites were secured for community use, focusing on poor quality pitches alone would not be enough to address the capacity issues experienced. Some overplay would remain on other sites (currently rated as standard), including school sites which must accommodate curricular and community activity and the home bases of some large clubs. These include;

- Boldon CA
- Boldon School

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- Brinkburn CIO
- Mortimer Community Association
- St Josephs' Catholic Academy

2.107 Modelling (Table 2.10) demonstrates that almost all remaining capacity issues would be addressed by improving pitch quality at the above sites to good (3 MES), with no overplay remaining. There would be no real impact at peak time however, with most pitches already played to capacity at this time.

Table 2.10 – Improvement of Pitches that are overplayed to good

Site Name	Final Pitch Layout	Total Demand	Total Capacity (MES)	Position (all demand)	Overplay at Peak Time	Spare Capacity at Peak Time
BOLDON CA SPORTS GROUND	Adult 11v11	2.75	3	0.25	0	0.00
BOLDON SCHOOL	11v11 Youth	3	4	1	0	0
BRINKBURN CIO	11v11 Youth	3	4	1	0	0
CLEGWELL COMMUNITY HUB / HEBBURN COMPREHENSIVE	11v11 Youth	2.5	4	1.5	0	0
GYPSIES GREEN STADIUM	11v11 Youth	2.5	4	1.5	0	0
HARTON ACADEMY SPORTS CENTRE	9v9	2.5	4	1.5	0	0
HARTON AND WESTOE MINERS WELFARE	Adult 11v11	5.5	6	0.5	0	0.00
MORTIMER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION & COMMUNITY COLLEGE	9v9	4	4	0	0	0
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY	11v11 Youth	6	8	2	0	0
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY	9v9	6	8	2	0	0
WHITBURN C OF E ACADEMY	Adult 11v11	2.5	3	0.5	0	0.00

2.108 Over the course of the week, the above improvements would generate:

- An increase of 3 MES capacity on adult pitches
- An increase of 10 MES capacity on youth pitches
- An increase of 6 MES capacity on 9v9 pitches.

2.109 This would therefore significantly benefit the overall pitch stock but would make no impact on the peak time pressures that are evident. This is crucial, as whilst increasing capacity of well used

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sites is critical, it is important to understand that this will not address the key deficiencies, which are at peak time.

- 2.110 The time that it will take to improve pitch quality, as well as the challenges maintaining good pitches, added to the need to also accommodate for future demand (which is not included above), as well as to address the peak time issues, means that there is also a need to create additional capacity to supplement the impact of any quality improvements.

Provision of further additional capacity

- 2.111 There are currently several proposals that will impact on the existing stock of football pitches. The following section uses scenario modelling to outline how the changes that are proposed will deliver a positive mitigation strategy which will bring significant benefit to facilities for football across South Tyneside. I

- 2.111.1 It should be noted that the proposed mitigation strategy has been developed with significant collaboration between partners. Not all elements of the proposed mitigation strategy are policy compliant, due to a lack of available land in South Tyneside Borough and a need to ensure deliverability.

2.112 Replacement of South Tyneside College

- 2.113 South Tyneside College playing fields are no longer available and plans have now been submitted for the residential development of the site. The South Tyneside Council Planning Committee resolved to approve the application in December 2023.

- 2.114 The playing fields previously contained two rugby and two football pitches and offered secured community use. They were disused at the time of the PPS calculations, and any replacement facilities would therefore have positive impact on the stated position.

- 2.115 Proposals included a mitigation package to create a new community hub at Epinay School on existing playing field land. Cricket and rugby pitches will be provided at this site and all facilities will be secured for long term community use.

- 2.116 In addition to the proposals at Epinay School, the mitigation package also includes the creation of a new 9v9 grass pitch at Harton Westoe Miners Welfare, as well as the provision of a new 3G AGP (replacing a senior grass pitch).

- 2.117 The resulting picture for football is summarised in Table 2.11. It demonstrates that the position will improve.

- 2.118 It assumes that the new 3G pitch will accommodate the matches currently used on the grass pitch (as well as significant additional training capacity). For the purposes of modelling, it will therefore not add any additional capacity at peak time, but will address the deficiencies on this site that occur from overplay in the week (currently 1.5 MES). This underestimates the benefits that the facility will provide, but is a realistic baseline from a modelling point of view for match play. Table 2.11 therefore demonstrates improvement to capacity of 1.5 MES across the week on adult football pitches.

- 2.119 Table 2.11 assumes that no qualitative improvements have taken place. It also assumes that new pitches provided are of a 'good' standard.

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Table 2.11 – Impact of New Pitch Site at Epinay School and 9v9 at Harton Westoe Miners Welfare (MES)

	Adult Football				Youth Football				9v9 Football			
	Position (taking into account Overplay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)	Overall Position (taking into account Overplay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)	Overall Position (taking into account Overplay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)
Baseline Position	23.75	20.75	14	11	-1	-5	-3	-6.5	7.5	4.5	-1	-3
After Mitigation	25.25	22.25	14	11	-1	-5	-3	-6.5	11.5	8.5	0	-2

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Local Plan Housing Allocations

2.120 Further changes are anticipated to take place as a result of Local Plan allocations, with both Brinkburn CIO and Chuter Ede, which are active sites, allocated for housing. Proposals have not yet been finalised and are therefore subject to change.

2.121 The most recent position available indicates that some playing field land will be retained at both Chuter Ede and Brinkburn, specifically:

- Chuter Ede – 2 senior 11v11 pitches to be retained on site. A 7v7 pitch was also identified in this area. Loss of circa 1.9ha former playing fields (area to be lost is not currently active provision)
- Brinkburn CIO – area equivalent to 2 11v11 football pitches to be retained on site. Loss of circa 4.48ha playing field land (some of which currently includes active grass pitches).

2.122 Table 2.12 summarises the current activity at each site, showing that these sites both accommodate existing play. At Chuter Ede, capacity is restricted by quality. There is some overplay at Brinkburn CIO.

Table 2.12 – Current Activity at sites allocated in Local Plan

Pitches Type	Current Pitch Provision	Rating	Total Capacity	Total Demand (MES)	Current Position	Peak Time
Brinkburn CIO	1 Adult 11v11	Standard	2	0.5	1.5	0
	1 youth 11v11	Standard	2	3	-1	0
	1 9v9	Standard	2	1	1	0
	1 rugby	M0/D1 (poor)	1.5	1.5	0	0
Chuter Ede	2 11v11 adult	Poor	2	1	1	1
	Further space (at least two pitches, recreational 7v7)		0			

2.123 Table 2.13 considers the impact of the potential loss of these allocated sites if they are not replaced. It assumes that the two adult pitches will be retained at Chuter Ede, and Brinkburn CIO, but that the adult and 9v9 pitches at Brinkburn CIO will no longer be available. As above, these assumptions are best estimates only at this point.

2.124 It assumes that the new pitch provision at Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare (see Table 2.12 has already been delivered) but demonstrates that despite proposals to retain some pitches on site, supply will not meet demand. This means that, in line with policy, the playing field area that will be lost (circa 6.5ha) will need to be replaced.

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Table 2.13 – Impact of Loss of Sites Allocated in Local Plan (MES)

	Adult Football				Youth Football				9v9 Football			
	Position (taking into account Overplay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)	Overall Position (taking into account Overplay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)	Overall Position (taking into account Overplay)	Overall Position (Excluding Unsecured sites and relocating use)	Peak Time Position	Peak time Position (excluding unsecured sites and relocating use)
Baseline Position	23.75	20.75	14	11	-1	-5	-3	-6.5	7.5	4.5	-1	-3
After Harton Westoe (mitigation for South Tyneside College)	25.25	22.25	14	11	-1	-5	-3	-6.5	11.5	8.5	0	-2
Loss of Local Plan Sites	23.75	20.25	13	10	-1	-5	-3	-6.5	9.5	6.5	-1	-3

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- 2.125 Discussion during Steering Group Meetings for this PPS has identified that new provision at Temple Park (on new playing field land) as well as reinstatement of some former playing fields on the same site is the preferred means of delivering the required mitigation.
- 2.126 This strategy therefore requires the replacement of these sites at Temple Park (or on an alternative site if insurmountable issues arise at Temple Park). This will deliver the level of replacement provision that is required for this site – with the total potential playing field land at this site being equivalent to at least the land that will be lost.
- 2.127 Land at Perth Green has not been recorded as being used as a playing field for over 20 years and is considered to be disused. The redevelopment of the site for housing would lead to the loss of up to 0.6ha playing field. In accordance with Sport England's facility cost guidance, the Council will ring-fence a financial contribution of £90,000 for the foregone land, the equivalent cost of providing a youth U16/U15 pitch, towards the provision of new playing fields or the improvement of existing playing fields/facilities in the same sub-area of the site. The exact details are still to be determined.

Meeting Boroughwide Demand for Football

- 2.128 These relocation proposals are part of a proactive strategy to improve facilities for football. They enable the creation of a new strategic hub site at Temple Park (through a combination for new playing field land and reinstatement of former playing fields) , offering a large expanse of high quality playing fields served by appropriate ancillary provision. The new hub site will include facilities for rugby union as well as football. The works required will be informed by detailed agronomy surveys.
- 2.129 Whilst the above pitches that will be lost as part of proposals in the Local Plan are active, the Local Plan also promotes the disposal of the former Hebburn Campus site, which contains disused playing fields. To ensure provision is provided in the locality in which it will be lost, it is proposed that these playing fields will be replaced through the reinstatement of The Clock. This will involve the reinstatement of pitches, alongside the required improvement works and provision of associated ancillary facilities. The extent of the works that will be required at this point is unclear. There is therefore potential that mitigation for Hebburn Campus will need to extend beyond improvements to The Clock. Further potential options that are to be investigated include improvements at Hebburn Riverside, as well as the reprovision of playing field land on open space at Hebburn Campus.
- 2.130 Building on the above, Table 2.14 therefore models how current and projected future demand in South Tyneside will be met, and how a position will be reached where provision is adequate and quality is improved from the baseline position today.
- 2.131 It explores the impact of the proposed solutions outlined above and also takes into account proposals to provide 2 new 9v9 pitches on land adjacent to Monkton Stadium.
- 2.132 It reveals that if all proposed schemes are delivered, grass pitch provision in South Tyneside will meet current and projected future demand for football.
- 2.133 The baseline position assumes that that benefits are cumulative (ie. in the case of Temple Park, the new 9v9 pitch at Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare has already been provided). This modelling excludes pitches at Lukes Lane, because calculations suggest that these will be required for rugby to meet demand in future years and are therefore only a temporary solution

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for football. It does not take into account the potential to provide playing field on open space at Hebburn Campus.

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Table 2.14 – Opportunities to increase capacity for football (Peak Time)

Site	Potential Pitch Provision	Current			Future		
		Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	9v9	Adult 11v11	Youth 11v11	9v9
Baseline		14	-3	-1	11	-7	-3.5
Mitigation for South Tyneside College – South Shields FC	1 9v9 pitch. New 3G AGP improves weekly capacity.	14	-3	0	11	-7	-2.5
Loss of two allocated sites in Local Plan	Some provision at both Brinkburn CIO and Chuter Ede lost	13	-3	-1	10	-7	-3.5
Temple Park – Replacement Provision	Up to 9 football (or other pitches). Figures opposite assume they are reprovided as youth (5) and 9v9 (4)	13	2	3	10	-2	0.5
The Clock	Up to 3 11v11 football pitches. Assumed to be reprovided as youth pitches	13	5	3	10	1	0.5
Land adjacent Monkton School	Assume 2 x 9v9 pitches	13	5	5	10	1	2.5

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- 2.134 It should be noted that the above position is reliant upon securing community use agreements at sites that are unsecured, otherwise existing users of these sites will need to be relocated, creating further pressures.
- 2.135 Table 2.14 therefore demonstrates that the creation of the new strategic hub at Temple Park, alongside other proposals currently underway will ensure that a position is reached where supply for football is adequate to meet demand, despite the proposed loss of two large sites. The quality of the pitch stock will be improved and pitches will be supported by appropriate ancillary provision.
- 2.136 Additional 3G pitch provision will further improve the pitch stock and the adequacy of provision (both match play and at peak time). The key issues identified in the assessment for AGPs are summarised below.

3G AGPs

Supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across the Borough there are seven active full sized AGPs. Of these facilities, six have a 3G surface and are therefore suitable for football. All of these pitches are on the FA 3G Pitch Register and are therefore able to sustain competitive activity as well as training. The pitch at Harton Academy also has a rugby shock pad There is one sand based AGP at Boldon School. Sand based facilities are not of the recommended surface for football, although there remains some use of the pitch at Boldon School for football clubs, small sided leagues and recreational play. The full size pitches are supported by numerous smaller pitches. The AGP at South Shields Football Club measures 91x55m and therefore meets FA minimum size guidelines for adult football pitches. It should be noted however that the club deem this unsuitable for use by their teams aged over 16. The AGP at Monkton Stadium meets guidelines for 7v7 football. All 3G AGPs are located in Jarrow / Hebburn and South Shields. There are no full sized 3G pitches in the South and no small sized 3G pitches in this area offering community use
Demand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand can be classified into three areas; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matchplay (requires use of a 3G pitch that is included on the FA 3G Pitch Register) – this links with the requirement for grass pitches – as usage of 3G AGPs increases and they become increasingly important, the requirement for grass pitches can reduce Informal / recreational use – pay and play or leagues; and Training (the FA would like to see all teams having access to a 3G pitch for training). As all of the 3G AGPs are listed on the FA 3G Pitch Register, they are approved for football match play and can therefore take the pressures off the grass pitches. There is heavy use of AGPs for match play, particularly at peak time on a Saturday morning, with; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth Green 3G AGP used by Jarrow FC Juniors Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association used by Hebburn Town FC Mortimer Community College used by South Shields FC Harton 3G AGP by South Tyneside Harton Westoe FC

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- Temple Park Centre functioning as a central venue for the Russell Foster Youth league.
- Demand from 7v7 and 5v5 football teams is also met by 3G AGPs outside of South Tyneside Borough (through engagement with the Russell Foster Youth League).
- Although Harton Academy 3G AGP does have a WR 22 Compliant 3G AGP there is very little use of this pitch for rugby
- Recreational football (including formal leagues and informal pay and play) is a key part of football participation, and one that playing pitch strategies do not currently quantify. 3G pitch provision is however an important means of providing opportunities for recreational play. Indeed, the promotion of recreational football is seen as one of the key means of boosting participation in the coming years. Small sided football is identified in the National Game Strategy as one of The FA's key growth targets for adult football and the FA is increasingly interested in the use of MUGAs and small sided pitches, as well as full sided facilities to support the more informal game.
- All of the 3G AGPs are available for private hire / recreational football as well as training by competitive football teams. The 3G AGP at Perth Green Community Association is particularly well used for community recreational football. This site is also a focus site for the development of female participation
- Most clubs are now using 3G AGPs for training. There is very limited winter training on grass but a small number of clubs do use indoor venues. Consultation raised issues about the lack of slots that are available for training at desirable times, as well as challenges with the affordability of 3G pitches. It was also highlighted that some clubs would like access to more training hours on the 3G AGPs.

Adequacy of Provision – 3G pitches

- 2.137 There is some remaining spare capacity on 3G pitches in the Borough midweek and at weekends, but this is fairly limited. There is significant spare capacity available on the full sized sand based AGP at Boldon School. This does have some (very limited) football usage on it for training and informal football but it is not a compliant surface for affiliated formal football match play the 3G AGP at Harton Academy is the only 3G AGP in the Borough that is WR22 accredited (and therefore suitable for rugby union too).
- 2.138 Crucially, almost all slots on pitches are taken between 6pm and 8pm, which is the most popular time for training. Several of the venues have numerous clubs wishing to train at this time. Where there is availability, this is typically between 5pm and 6pm or after 8pm, or on a Friday evening. This reflects the views of clubs, who highlight access to desirable time slots as the key issue.
- 2.139 Although it is WR22 compliant, the pitch at Harton Academy is now rarely used for rugby union, with only very ad hoc bookings since covid. The club have been accommodating all activity on their own site, and there is strong competition with football to secure appropriate timeslots. Table 2.14 provides a breakdown of the use available

Table 2.14 – 3G AGP availability

Sub Area	Full size 3G Pitches Available	Approximate Spare Capacity Midweek	Approximate Spare Capacity Weekend
Jarrow and Hebburn	2 (Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association and Perth Green).	6 hours (outside of 6pm – 8pm)	1 pitch some capacity Sun AM, 2 pitches Sun PM

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Inner and Outer South Shields	4 (Harton Academy Sports Centre, Mortimer Community College, Temple Park Centre, South Shields FC)	7 hours (outside of 6pm – 8pm)	All pitches have small amount of spare capacity on Sunday
South	N/a	N/a	N/a

2.140 Use of FA data modelling parameters, and based upon 278 community teams in South Tyneside requiring training facilities, there is an approximate current requirement for 7.3 AGPs at a Boroughwide level. Table 2.15 demonstrates the application of FA data modelling at a sub area level.

Table 2.15 – FA Modelling at Sub Area Level

Sub Area	Full Size 3G Pitches Available	Total Teams in Area	Requirement	Balance
Jarrow / Hebburn	2 (Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association and Perth Green). Area also includes Monkton Stadium (Small pitch excluded from modelling due to pitch size)	130	3.4	-1.4
Inner and Outer South Shields	4 (Harton Academy Sports Centre, Mortimer Community College, Temple Park Centre, South Shields FC)	104	2.7	1.3
South	No provision	44	1.1	-1.1

2.141 With 6 existing full size 3G AGPs, FA data modelling therefore suggests that there could be a need for at least 1 additional AGP to meet community need. It should also be noted however that there are several small sized facilities which may reduce the overall level of demand slightly for training. This means that there is demand for a minimum of 1 additional community 3G AGP.

2.142 As set out there is almost no spare capacity on existing facilities and a lack of access to appropriate 3G AGPs emerges as a key issue for clubs. The pressures on the grass pitch stock to meet demands for match play also mean that 3G AGPs have a crucial role in meeting competitive demand, and additional pitches will relieve pressures currently experienced.

2.143 This therefore supports the need to provide additional pitch capacity. Application of FA parameters to provision in each sub area suggests that the highest shortfall is in the Jarrow and Hebburn and South areas, where there are deficiencies of one pitch each. Provision is adequate in South Shields.

2.144 The recently approved application for an additional pitch in Inner and Outer South Shields (as part of the mitigation proposals for South Tyneside College) will support the activities of South Shields FC (and reduce pressures on grass pitches), but will not address the lack of provision in the South / Hebburn areas of the Borough.

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- 2.145 That said, it is clear that teams do not necessarily stick within the boundaries of their sub areas, with teams currently travelling to reach facilities wherever they are available. Whilst it is important to ensure that an oversupply of 3G pitches does not occur, the capacity pressures on grass pitches and potential role of a new 3G in providing for the Teeside Youth Alliance, as well as projected future growth in participation means that an aspiration for two further AGP responds to demand.
- 2.146 It should also be noted that this strategy seeks to increase the usage of the WR 22 Compliant 3G AGP at Harton and Westoe for rugby union. The additional rugby use will add extra demand to the 3G pitch stock.
- 2.147 In addition to the above needs, it should be noted that Durham FA indicates plans to create its own hub venue within one of the local authorities under its jurisdiction (Durham, Sunderland and South Tyneside). Its plan is for the potential site to accommodate two full size 3G pitches (one of which would be suitable for Step 5 football), several grass pitches and relevant ancillary provision”.

3G AGPs – Summary Issues

The key issues that need to be addressed for 3G football pitches are therefore;

- The need to ensure that all pitches remain on the FA Pitch Register (and therefore that appropriate quality is maintained)
- The requirement for at least 2 new 3G AGPs, one of which is required to service clubs in the South sub area (particularly Whitburn and Cleadon areas) and the other in Hebburn and Jarrow. (see AGP section)
- Durham FA are also looking to create a new HQ site within one local authority in their region. There is scope for this to be located within South Tyneside.

- 2.148 The assessment report therefore concludes that there is a requirement for an additional 2 AGPs across South Tyneside Borough, one of which should be located in the South.
- 2.149 Table 2.14 and the preceding text outlined that proposals for the mitigation of South Tyneside College include provision of a 3G AGP at Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare. If this goes ahead, there will remain a requirement for at least one additional AGP, ideally to be located in the south.
- 2.150 Table 2.16 summarises the potential locations for consideration. At this stage, these locations represent opportunities for consideration only. Further work is required alongside the Durham FA to determine which AGPs are deliverable.

Table 2.16 – Potential Locations for AGP

Site Name	Sub Area	Comment
Hebburn Town (Hebburn Sports and	Hebburn and Jarrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing overplay at key sites used by club, AGP would be instrumental in reducing this • Unmet demand identified in Jarrow and Hebburn • Area is also location of greatest pressures on grass pitches

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Site Name	Sub Area	Comment
Social Club)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGP would be located on existing grass pitch, which would need to be justified in line with Playing Field Policy.
Boldon School	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sand based AGP currently in poor condition, but required for use by hockey club PFI provider is obligated to replace the surface under contract – it is unclear whether this is on a like by like basis or whether any surface could be requested (ie. 3G) School expressed interest in conversion of sand based AGP to 3G. This would leave no remaining hockey pitch in the Borough and therefore eliminate hockey activity from South Tyneside. Pitch is needed if hockey usage is to be sustained in the Borough, although there are challenges with commercial viability. England Hockey are currently working with clubs in order to secure a facility School located in area of identified need (South). The majority of clubs that are not already partner clubs at an 3G AGP are based in Whitburn and Cleadon rather than in Boldon There are capacity shortfalls on grass pitches in the area, which could be helped by new 3G AGP Site located in close proximity to existing 3G AGP (Perth Green) – programming would need to be carefully planned
Jarrow School	Hebburn and Jarrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School has expressed interest in new 3G AGP School located in area where there is unmet demand Existing facility not open for community use, pitch at this site would offer potential to secure community use of the facility, providing additional grass pitches for the community as well as a new 3G AGP No existing demand at the site as a result of lack of CUA, no immediate end user 3G AGP would be located on existing grass playing field, which would need to be justified in line with playing field policy
Whitburn Academy	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing small sized sand based AGP, poor condition and not floodlit. Very limited community use and no clear role in future provision (outside meeting curricular demand). Potential to refurbish this facility and convert to 3G Location of existing pitch is however restrictive, proximity to road, proximity to existing housing and potential planning restrictions on floodlighting School located in area of identified need (South). The majority of clubs that are not already partner clubs at a 3GAGP are based in this area There are capacity shortfalls on grass pitches in the area, which could be reduced by delivery of new 3G AGP.
Temple Park	Inner and Outer South Shields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to provide second AGP South Shields not identified as priority area for additional community 3G AGP Large site with potential to create football hub Some issues with existing facility, including antisocial behaviour

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Site Name	Sub Area	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are capacity shortfalls on grass pitches in the area, which could be reduced by delivery of new 3G AGP 3G AGP would be located on existing grass pitch, which would need to be justified in line with playing field policy
Monkton Stadium	Jarrow and Hebburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in area where there is currently unmet demand Opportunity to secure grass pitches on adjacent site in order to ensure that there is no overall loss of playing fields – existing poor quality 7v7 pitches could be replaced by 3G AGP and new grass pitches of higher quality provided on neighbouring land. This would have significant benefits in terms of increased capacity Opportunity to create football hub given that there is an existing facility Parking pressures would be exacerbated
Cleadon Lane New Fields	South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site located in area of identified need (South). Home of Whitburn and Cleadon JFC who are not currently partner in any other 3G AGP There is unmet demand on grass pitches in the area, which could be reduced by delivery of new 3G AGP 3G AGP would be located on existing grass pitch, which would need to be justified in line with playing field policy
Durham CFA Hub Venue	Site unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durham FA indicates plans to create its own hub venue within one of the local authorities under its jurisdiction (Durham, Sunderland and South Tyneside). Its plan is for the potential site to accommodate two full size 3G pitches (one of which is suitable for Step 5 football), several grass pitches and relevant ancillary provision”.

2.151 There are currently several clubs working actively to deliver AGPs. This could result in overprovision if not carefully considered and planned. As above, two 3G pitches are required. There is potential that this could increase to three if pitches provided at Hebburn Town / South Shields Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare were to be FIFA Quality Pro pitches (which can sustain fewer community hours) and depending upon the programming of these pitches (level of community activity etc). Provision in the south however is of great importance, to ensure that facilities are accessible to residents living in the Whitburn and Cleadon areas.

Summary

2.152 Table 2.17 provides a brief overview of the quantitative position for each of the sports in the Borough. As demonstrated throughout this section, qualitative improvements may still be required where capacity is adequate from a quantitative perspective.

Table 2.17 – Summary of Capacity (quantity)

Sport	Current Position	Future Position
Cricket	Overplay equivalent to 50 MES. No spare capacity at peak time	Potential overplay of around 165 MES if growth aspirations are achieved

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Sport	Current Position	Future Position
Rugby Union	Overplay at club sites totals 9.25 MES	Potential deficit of 21.25 MES if club growth aspirations are achieved
Hockey	1 Sand based AGPs provided	1 Sand based AGP required
Tennis	Capacity adequate to meet current demand	Capacity adequate to meet projected future demand.
Bowls	Capacity adequate to meet existing demand	Capacity adequate to meet projected future demand.
Football	<p>Adult Football – 14 MES spare capacity at peak time</p> <p>Youth Football – -3 MES deficit</p> <p>9v9 Football – supply equals demand</p> <p>The above include pitches that are secured for community use</p>	<p>Adult Football – 11 MES spare capacity peak time</p> <p>Youth Football – deficit of -7 MES</p> <p>9v9 Football – unmet demand of 2.5 MES at peak time</p> <p>The above include pitches that are secured for community use</p>
3G AGPs	Provision inadequate – requirement for at least 2 additional full size pitches	Provision inadequate – requirement for at least 2 additional full size pitches

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3.0 Strategic Framework

- 3.1 Section 2 summarised the context for each sport and the key issues that need to be addressed drawing upon consultation, supply and demand modelling and scenario testing. The full assessment of issues identified, modelling and evaluation of options using site specific modelling is set out under separate cover (assessment report).
- 3.2 This section sets out a strategy for the future delivery of facilities for football, cricket, rugby union, hockey, bowls, tennis and athletics.
- 3.3 It seeks to address the issues identified for each sport and to guide the proactive improvement of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities. It is focused around the following principles;
- Quality of facilities is as important as the amount of provision – the strategy seeks to ensure that the Borough contains the right amount of facilities, of the right quality and type and in the right place. It promotes the protection of existing provision, but also recognises the need to improve the quality of existing facilities and the impact that qualitative improvements can have on capacity.
 - It is essential to maximise the role of existing resources – the strategy will seek to extend the capacity and function of existing facilities;
 - The strategy will seek to maximise sustainability – it will seek to build relationships between sports, promote good practice and deliver sustainable solutions for sport and recreation;
 - Facilities for sport will be delivered in partnership. The strategy seeks to bring together key partners in the delivery of playing fields and outdoor sports facilities and to ensure that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and effectively aligned to maximise the value of assets to the community. The strategy recognises the important roles that Schools, Clubs and others play in the provision of sports facilities across the Borough.
- 3.4 Section 1 set out the key objectives for this strategy. To deliver these objectives there are a series of key themes and recommendations which are relevant to all sports. They provide a framework for the protection, management and enhancement of the facility infrastructure and for the sport specific recommendations.
- 3.5 The strategic priorities are set out below and the recommendations for each sport are summarised in Table 3.1

Objective 1 – Protect the existing supply of sports facilities to meet current and future needs

The strategy will seek to ensure that there are enough facilities by;

- Providing evidence to protect the supply of outdoor sports facilities and playing fields where required to meet demand – this PPOSS will support the application of policies protecting playing fields, building on the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

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paragraph 99) and Sport England's statutory consultee role on planning applications affecting playing field land

- Clearly identifying the actions required to ensure that each site meets current and projected future need.
- Securing long term usage agreements for clubs to ensure ongoing security of tenure
- Maximising the role that school facilities play in meeting community need and securing long term community access
- Ensuring new development that generates demand for additional pitches contributes towards playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in the Borough.

- 3.6 Both Sport England and NPPF policy require that playing fields are afforded protection unless specific exception criteria are met. This also applies to disused playing fields.
- 3.7 The site specific table (Table 5.1) sets out the key actions for each site in South Tyneside. This table will be reviewed as part of the ongoing monitoring of this document as strategy recommendations are delivered.
- 3.8 The protection of the existing facilities will form the basis of the strategy.
- 3.9 School sites are a critical part of the infrastructure, particularly for community football. Access to school grounds creates significant benefits for clubs and the loss of school facilities with community access would exacerbate shortfalls of provision and see clubs displaced. It is essential to secure against changes to access arrangements at any time in the future. This strategy therefore seeks to promote the use of school sites and prioritises action to work alongside schools to protect and formalise long term agreements as well as securing agreement for access to sites that are not currently available. Scenario modelling demonstrates the impact that the loss of some key community venues would have on the adequacy of provision.
- 3.10 Further reflecting the need to secure tenure (and the benefits that this brings), building upon the successes of the previous strategy, the value of clubs securing long term leases is also recognised, particularly with regards the opportunities that this brings to secure funding. Clubs wishing to secure leases should meet key criteria, including;
- Clubmark / appropriate NGB charter mark accreditation
 - Proactive approach to school club links
 - Sustainability both financially and in terms of internal management
 - Processes in place to prove capacity to maintain sites to existing / better standards
- 3.11 Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.
- 3.12 Whilst the focus of the strategy is protection, some existing sites are included within draft Local Plan documents as housing allocations and it is therefore understood that parts of these playing fields are likely to be lost. This strategy seeks to ensure that any potential loss of playing fields is mitigated appropriately and that the resulting facility infrastructure will meet both current and projected future demand.

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- 3.13 The strategy promotes the development of a strategic hub site at Temple Park, which will be delivered from a combination of the reinstatement of former playing fields as well as areas of new playing fields. The pitches will be of good quality and will be serviced by appropriate ancillary provision. The hub is anticipated to provide for both rugby and football.
- 3.14 Scenario modelling has demonstrated how the strategy will both mitigate the loss of the replacement sites and will also proactively deliver adequate provision across South Tyneside. The replacement for the proposed site allocations are as follows;
- South Tyneside College, South Shields Campus - Epinay School (cricket / rugby) and Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare (football)
 - Former Brinkburn School and Former Chuter Ede Education Centre - land at Temple Park (football and rugby). There is scope to provide circa 9 pitches through a combination of new and former playing field land
 - South Tyneside College, Hebburn Campus (GA3) – reinstatement of The Clock. Potential improvements to Hebburn Riverside. Feasibility of providing playing fields on open space land at Hebburn Campus (off Wardley Lane) also to be investigated.
- 3.15 Outside of Local Plan Housing allocations, there are also plans to provide additional pitches adjacent to Monkton Stadium / former Monkton School (if development proposals in this area come forward).
- 3.16 Further feasibility work is required to ensure that these strategies are deliverable and that high quality pitches and ancillary facilities, compliant with NGB specifications can be provided. If these sites are determined to be undeliverable, then alternative replacement strategies will be required.
- 3.17 The Council have previously investigated other opportunities (Land at Tilesheeds, Land South of Epinay School) but the proposed solutions above are considered to be the most deliverable based upon information available at the time of writing.
- 3.18 Further feasibility work is required to explore the opportunity and this will involve collaboration between South Tyneside Council, relevant NGBs and Sport England. The mitigation strategy will be agreed as part of the Local Plan process, with the specifics subject to detailed feasibility work.
- 3.19 The projected population growth will place greater pressures on the existing infrastructure (and will negate the impact of the ageing population). This increases the importance of protecting the existing stock of facilities.

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Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

Objective 2 – To enhance outdoor sports facilities and playing fields

The strategy promotes the provision of facilities of adequate quality by;

- Ensuring that all pitches and outdoor sports facilities are maintained using regimes appropriate for the level of use that they sustain and the activities that are undertaken. This should include both regular maintenance and out of season reinstatement and capital investment
- Prioritising improvements and enhancement at sites that do not meet current or projected future need
- Ensuring that pitches are accompanied by appropriate ancillary facilities (e.g. changing / catering where required)
- Supporting clubs that require improved facilities in order to play at a higher standard or to provide opportunities for women and girls and disability sport.

- 3.20 Pitch quality significantly influences the adequacy of provision in the Borough across all sports, with clubs facing challenges in capacity caused in full or in part by the quality of facilities, and existing sites not operating at full capacity, or providing a poor player experience due to quality challenges that are faced.
- 3.21 Qualitative issues were highlighted by the majority of clubs as the key issue impacting club development and satisfaction and there is a direct relationship between quality and the number of games that can be sustained. Qualitative improvements will be the focus of the strategy and are the main vehicle to improve capacity. Scenario testing highlighted opportunities to improve capacity through pitch enhancement for football, rugby and cricket, and the quality of facilities for both tennis and bowls is a much greater issue than the amount of facilities that are provided.
- 3.22 Poor grass pitch / sports facility quality is often not a result of issues with the pitch, but more the appropriateness of the maintenance regime for the pitch conditions that takes into account the level/standard of play. This strategy therefore seeks to ensure that facilities are subjected to appropriate maintenance programmes prior to rectifying any underlying quality issues (to ensure that quality issues are not caused by issues with the maintenance process).
- 3.23 Each NGB, in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) can provide assistance with reviewing pitch maintenance regimes and new tools have been introduced (PitchPower) which enable clubs / providers to proactively seek advice and to tailor the maintenance procedures. The programme of improvement therefore focuses on engagement with these tools in the first instance, ensuring that maintenance is tailored to the characteristics of the pitch and the demand. Capital investment to address specific issues may subsequently be required on some sites (in addition to tailored maintenance schedules) and requirements can also be evaluated through the same pitch improvement programmes. It will be essential that providers have access to appropriate machinery, as well as to the knowledge of the maintenance procedures required.

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Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

Objective 3 – Provide new sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

The strategy seeks to ensure that new facilities are provided where there is demand to do so by;

- Providing evidence to outline where capacity increases can be delivered through qualitative enhancements, and where additional facilities are required
- Identifying areas where new provision is required, and the types of facilities that are necessary
- Requiring contributions from new development to ensure that future demand is met.

- 3.24 The strategy seeks to ensure that the infrastructure supports sustainable club development. In some instances, growing participation will be essential if facilities are to remain sustainable (tennis, hockey, bowls), whilst in others, additional capacity is required if club growth is not to be inhibited (rugby union, football, cricket). Sustainable participation is vital if quality is to be maintained.
- 3.25 For most sports future demand can be met through a combination of;
- Investing in pitch and facility maintenance to better equip the pitches to sustain the required level of use
 - Improving quality to improve the capacity of pitches where this is identified as being required
 - Maximising the sustainability of existing sites, embracing new technological solutions and opportunities to improve the customer journey
 - Securing long term community use – both in terms of access agreements to school sites but also leases for community clubs.
 - Maximising the use of AGPs for competitive play and training.
- 3.26 The proposed loss of some sites through the Local Plan will see new (replacement) provision, delivered through the creation of a hub site, as well as the reinstatement of other playing fields.
- 3.27 To meet projected future demand, however, in addition to the benefits that are derived from the proposed mitigation measures (Epinay School, Temple Park, The Clock), which will add additional active capacity, further new provision is also required. This will be delivered through a minimum of 2 new 3G AGPs (one of which is to be located in the South). The high level of demand that already exists will increase as the population grows. This means that it is important to not only protect the existing provision, but also to ensure that contributions are requested from new developments. Even where new provision is not required, improvements can be made to the capacity of existing provision to ensure that it can meet the increase in demand that will be generated.
- 3.28 This strategy promotes the use of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) to assess the impact of each specific new development and this will be discussed in detail in Section 4. The future projected scenarios in this strategy document consider the impact of overall projected growth over the Local Plan period (including the likely changes to the population profile etc as

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Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

well as the impact of growth) but the PPC will enable the impact of specific developments to be quantified as they arise.

- 3.29 As well as mitigating the impact of any new development, it should also be ensured that the existing sporting use of playing fields is not compromised by new development. For example, where there is a development that may prejudice the use of an existing cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development.

Sport Specific Recommendations

- 3.30 The strategic recommendations in previous pages set out the framework for the delivery of playing fields and sports facilities across South Tyneside and guide the sport specific recommendations that are set out in Table 3.1 overleaf. Table 3.1 summarises the sport specific recommendations, and the key actions required to deliver each of the recommendations. It also sets out the key sites that are impacted by the recommendation.
- 3.31 The sport specific recommendations have been informed by the results of the modelling contained in the assessment report, as well as the scenario testing outlined in Section 2 of this document.
- 3.32 Delivery of the recommendations will be the responsibility of all key partners.
- 3.33 While to date and for clarity, each sport has been considered separately within this strategy, recommendations should be implemented strategically, considering opportunities for partnerships between sports. There are some good examples of sustainable clubs and multi-sport partnerships already and these provide foundations for a successful future delivery model. It will be essential to ensure that good practice and insight from these successful ventures is spread across the Borough through knowledge sharing and effective training and guidance.
- 3.34 Section 5 builds on the sport specific recommendations and contains a site specific action plan, which brings together all of the recommendations for each of the sports. This action plan is broken down by area of the Borough, with the key issues in each area also highlighted.

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Table 3.1 – Sport Specific Recommendations

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 1	<p>Protect all current club sites. Ensure any future disposal of cricket pitches meets with NPPF and local policy.</p> <p><i>Protection of cricket grounds should extend to protection of functionality. This should include ensuring that risk assessments (including ball strike assessments) are undertaken and appropriate mitigation is in place where new developments are located in close proximity to sites.</i></p> <p>Sites that have previously been used as cricket facilities but are now redundant should be mitigated as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Shields – Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare – to be mitigated at new Epinay School community hub • Hebburn CC – mitigate lost capacity through improvements (Whitburn CC) 	<p>Protection – all active club sites.</p> <p>Disused sites;</p> <p>Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare – replacement to mitigate lost capacity – Epinay School community hub</p> <p>Hebburn CC – mitigate lost capacity through improvements to Whitburn CC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date. • Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan. • Ensure PPS is taken into account when making decisions on playing fields. 	STC / ECB / Relevant clubs
Cricket 2	<p>Secure tenure for cricket clubs through the provision of leases for clubs currently renting their pitches.</p> <p>Work with clubs to ensure timely renewal of existing leases.</p>	<p>Key Priorities</p> <p>New lease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakleigh Gardens – Simonside CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with clubs renting to agree leases – this will help the clubs gain access to funding support as well as guarantee long term security. • Support clubs to renegotiate existing leases 	STC / ECB / DCB/Clubs.

South Tyneside Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
			where remaining time falls below accepted levels	
Cricket 3	<p>Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate capacity. Key vehicles for addressing this issue include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement / mitigation for the former cricket pitch in South Shields (cricket 1) Support improvements to quality to improve square capacity (Cricket 4). Improvements to outfield will also ensure that programmes that take place on the outfield (including All Stars) can be effectively sustained Supporting clubs in the creation of Non Turf Pitches. 	<p>Key priority is those that are currently overplaying facilities and / or are at capacity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional cricket pitch in South Shields (c1), Epinay School (delivered as replacement and in conjunction with loss of playing fields at South Tyneside College). Provision of second cricket pitch at Epinay School to support relocation of South Shields CC. Whitburn CC – site already good quality and therefore additional capacity required through NTP / hybrid turf. Potential requirement for access to additional facilities Projected future growth will see future overplay at Marsden CC – improvements to good will increase capacity by 14 MES, which will address current (but not projected future) capacity issues. NTP also required. <p>To improve capacity of remaining clubs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non turf wickets at other sites nearing capacity to support youth play. Pitch quality improvements to Oakleigh Gardens, Boldon CA. 	<p>Ensure that planning policy requiring replacement sites (or agreed alternative mitigation) is applied in order to ensure there is appropriate capacity in the Borough.</p> <p>Linking with C2 and C3, improve quality to enhance capacity at sites currently rated standard.</p> <p>Following qualitative improvements, work with clubs and leagues to introduce use of non turf wickets (on the square) in order to maximise capacity across the season.</p>	STC /ECB/DCB/ Clubs.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 4	<p>To improve quality, focus initially on ensuring that maintenance regimes are focused and tailored to the needs of each ground.</p> <p>The PitchPower tool should be used regularly by each club.</p>	<p>Scope to improve maintenance at all sites. Priority should be given to improvements of the squares currently rated. as standard, as this will positively impact capacity. Specific issues are highlighted with the following sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Clark Park – weeds in grass sward and lumpy outfield. Grass coverage poorer than other sites • Oakleigh Gardens – increased maintenance of square, address weeds in outfield. Additional support may be required for club to also address impact of rugby on outfield • Boldon CC – drainage issues, review of maintenance required to ensure that these cannot be improved by maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with clubs / providers to use the Pitch Power tool and / or commission Grounds. management reviews and to act on findings at all sites. • Support clubs in accessing appropriate machinery to maximise the effectiveness of maintenance regimes. 	DCB / ECB / Clubs and Providers.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Cricket 5	<p>Invest in pitch quality improvements where pitch quality assessment (see Cricket 2) suggests this is still required following maintenance improvements and where improvements are necessary to meet with league standards / needed to ensure that play can continue.</p> <p>This may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage works • Outfield levelling • Work to improve the square • Provision of appropriate facilities (sight screens etc). 	<p>The following issues may require further investigation (dependent upon results of quality assessment – see Recommendation 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boldon CC – drainage. 	<p>Work in partnership to identify detailed improvements required through use of PQA (Recommendation 3).</p> <p>Provide support and guidance to clubs in the submission of external funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities.</p>	ECB / DCB /STC Clubs and Providers.
Cricket 6	<p>Improve clubhouse and changing facilities to ensure all clubs have a basic facility of adequate standard (electricity / running water / changing rooms / basic kitchen) and facilities that can sustain use by all user groups.</p> <p>Support other improvements where they are necessary to facilitate the growth of the club and participation.</p>	<p>The following pavilions would benefit from upgrade to support the attraction and retention of players;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boldon CC – officials room, segregated changing to ensure club can deliver women and girls cricket • Jack Clark Park – upgrade to modernise facilities, segregated changing to ensure club can deliver women and girls cricket, requires refurbishment 	<p>Support clubs with proposals to upgrade pavilions / other improvements where necessary to meet recommendation.</p> <p>Where clubs are eligible, provide support and guidance to clubs in the submission of external funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities for funding.</p>	ECB / DCB /STC Clubs and Providers.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simonside CC – upgrade to modernise facilities - internal quality is poor • Whitburn CC – requires refurbishment (anticipated to take place 2023) • South Shields CC – clubhouse requires investment – currently poor condition. 		
Cricket 7	Ensure all clubs have access to an off field training facility to enhance club sustainability and improve overall performance.	<p>Key priorities are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Shields Westoe – off field training nets if space permits, NTP • Simonside CC – require nets / artificial training lane but space is limited. Current NTP unusable – requires replacement • Boldon CC – training facilities require replacement • Whitburn CC – training facilities required. Again space limitations means that innovative solution may be required – hybrid turf / NTP / roll on wickets etc. 	Support clubs in the development of appropriate facilities.	ECB/ DCB / STC Clubs and Providers.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Hockey 1	<p>Protect the needs of hockey by ensuring that hockey clubs have access to an appropriate facility.</p> <p>The viability of the provision of a sand based AGP for hockey however remains a concern.</p> <p>Discussions between England Hockey and the local clubs are ongoing, with a view to potentially relocating clubs currently using Boldon School to Raich Carter Sports Centre in Sunderland.</p> <p>Unless a solution is reached that provides a permanent relocation solution for hockey clubs currently playing in South Tyneside, the sand based AGP at Boldon School should be protected for hockey.</p>	Boldon School.	<p>Work alongside the school to ensure the ongoing provision of a pitch of appropriate surface for hockey. The site should be retained to support hockey unless an alternative long term solution is delivered, supported by England Hockey.</p> <p>To ensure this can be delivered, ensure the proper protection of the hockey surface through the planning process -seek to remove permitted development rights / apply planning conditions to ensure that full consultation with relevant NGBs must be carried out prior to any change in pitch surface</p>	EH / Club
Hockey 2	<p>The existing pitch requires resurfacing in the short term. This links with H1, which highlights the importance of retaining a surface for hockey unless an appropriate alternative is agreed.</p>	Boldon School.	<p>In the event that the long term future for hockey remains at this site, explore partnership opportunities with England Netball should hockey remain at the site. There is potential for the pitch to be converted to Gen 2.</p>	EH / School / STC.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
			<p>Work with hockey club to create club development plan to expand current activity.</p> <p>Once a sustainable model is devised, refurbish pitch and ensure that sinking fund is maintained.</p>	
Rugby Union 1	<p>Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with NPPF and Sport England Policy).</p> <p>It should also be ensured that the World Rugby Union Regulation 22 certification of the 3G AGP at Harton Academy is retained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lukes Lane • South Shields Westoe – existing site to be protected until future strategy for club is determined (see Rugby Union 3) • Provision for South Shields RUFC (see Rugby union 2) • Harton Academy (3G). 	Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date.	STC, RFU
Rugby Union 2	Ensure appropriate capacity is retained for South Shields RUFC through the retention of a single pitch	<p>One (floodlit) pitch sufficient to meet current and projected future demand for this club, club to be housed on separate site to South Shields Westoe (i.e requirement cannot be combined).</p> <p>Long term home for SSRUFC to be delivered through replacement of Brinkburn CIO pitch at Temple Park (or relocation within Brinkburn site depending upon final layout plans at this site).</p>	Ensure new pitch is delivered as part of agreed mitigation strategy for South Tyneside College / Local Plan sites.	STC, RFU, Club

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Rugby Union 3	<p>Provide additional capacity for South Shields Westoe RUFC. Club require access to capacity equivalent of 5 pitches (3 floodlit) to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>This should be delivered through retention of existing site and access to satellite facility – this will be delivered at Epinay School. Relocation of cricket club (as part of proposals at Epinay School) will provide additional capacity for South Shields Westoe RFC (an additional pitch) at their home ground.</p> <p>Rugby shock pad on 3G AGP (Harton Academy) also to be retained to provide additional capacity for rugby</p> <p>Significant refurbishments will need to be carried out to both pitches and changing /clubhouse (see Rugby Union 3 and 4).</p>	<p>South Shields Westoe RUFC</p> <p>Note that there remains potential for the site to become a windfall site as part of the delivery of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Any proposed development should result in full relocation, ideally with additional facilities provided to meet the unmet demand that will still remain.</p>	<p>Work with the ECB to facilitate the move to Epinay School for the cricket section, which will free up space at the existing rugby club site.</p> <p>Ensure secured access at Epinay School for South Shields Sports Club (not just the cricket club) – ensuring long term use of the satellite facilities to be provided at the site for rugby.</p>	STC /RFU / Club
Rugby Union 4	<p>Address projected future capacity issues for Jarrovians RUFC through improved maintenance (to M2 levels)</p> <p>Drainage and maintenance regimes on new pitch sites (see Rugby Union 1 and Rugby Union 2) should also be equivalent to M2 / D1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lukes Lane • South Shields Westoe • South Shields RUFC. 	<p>Work with clubs to engage with PitchPower programme and relevant GPMF programmes to gain advice on maintenance and support for the implementation of subsequent recommendations.</p>	STC / RFU / Club

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Rugby Union 5	Ensure that clubs have access to appropriate floodlighting to support training activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lukes Lane – additional floodlit area required South Shields Westoe – 3 floodlit pitches required on any new site South Shields RUFC – one floodlit pitch required on new site 	Jarrovia RUFC - Support club to floodlight additional area for training	
Rugby Union 6	Ensure that associated ancillary provision meets with club need to maximise sustainability and facilitate the development of women and girl's rugby.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jarrovia – No facilities for girls / ladies, requires modernization / extension South Shields Westoe – poor existing clubhouse, end of lifespan. No separate facilities. Clubhouse redevelopment to be key part of relocation strategy. 	Support club to apply for funding to ensure that ancillary provision meets needs.	RFU / Club
Football 1	Protect all football playing fields to ensure that the existing capacity is protected, unless a proposal can be brought forward that meets policy requirements (see Football 3) and / or is in line with this strategy document.	<p>All playing fields. The PPS action plan also identifies some disused sites / pitches that should be brought back into use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clock Temple Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep list in strategy document protecting sites up to date. Incorporate appropriate policy in Local Plan. <p>Ensure PPS is taken into account when making decisions on playing fields.</p>	STC.
Football 2	Work alongside providers to ensure security of tenure, and to maintain community access to the existing stock of facilities. Opportunities to improve access should also be taken where available This should include;	Key Unsecured Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor existing CUA and work alongside clubs / schools to address issues where these arise. Engage with identified key school sites to put in place 	Providers / DFA / FF / STC.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sites with existing CUA / planning conditions meet these requirements • Timely negotiation of community use agreements / leases with schools and landowners • Negotiating formal CUA to sites that are currently unsecured • Seeking to negotiate community usage of sites that are not currently available • Ensure that any new schools include community use agreements for playing fields • Providing leases for clubs to secure their tenure where the club is able to demonstrate appropriate. <p>Secured access to key community use venues will be a key means of maintaining appropriate levels of capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Josephs Catholic Academy • Boldon School • Whitburn C of E Academy <p>Leases</p> <p>Whitburn and Cleadon JFC – Cleadon Lane Playing Fields.</p>	<p>long term community use agreements and ensure community access is maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to negotiate community access agreements to remaining pitch sites to increase pitch stock. • Ensure any new schools are developed with a CUA that includes access to playing fields. 	

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 3	<p>Ensure that proposed loss of playing fields sites is effectively mitigated in line with the mitigation strategy sets out in this PPS</p> <p>At all replacement sites it should be ensured that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitches meet with NGB specification and are of good quality Ancillary accommodation meets with NGB requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Tyneside College – to be mitigated through new provision at Epinay School and Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare. Brinkburn CIO – to be mitigated through replacement provision on new strategic hub at Temple Park Chuter Ede – to be mitigated through replacement provision on new strategic hub at Temple Park Hebburn Campus – opportunity to mitigate through reinstatement of The Clock. Potential improvements to Hebburn Riverside. Feasibility of providing playing fields on open space land at Hebburn Campus (off Wardley Lane) also to be investigated. 	<p>Work alongside key partners to secure appropriate new provision at Epinay School.</p> <p>Draw up detailed plans and undertake feasibility work for new playing field provision at Temple Park.</p> <p>In the event that the above locations are not viable, alternative options will be required.</p>	Clubs / STC / DFA / FF / ECB
Football 4	<p>Increase capacity through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment into maintenance resulting in improved capacity (Football 5) Maximising use of AGPs for both match play and training Provision of 1 -2 additional AGPs Delivering the proposed mitigation strategy. 	<p>Qualitative improvements – key mechanism of addressing some capacity issues. Football 4 identifies some pitches to be improved from poor, and several others to go from standard to good. Scenario modelling suggests that some existing capacity issues will be addressed through this action.</p> <p>Maximising use of existing AGPs</p> <p>Scope to increase use for competitive play at all sites outside of peak time. No opportunities for further use during peak time currently for youth / junior football.</p>	<p>Work with clubs to undertake PitchPower Assessments and implement recommendations.</p> <p>Establish a task and finish group to explore and determine the appropriate approach to AGPs in the Borough.</p> <p>The group should ensure that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sand based pitch is retained for hockey 	Clubs / STC / DFA / FF.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		<p>New AGPs</p> <p>Key priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x 3G AGP in South – likely possible options – Cleadon Lane New Fields, Whitburn Academy, Boldon School (depending upon future of hockey in Borough see H1) 1 other site – higher demand identified in Hebburn and Jarrow. Possible options at Temple Park / Monkton Stadium. <p>There are also current planning applications for 3G AGPs at both Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare and Hebburn Town FC. Permission for a pitch at Harton Westoe Miners Welfare has recently been granted. Both of these pitches may be FIFA Quality Pro pitches if delivered and will therefore have lower community value (pitches can be used for fewer hours than a standard AGP). If both are FIFA Quality Pro pitches, the requirement may increase to 3 pitches.</p>	<p>(recommendations suggest this is at Boldon School)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 3G AGP is located in the South of the Borough An additional 3G AGP is provided (potentially Harton and Westoe MW or Hebburn Town). If FIFA Quality Pro, demand may be sufficient to sustain both pitches. <p>This group should consult with relevant schools and clubs in order to agree a final cross sport plan for AGPs in the Borough.</p> <p>Secure access to identified school sites and seek to work with clubs to relocate teams onto these sites.</p> <p>Secure CUA on any new school sites.</p>	

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 5	<p>Secure the future of the existing pitch stock through qualitative improvements. This should start with the promotion of immediate improvements to maintenance and ensure that maintenance is tailored to each ground and to the level of play that each pitch must accommodate.</p> <p>This should be driven through the use of the FF PitchPower tool by all clubs and pitch providers. Many clubs across the Borough have already engaged with this tool with positive results and funding received towards maintenance has already started to result in improvements. There is also now evidence of engagement with the programme at some school sites.</p>	<p>Key priority – poor quality sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brinkburn Recreation Ground • Cleadon Park (The Dell / Quarry) • Cleadon Recreation Ground • Gypsies Green Stadium • Hedworthfield Community Centre • Oakleigh Gardens. <p>Sites that receive heavy usage / demonstrate overplay should also be prioritised.</p> <p>These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Hub • St Josephs Catholic Academy • Mortimer Comprehensive School • Harton Academy Sports Centre. <p>Note some of the above sites have already been awarded grants from the Football Foundation for maintenance improvements as a consequence of PitchPower assessments undertaken.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with clubs to promote use of a PitchPower tool and then subsequent access to maintenance improvement support • With maintenance equipment highlighted as a key priority across PitchPower assessments that have already been completed, explore opportunities to establish a machinery bank or alternative ways of meeting need • Proactively support clubs at multi sports sites to tailor their maintenance to ensure that capacity and quality for both the on site summer and winter sports is maintained. 	Clubs / DFA /STC

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 6	<p>Invest in pitch quality improvements where Pitch Quality Assessments (See Football 2) suggest that this is required (following maintenance improvements) and where improvements are necessary to meet with league standards / needed to ensure that play can continue.</p> <p>This may include decompaction, aeration, drainage works and removal of weeds / improvement of grass coverage, which are currently the key issues identified in the Borough.</p>	<p>To be determined through implementation of Football 2.</p>	<p>Work in partnership FA / Provider / Users to identify detailed improvements required through use of PitchPower etc.</p> <p>Provide support and guidance to providers / clubs in the submission of external funding bids.</p> <p>Seek to direct S106 funding towards pitch quality improvements where facilities requiring investment are located within catchment of new development.</p>	FF / DFA/STC / Clubs
Football 7	<p>Ensure that quality of 3G AGPs is retained through regular inspections and completion of any works required for ongoing inclusion on FA 3G Pitch Register.</p>	<p>All 3G pitches are on pitch register at time of PPS assessment report. Sites where the registration will shortly be expiring are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temple Park Centre (May 2024) • Harton Academy (May 2024). <p>Any new AGPs should also be to required standards.</p>	<p>Work with the two providers whose facilities will shortly expire to ensure that their.</p> <p>Work alongside 3G AGP providers to ensure that regular inspections are undertaken.</p> <p>Ensure that all 3G pitches are tested regularly to retain inclusion on 3G pitch register.</p>	DFA.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Football 8	<p>Support improvement to ancillary facilities to ensure all sites have a facility of adequate standard (toilets / electricity / running water / changing rooms / basic kitchen) where these are required.</p> <p>Facilities serving junior teams should offer a minimum of toilets of appropriate standard.</p> <p>Where clubs are delivering football for women / girls, ensure that sites are able to accommodate this.</p> <p>Support the development of social and multi-use space at club/community managed sites to, increase scope for revenue generation.</p>	<p>Facilities requiring investment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bents Park • Brinkburn CIO (if retained) • Chuter Ede (if retained) • Cleadon Lane • Cleadon Recreation Ground • Gypsies Green • Jack Clark Park. <p>Facilities at multi pitch and / or multi sports sites used for age 15+ should be prioritised</p>	<p>Provide support and guidance to clubs / Council in the submission of funding bids. This should include the identification of opportunities for funding.</p>	DFA/ STC / Clubs / Providers
Football 9	<p>Support clubs in the National League System to ensure that there are enough appropriate pitches meet club needs and that facilities meet Ground Grading Standards.</p>	<p>Qualitative improvement works;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebburn Town – changing facility relocation and upgrade. <p>Both South Shields FC and Hebburn Town FC have aspirations for the creation of new 3G AGP to meet club need.</p> <p>Both pitches would have positive impact on capacity for the clubs. They are however likely to generate some reduction in demand for grass pitches. Whilst both pitches represent positive developments for</p>	<p>Continue to work with NLS clubs to ensure ongoing access to facilities of appropriate quality.</p>	Clubs / DFA/ STC.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
		football, the impact on cricket / rugby will need to be considered and addressed.		
Football 10	<p>Proactively provide appropriate facilities to support recreational football. To maximise the sustainability and use these spaces, as well as the benefits to the local community, this action should be delivered as part of a joined up approach with other sports. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive identification of sites <p>Exploration of opportunities to effectively introduce football activity – for example gate technology on MUGAs, organised informal activity in partnership with other governing bodies.</p>	<p>Recreational football is becoming increasingly important and is now a key priority of the FF and FA. Football, linked with other sports, provides an opportunity to get increasing numbers of people active as well as to maximise the usage of some existing facilities that are underutilised.</p> <p>The PlayZone programme aims to tackle inequalities in access to physical activity by providing community led spaces and provides an opportunity to create spaces for football, linked with other sports.</p>	<p>Identify appropriate sites and work alongside delivery partners to increase recreational football within the Borough.</p> <p>Proactively pursue opportunities to deliver recreational football (and other sports) through the PlayZone programme.</p>	DFA/STC.
Athletics 1	Protect both athletics facilities currently located within South Tyneside.	Monkton Stadium Gypsies Green.	Ensure protection of sites through local planning policies.	STC.
Athletics 2	Ensure both facilities remain <i>fit for purpose</i> by undertaking relevant qualitative upgrades.	<p>Monkton Stadium – ongoing works required to retain Trackmark accreditation. Potential opportunity to upgrade to achieve Level 2 specification.</p> <p>Gypsies Green – cinder surface requires improvement. Investment into ancillary facilities.</p>	Work alongside clubs to deliver required upgrades.	STC / EA.
Bowls 1	Protect active bowling greens.	All sites.	Ensure list in strategy is kept up to date	STC.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	There is no evidence to suggest that existing greens need to be reinstated.		<p>Inclusion of appropriate policy in Local Plan</p> <p>Use of this PPS for decision making.</p>	
Bowls 2	Promote the importance of effective maintenance regimes and support clubs in obtaining and implementing external grounds maintenance advice for their greens, as well as obtaining appropriate machinery to undertake the required tasks. Maintenance was highlighted as one of the key issue for clubs across the Borough.	All sites.	<p>Promote sustainability at bowling greens by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the help that is available on green maintenance / management • Providing support and training for volunteers • Improving knowledge sharing and joint working • Provide regular training and guidance events for the bowls clubs on the management and maintenance of facilities. • Promotion of succession planning - ensure that training targets both existing maintenance teams and other club members to maximise succession planning, enhance knowledge and reduce reliance on small numbers of volunteers 	STC /Clubs.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting clubs in the compilation of funding bids for machinery / external funding. 	
Bowls 3	<p>Continue to address quality concerns where these impact upon play and where capital investment is still identified as being necessary following attempts to tailor maintenance procedures (See bowls 2). This should ensure that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greens are playable and of good quality - quality issues not caused by shortfalls in the maintenance procedures are addressed <p>Pavilions are functional and promote inclusive participation – this includes facilitating access for disabled residents.</p>	<p>Key priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation systems for all clubs (works recently completed on most sites at the end of 2023). Other works – gutters / edges Pavilion improvements – improvements to disabled access at all sites. 	<p>Quality issues may be impacted / caused by poor maintenance regimes and this should be eliminated first. Professional assessments should be undertaken in order to ascertain the work required.</p> <p>Where clubs require qualitative improvements but there is not adequate capital, support clubs in the compilation of funding bids and work alongside the committee to identify other means of generating income.</p>	STC / Clubs.
Bowls 4	<p>To ensure the club infrastructure remain sustainable, support initiatives to increase participation in bowls by improving the promotion of the clubs. This should include work to remove several key barriers to participation in the sport including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor marketing and a lack of proactive promotion Lack of online presence 	<p>Clubs where membership numbers are currently lower and would benefit from immediate support include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack Clark Park Hebburn Sports Club. 	<p>Work alongside the clubs to support club development initiatives and provide advice and guidance to stimulate improvement.</p> <p>Sustainability at clubs should be monitored – sites with less than 20 members are unsustainable and immediate support will be required to increase membership. See Bowls 5 below – the majority of</p>	STC /Clubs.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	Struggle to recruit volunteers and heavy reliance on volunteers to manage and maintain greens.		these sites offer capacity for new members arising from proposed new housing development.	
Bowls 5	<p>Monitor capacity at existing bowling green sites to ensure that increases in bowling participation can be sustained by the existing infrastructure.</p> <p>There is currently no clear requirement for new greens, with capacity in the existing infrastructure available in all areas of the Borough.</p>		Monitor club membership annually in order to ensure that there remains scope for growth.	STC.
Tennis 1	<p>The existing quantity of provision is adequate to meet demand.</p> <p>Protect existing tennis courts across the Borough to ensure that the amount of courts is adequate to meet current and projected future demand.</p> <p>In a small number of instances, it may be acceptable to reduce the stock of courts on a site in order to improve others.</p> <p>To ensure sustainability of existing stock, seek to maximise use of these facilities through tennis development.</p>	<p>Protection - all existing sites.</p> <p>The one exception to this is at West Park. Four courts to be converted on this site in order to facilitate redevelopment of the remaining courts as well as to benefit other sports.</p>	<p>Ensure the list in the strategy document is monitored.</p> <p>Include appropriate policy within the local plan.</p>	STC.

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
Tennis 2	<p>The parks courts are very well distributed and are effectively located to promote tennis across the Borough.</p> <p>Improvements in tennis participation will only be delivered through an effective network of public courts. To deliver this;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality public facilities will require refurbishment Consideration should be given to the installation of LTA customer journey technology to improve booking and management systems Increased marketing and promotion will be required, as well as organised introductory activities. <p>Where possible, public venues should include floodlights in order to ensure year round access.</p>	<p>Key public venues</p> <p>Improvements require across all public venues, but the following in particular require investment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Park (9) Springwell Park (3) Cornthwaite Park (2 particularly poor). <p>Courts at Robert Redhead and Coulthard Park would also benefit from investment.</p>	<p>Work alongside the LTA to prioritise the refurbishment of public courts and to integrate LTA systems within the public infrastructure – these include improved booking procedures and gate access.</p> <p>Undertake relevant marketing and promotion to increase awareness. This should also include piloting existing LTA initiatives on public facilities in order to improve grass roots take up of tennis. These efforts should extend to all parks courts.</p> <p>Develop a strategy to improve the sustainability of public park facilities, ensuring that a sinking fund for court repair and maintenance is established.</p>	LTA / STC / Schools.
Tennis 3	<p>Work with schools to increase the role that they play in community tennis. Current usage of facilities is impacted by poor marketing and promotion, as well as poor customer journey.</p> <p>Work with schools to increase participation as part of curricular / extracurricular</p>	<p>Key priority as site serves a catchment where there is no parks provision;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boldon School – marketing / promotion and improvement of customer journey <p>Other sites requiring improvement;</p>	<p>Work alongside the LTA to support schools to initiate activity to improve public tennis courts – this should include quality assessments of existing facilities as well as identification of appropriate access and</p>	

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Sport	Recommendation	Key Sites	Key Actions	Responsibilities
	activities to support growth in the game at a grass roots level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harton Academy – consider online booking options <p>Boldon School and Hebburn Comprehensive – marketing / promotion and improvement of customer journey.</p>	<p>customer management systems.</p> <p>Support schools in accessing LTA Youth Schools programme.</p>	
Tennis 4	<p>Ensure that the club infrastructure remains sustainable and is able to accommodate growth by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving court quality where issues are identified Supporting improvements to the clubhouse where necessary to support membership Supporting clubs to attract and retain members through effective marketing and promotion. <p>Relocation plans for South Shields LTC are unresolved and as a consequence, the site is suffering from lack of investment.</p>	<p>Boldon LTC – 3 courts will require replacement in medium term.</p> <p>South Shields LTC – unusable pavilion and courts will require replacement. Site to be either improved or relocated. The existing membership base suggests that any relocation should as a minimum provide equivalent provision (3 courts), but could potentially involve the provision of covered courts, in order to address a key gap in the existing club based infrastructure in the Borough.</p>	<p>Support clubs in applications for funding where appropriate.</p> <p>Work with South Shields LTC to proactively identify a relocation strategy.</p>	LTA / Club / STC
Tennis 5	Monitoring the increasing popularity of Padel, and investigate opportunities to deliver a Padel court if demand arises.	Most Padel courts are currently club based. Pilots on parks sites are now being explored.	Monitor demand for Padel across South Tyneside and support the creation of a Padel court should demand arise.	LTA

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4.0 Impact of New Development

- 4.1 The NPPF advises that specific evidence of need should be provided alongside clarity of what facilities are required. Sport England guidance and advice indicates that local authorities should develop and maintain a robust and up to date evidence base for sporting provision (this PPOSS provides a starting point for this) and use this to;
- Estimate the nature and level of needs that may be generated from new development(s) for sporting provision (this should be informed by the Playing Pitch Calculator); and
 - Establish clear deliverable actions that have the potential to help meet the needs that will be generated from new development in the area.
 - Based on the nature of the actions, the level of new development in an area, and the realistic ability to secure investment into sport through CIL or planning obligations, decide how best to use the CIL and planning obligations alongside one another to deliver sporting infrastructure and to support development.
- 4.2 The preparation of this Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy has been informed by the use of population projections, which take into account the impact of new developments in the Borough and the strategy therefore seeks to provide the facilities that will be needed to meet the projected level of demand.
- 4.3 It should be ensured however that the impact of each new development is taken into account and the costs associated with this impact (and additional facility requirements) are considered.
- 4.4 South Tyneside Council SPD5 (Planning Obligations and Agreements 2008) sets out that contributions will be required from new residential developments towards playing fields and sports facilities. There is however a lack of agreed mechanism for agreeing contributions towards outdoor sports facilities and playing pitch strategy and this results in inconsistencies and potentially missed opportunities for sport. The Council intends to produce a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following adoption of the Local Plan which will update the processes for collecting contributions.
- 4.5 This strategy seeks to promote the use of up to date tools in order to provide a clear and transparent means of evaluating demand which can be incorporated into the new SPD.

Application of Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator

- 4.6 The Sport England Playing Pitch calculator (PPC) estimates the additional demand for pitches arising from specific or cumulative developments. The PPC quantifies the number of Match Equivalent Sessions (MES) that will be generated in the peak period for each pitch type and converts that into a number of pitches. The costs associated with that pitch provision are also given. Using the PPOSS the Council can assess whether on site pitch provision is acceptable and sustainable or if improvements to existing pitches in the locality are required. The costs provided can help identify the likely financial contribution that would be required if pitches/improvements were to be provided off site.
- 4.7 The PPC can only be accurately used in areas where a PPOSS has been developed, and remains up to date, as it directly uses information from this document to provide an estimate of the demand that the additional population will produce. It considers;

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- a) The likely number of people from the new population in each of the individual pitch sport age groups (Derived from the profile of the current population)
 - b) Using the number of teams identified in the PPOSS and the profile of the population (a), the likely number of teams that will be generated by the new development
 - c) The number of match equivalent sessions that will be generated by the new population and the subsequent demand in terms of pitches and changing rooms required. The pitch requirements are split into natural turf to support match play and artificial surfaces to support training.
- 4.8 The Playing Pitch Calculator does not take into account the current levels of unmet demand in the area. The resulting figures are therefore considered in the context of the strategic findings of the assessment to understand whether the existing facilities can accommodate the additional demand and any requirements for new and / or improved provision. The actions that should be taken to address any identified needs should therefore be guided by the findings of this PPOSS.
- 4.9 The calculator details the number of new pitches that that the new population generates demand for in the peak period for each sport. However, using the PPOSS the Steering Group will be able to assess whether;
- Existing pitches have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional demand at the times required;
 - Improvements are needed to specific pitches to accommodate the additional demand from the housing located in that sub area, or;
 - New pitches are required.
- 4.10 As documented in this assessment, pitch provision requires improvement. While there are enough adult football pitches to meet demand, this is offset by pressures on 9v9 and youth pitches. There are also shortfalls of capacity for rugby union and cricket and improvements required to the quality of other facilities to ensure that the facility stock is able to meet current and projected future demand.
- 4.11 For some sports, and in larger developments, new provision may be required as part of new development – particularly for 9v9 and youth football. The vast majority of housing allocations in South Tyneside are however relatively small sites, with anticipated number of dwellings below 400 houses. This means that for the majority, contributions will be required towards each sport for the provision of new facilities (for example cricket, rugby union, AGP) as well as qualitative improvements.
- 4.12 For illustrative purposes, Table 4.1 summarises the findings of the application of the Playing Pitch Calculator for the strategic housing allocation at Fellgate, which is identified as delivering up to 1200 dwellings. It demonstrates impact of this developments and highlights the significant increase in demand that it will generate. While to some extent the developments will negate the impact of the ageing population as set out in the assessment report, it is clear that projected future demand cannot be accommodated without the improvements and new provision outlined in this strategy document.
- 4.13 Moving forwards, the calculator should be used to determine the impact of each specific new development and as part of the implementation process, this approach should be embedded into policies of South Tyneside Borough Council in relation to contributions from new development. The Council should work with Sport England to determine whether the process assesses the

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impact of individual sites, or if a price per dwelling is more appropriate to take into account the cumulative impact across all developments irrespective of size.

Table 4.1 – Impact of Land at Fellgate

Land at Fellgate – 2760 residents					
Sport	Pitch Equivalent	Capital Cost	Lifecycle cost	Changing Rooms (Number)	Changing Rooms (Capital Cost)
Adult Football	0.53	£50,475	£10,650	1.07	£181,470
Youth Football	1.19	£91,332	£19,180	1.47	£248,894
Mini Soccer	0.91	£24,436	£5,132	0.00	£0
Rugby Union	0.12	£17,595	£3,765	0.24	£41,513
Rugby League	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
Cricket	0.13	£37,644	£7,604	0.25	£43,063
Sand Based AGPs	0.00	£0	£0	0.00	£0
3G AGPS	0.14	£134,078	£5,512	0.28	£47,083

4.14 Once the impact of a specific development is understood, this PPOSS should be used to determine whether the existing infrastructure is able to accommodate the impact of the new development or whether additional provision and / or contributions towards improvements to increase capacity are required. For most sports, and for most developments, contributions will be required with a view to investing in quality to improve capacity. For larger developments, some on site provision focusing on junior / 9v9 provision could be considered.

4.15 The draft Local Plan proposes some housing development on playing field land. In line with policy, the loss of playing fields should be mitigated in addition to any loss of playing fields. i.e, it is necessary to consider the demand that residents of the new development will generate in addition to the loss of the playing field land.

	Recommendation	Key Actions
General 1	Establish a group to undertake detailed feasibility work on the proposed mitigation strategy for the loss of grass pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop specific subgroup (to include Sport England) Undertake detailed works to evaluate how effectively proposals will deliver a solution for

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		sport.
General 2	Establish a group to review processes relating to contributions from new development and develop a tailored approach for using the PPC and obtaining contributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop specific subgroup (to include Sport England) • Meet to understand calculator and opportunities available • Review and tailor existing approach • Integrate approach within policy

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5.0 Action Plan, Implementation and Monitoring.

5.1 This section provides a summary of the key recommendations by sub area and a site by site action plan.

5.2 The site by site action plan builds on the general and sport specific recommendations and provides detail on the key priorities for each site. The site by site action plan is provided by sub area in this document. An excel version including site address etc will also be supplied to the Council so that this can be monitored and updated.

Summary of Priority Recommendations by Sub Area and Site Specific Actions

Table 5.1 – Hebburn and Jarrow

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cricket provision remaining in area – site previously provided now accommodates football No clear existing demand, previous demand has been displaced across Borough 	No clear demand for cricket in Hebburn. Former Hebburn CC to be mitigated through provision of new training facilities to support Whitburn CC
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lukes Lane Playing Fields is key site for Jarrovians RUFC. Capacity limited by maintenance Training concentrated on one pitch due to location of lights Ancillary facilities require improvements No community use of St Joseph's Catholic Academy Rugby pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facilities Improvement to maintenance procedures (Jarrovians RUFC) Investment into ancillary accommodation to support women and girls rugby at Jarrovians RUFC Provision of additional floodlighting to second pitch
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No supply or demand for hockey within Hebburn and Jarrow specifically One strategic facility provided to serve Borough as a whole 	n/a
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carr Ellison Park, Springwell Park are key public sites. Springwell Park is in poor condition and requires immediate refurbishment There is no club in the area Courts at Hebburn Comprehensive poor and now disused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of public courts Refurbishment of courts at Springwell Park, installation of LTA gate technology and engagement with LTA initiatives at both sites Improvement of courts at Hebburn Comprehensive to support school use

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Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 active bowls greens – North Marine Park, West Park Jarrow and Carr Ellison Park all contain two greens Opportunity to improve green quality at all greens, although most are already good quality Scope to increase membership particularly at North Marine Park and Hebburn Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing greens. No requirement to reinstate disused greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes to improve quality. Improve identified quality issues Work with clubs to increase membership
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited capacity for adult football (9 MES spare at peak time) Shortfalls in provision for youth football (- 2.75 MES at peak time) and almost no remaining capacity for 9v9 (1.5 MES at peak time) Overall position exacerbated when excluding unsecured sites Future growth will see this position more tightly matched with demand Much of the overplay associated with large clubs. Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Association and St Josephs Catholic Academy are both overplayed. St Joseph's Catholic Academy is also unsecured Limited opportunity to improve pitch capacity through quality improvement (although quality issues identified) Deficiency of 1 3G AGP identified Hebburn Town - aspirations for pitch / ancillary facility improvement and 3G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites Secure CUA at St Josephs Catholic Academy Ensure school sites offering current access remain secured Focus on improving quality - engagement with PitchPower on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality on poor sites and overplayed sites (in this area, these include Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Hub, St Josephs Catholic Academy, Hedworthfield Community Association) Provision of additional 3G AGP to benefit this area –to determined through AGP working group Reinstatement of The Clock Playing Fields to provide additional capacity Improvements to ancillary facilities at Hebburn Town FC Land adjacent to Monkton Stadium identified as potential opportunity to provide additional pitches – to be explored

5.3 Table 5.2 overleaf summarises the site by site action plan for the Hebburn and Jarrow Area.

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Table 5.2 – Site Specific Recommendations for Hebburn and Jarrow

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Bede Burn Primary School	Education		Football	2 7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Carr Ellison Park	STC	Standard	Tennis	2	Basic but functional park facility in fair condition. Playable although there is a small amount of loose tarmac.	Protect. Enhance court quality and improve customer journey through implementation of LTA technology	High
			Bowling	2	Grass scorched but irrigation recently installed. Lots of weeds. Greens kept tidy. Backboards would benefit from improvement, gutters require cleaning out. Membership above average	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Medium
Clegwell Community Hub / Hebburn Comprehensive	CIO	Standard	Football	3 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v11, 3 9v9 pitches. Site also contains 3G	Improving pitch quality, some drainage issues. Important venue for large clubs. Evidence of overplay which	Protect, improve to good quality	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					arises as a result of high demand.		
Dunn Street Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Fellgate Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Hebburn Comprehensive / Clegwell Community Hub		Standard	3G	Full Size	Surface ageing, refurbishment required in short term. Important venue for football, at capacity	Protect, ensure registration on FA register is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement. Requires resurface in the short term.	High
Hebburn Comprehensive School	School	Poor	Tennis	5	Poor fencing, no equipment at time of visit and locked. Loose tarmac evident. Courts overmarked. Poor facility that is now disused.	Protect. Improve courts for school usage	Low
Hebburn Lakes Primary School	Education		Football	General playing field	Primary School playing field not	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					available for community use		
Hebburn Riverside Park (Findus)	STC	N/a	Football	Disused playing field		Protect. Potential to reinstate site to support Hebburn Town FC	Medium
Hebburn Sports Club	Club	Mid standard	Football	2 11v11 adult pitches	Requires drainage works and reseeding, heavily used and qualitative deterioration as a result. No remaining spare capacity	Protect. Improve drainage works and support relocation of changing facilities. Potential location for 3G pitch.	High
		Poor	Cricket	Disused cricket	Square no longer available due to expansion of football club	Mitigation for lost square to be directed to improve capacity at Whitburn CC. No replacement facilities required	High
			Bowling	1	Poor quality pavilion, green lacking irrigation. Low membership	Protect, improve quality of site particularly through installation of irrigation systems. Support club with drive to increase participation	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Jarrow School	Education	Standard	Football	1 adult v 11, 1 9v9 and 2 5v5	Pitch not currently available for community use. School keen to explore opportunities to provide AGP on site	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
		Standard	Tennis	3	Three overmarked tarmac courts. Limited quality.	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Keelman's Way School	Education	Low standard	Football	5 5v5 pitches	Site can also be laid out in form of larger pitches. Basic standard school pitches, ageing changing accommodation	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
King George V Playing Fields (Hebburn)	STC	N/a	Football	Disused playing field	Former single pitch site. Single pitch status means that there is little demand for this site.	Protect. Potential role as overspill football venue	Low
King George V Playing Fields (Jarrow)	STC	standard	Football	3 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v11	Basic quality playing field with changing facilities in adequate condition. Some spare capacity on site.	Protect, improve maintenance procedures to maintain and enhance quality.	Medium

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Land adjacent Monkton Stadium	STC	n/a	Football	Land	Potential to provide new playing fields on site.	Protect, consider provision of new playing fields (football). Area could potentially be used as mitigation for loss of other playing fields.	Medium
Monkton Stadium	STC	Poor	Football	4 7v7	Poor playing pitches that are unusable for much of the season.	Protect. Improve maintenance and quality of grass pitches. Potential for new AGP to be located at this site, with grass pitches of higher quality reprovided on adjacent site.	Medium
	STC	Standard	3G	7v7 Football	Important venue for RYFL football, at capacity	Protect, ensure registration on FA register is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement.	High
Perth Green Community Association	Community Association	Good	Football	1 adult 11v11	Grass pitch in good condition, some issues with drainage but strong maintenance	Protect. Ensure maintenance programme is retained to protect good pitch quality	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					programme. At capacity		
		Good	3G	Full Size	New pitch, now approaching capacity	Protect, ensure registration on FA register is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement.	
Perth Green Youth Centre	Education	N/a	Disused	None	Not been in use as a playing field for over 20 years.	The redevelopment of the site for housing would lead to the loss of up to 0.6ha playing field. In accordance with Sport England's facility cost guidance, the Council will ring-fence a financial contribution of £90,000 for the foregone land, the equivalent cost of providing a youth U16/U15 pitch, towards the provision of new playing fields or the improvement of existing playing fields/facilities in the same sub-area as the site.	N/a

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Simonside Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Education
South Shields Football Club	Club	Good	3G	Full Size	At capacity at peak times	Protect, ensure registration on FA register is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement.	High
South Shields Football Club (First Cloud Arena)	Club	Good	Football	1 adult 11v11	Stadia pitch with stand in good condition. Meets with NLS Ground Grading requirements	Protect. Ensure maintenance programme is retained to protect good pitch quality	Ongoing
Springwell Park	STC	Poor	Tennis	3	Courts weedy and tarmac is lifting. Courts not really usable. No equipment on two courts at time of site visit, remaining court has a metal net. High potential penetration rate for tennis	Protect. Enhance court quality and improve customer journey through implementation of LTA technology	High
St Aloysius RC Va Junior School	Education		Football	2 7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
St Bedes Primary School Jarrow	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
St Joseph's Catholic Academy	Education	M0/D1	Rugby Union	1	Used for curricular activity only	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
		Standard	Tennis	4	Courts overmarked but linings well defined and clear fencing	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
		Low standard	Football	2 youth 11v11, 2 9v9	Unsecured site, but important venue for community activity, requires additional maintenance to accommodate level of use. Evidence of overplay and heavy usage (compaction etc)	Protect, secure community use agreement, improve pitch quality to good.	High
St Josephs Primary School Jarrow	Education		Football	2 9v9	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
St Marys Catholic Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
St Matthews RC Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
The Clock Playing Field	STC	N/a	Football	Disused playing field currently with scope to accommodate 3 pitches.	Disused playing fields site, access / car parking has typically been an issue on this site and does not include any changing accommodation.	Protect. Explore opportunities to reinstate playing field in order to meet increasing demand. Identified as likely solution to mitigate loss of housing allocation	Medium - high
Toner Avenue Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Valley View Primary School	Education		Football	small AGP	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
	Education		Football	General playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
West Park Jarrow	STC		Bowling	2	Good condition although some improvements	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with	Medium

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					required including to pavilion. Irrigation recently installed. Membership above average	drive to increase participation	
Jarrow Cross Primary School	Education		Football	7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	
Hedworthfield Community Centre	Community Association	Standard	Football	1 adult 11v11, 2 youth 11v11, 1 9v9	Small amount of overplay on 9v9 pitches, pitches of standard quality but compacted. Requires improved maintenance to improve quality	Standard	Medium
	Community Association	Standard to poor	Sand Filled	Small	Limited role in formal sport	Standard to poor	Low
	Education		Football	General playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use		Ongoing
Luke Lane Playing Fields	Club (leased)	M1/D1	Rugby Union	2 senior pitches, additional senior pitch (that is often used as 3 mini	Recently leased site requiring upgrades to flooding and improvements to pitch quality	Improve pitch quality and enhance changing facilities / ancillary accommodation.	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Quality Rating	Sport	Facilities Provided	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
				pitches)/ floodlit training area		Pitches temporarily used for football should be converted to rugby when demand arises as participation at club grows.	

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Inner and Outer South Shields

5.4 Table 5.3 provides a summary of the breakdown of provision in the Inner and Outer South Shields Area. Detailed site specific actions are provided in Table 5.4.

Table 5.3 – Inner and Outer South Shields Summary

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33 wickets required, 26 available to meet current demand – supply does not meet with demand No spare capacity at peak time No spare capacity at either site – South Shields Westoe CC or Jack Clark Park Scope to increase capacity of Jack Clark Park through qualitative improvements Future demand not met Changing / ancillary facilities require upgrade at all sites Training facilities poor at all sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facilities Improve maintenance procedures to retain good quality provision Investment into quality at Jack Clark Park and Simonside CC Provide NTP / hybrid wicket at all sites, prioritising South Shields CC Improve training facilities at all sites Upgrade changing accommodation at all sites New provision at Epinay School as part of Boroughwide mitigation strategy to create two new cricket pitches
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Shields Westoe RUFC is significantly overplayed – one pitch is insufficient to meet club needs. Pitch suffers from overplay and quality issues. Overuse causing deterioration. Ancillary facilities do not meet basic standard and require reconfiguration Pitch at Brinkburn CIO adequate to meet needs of South Shields Westoe RUFC in capacity terms, but future of site in question. Capacity currently impacted by limited maintenance regime, changing facilities of limited quality. Direct replacement will be required to ensure future needs are sustained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facilities Provision of additional capacity for South Shields Westoe – to be delivered through new provision at Epinay School and relocation of cricket club to Epinay School, enabling additional pitch to be provided at rugby club. Satellite rugby provision also to be provided at Epinay School Provision of new secured venue for South Shields RUFC as part of mitigation strategy for loss of playing fields at Brinkburn
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One strategic facility provided to serve Borough as a whole – no provision dedicated to hockey in South Shields 	n/a
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Redhead Park and West Park key public sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all courts Refurbishment of 9 courts at West Park (alongside reuse of 4 courts), installation of LTA

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Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Park offers significant potential – large site but some poor quality / disused courts. Scope to reconfigure South Shields Westoe Club offers important club tennis opportunities, pavilion not currently usable Access to tennis courts at Harton Academy, scope to increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gate technology and engagement with LTA initiatives at public sites Support Harton Academy with promotion of opportunities for community use Improvement of facilities at South Shields Westoe LTC. Continue to explore opportunities to relocate South Shields CC as part of full multi sports club relocation
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 active bowls greens – Jack Clark Park and West Park contain two greens, private green at Harton Westoe Miners Welfare and one green at Robert Redhead Park Opportunity to improve green quality at all greens, although all are well looked after and functioning. Access to machinery is also a key issue for clubs Improvement to playing numbers at West Park and Jack Clark Park required to ensure facilities remain sustainable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes to improve quality. Improve identified quality issues Work with clubs to increase membership
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply very closely matched with demand and evidence of overplay on several sites capacity for adult football (6 MES spare at peak time) shortfalls of youth football (-1.5 MES at peak time) or 9v9 (-1 MES at peak time) Future growth will see this position more tightly matched with demand Quality impacts supply more so in Inner and Outer South Shields than in other areas, with several sites containing grass pitches that are rated as poor (Cleadon Park / Recreation Ground / Gypsies Green / Chuter Ede / Brinkburn Recreation Ground and CIO all rated as poor). This means that there is scope to improve capacity in this area through qualitative improvements Harton Westoe Miners Welfare, as well as Mortimer Comprehensive School are overplayed – used by large club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites Focus on improving quality - engagement with PitchPower on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality on poor sites, (remainder of Brinkburn CIO, Cleadon Park, Gypsies Green, Cleadon Recreation Ground, Harton Academy, Mortimer Comprehensive School, Harton Westoe Miners Welfare, Ensure school sites offering current access remain secured New pitch provision at Temple Park as part of Boroughwide mitigation strategy. To include appropriate ancillary provision Harton Westoe Miners Welfare overplay – to be addressed through new 3G AGP which has recently achieved planning permission Ensure existing 3G pitch registrations on FA pitch register are retained Improvements to ancillary facilities at Bents Park, Brinkburn CIO, Chuter Ede, Cleadon

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Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modelling suggests that there are adequate 3G AGPs in this part of the Borough, although clubs highlight aspirations for further facilities to meet match play demand as well as to facilitate training. 	Recreation Ground, Gypsies Green, Jack Clark Park.

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Table 5.4 – Site Specific Actions in Inner and Outer South Shields

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Ashley Primary School	Education		Football	9v9	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
			Football	small AGP	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	
Bents Park Recreation Ground (The Dragon)	STC	Standard (Mid)	Football	4 adult 11v11 pitches	Scope for additional pitch to be layed out. Spare capacity at both peak time (1.5) and across the week (5.5). Site compacted and with divots, would benefit from investment and improvement to pitches as well as ancillary facilities	Protect, improve quality through enhanced maintenance regime. Investment into ancillary provision	High
Biddick Hall Junior School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Brinkburn Cio	STC / CIO	Low standard (approaching poor)	Football	1 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9	Pitch quality approaching poor, overplay on youth pitch although small amount of spare capacity remains on adult pitch.	Retain and improve area of playing fields not allocated for housing. This should include provision of high quality pitches and ancillary facilities. Allocated area of playing field land to be replaced at Land at Temple Park	High
		M0/D1	Rugby Union	1	Basic rugby pitch with adequate natural drainage, but impacted by very limited maintenance programme (grass cutting only). Adequate capacity for club, but allocated as part of local plan for housing.	Part of site allocated for housing. Rugby club to be relocated to either stay on this site, or to Temple Park. Remaining playing field to be improved to meet NGB specifications.	high
Brinkburn Recreation Ground (Rear of Mortimer School AGP)	STC	Poor	Football	1 adult 11v11	Site with limited use and no existing changing accommodation.	Protect.	Ongoing
Chuter Ede Community Association	STC/ CIO	Poor	Football	2 adult 11v11, 1 recreational area used for 7v7. Scope to accommodate	Poor quality facility with uneven pitches and unusable changing accommodation.	Retain and improve area of playing fields not allocated for housing. This should include provision of high quality pitches and ancillary	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
				additional provision on site.	Spare capacity due to limited use. Part of site allocated for residential development as part of emerging Local Plan	facilities. Allocated area of playing field land to be replaced at Land at Temple Park	
Cleadon Park (The Dell / Quarry)	STC	Poor / Low standard	Football	2 adult football pitches	Heavily compacted pitches with dipped goals, poor condition. Changing accommodation also poor	Protect. Improve maintenance to achieve a minimum of a standard quality site, enhance ancillary provision.	Medium
Cleadon Recreation Ground	STC	Poor / Low standard	Football	2 adult football pitches	Heavily compacted, poor condition. Changing accommodation distance from site	Protect. Improve maintenance to achieve a minimum of a standard quality site, enhance ancillary provision	Medium
Epinay School	Education	N/A	Football	1 11v11	One pitch currently marked and used by the school (no community use). Large area of playing field land is unused by the school and could be converted to community hub.	Protect. Playing field land to be used to create sporting hub. Playing fields to be improved to create new cricket and rugby pitches to mitigate for loss of South Tyneside College site.	high

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Forest View Primary School	Education		Football	7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Former Temple Park School	STC / Club	standard	Football	1 youth 11v11, 1 9v9, 1 5v5	Playing field site with evidence of compaction. Fenced off but no ancillary provision. Small amount of overplay on 9v9	Protect and invest in maintenance improvements.	Medium
Gypsies Green Stadium	STC	Poor	Athletics	Cinder Track	Poor quality cinder track used by local	Protect, improve condition of track surface and invest in improved ancillary facilities	High
		Poor	Football	1 youth 11v11 football	Pitch with poor playing surface, muddy and holding water. Poor ancillary facilities		
Hadrian Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Harton Academy Sports Centre	Education	Low standard to poor	Football	1 11v11 youth, 1 9v9	Pitches approaching poor, heavily used due to curricular use as well as community activity. Overplay on 9v9	Protect, improve to good standard pitches through maintenance improvements.	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
		Standard	Tennis	6	Basic school tarmac tennis courts. Overmarked with netball, clear lines and in standard condition – adequate playing surface. Nets in poor condition, some issues with vandalism.	Protect, seek to introduce online booking system to increase usage. Improve court quality	Medium
		M0/D0	Rugby Union	1	Used for curricular activity only	Protect for curricular use	Medium
		Standard to poor	3G	Full Size	Surface ageing and requires refurbishment in short term. Large amount of loose artificial grass means pitch can no longer be maintained properly. WR 22 Compliant. Important venue for football - at capacity	Protect, ensure registration on FA register and WR 22 compliance is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement. Requires resurface in the short term	High
Harton Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Harton Westoe Miners Welfare	Miners Welfare	Standard	Football	2 Adult 11v11	Clear evidence of heavy use, overplay evident. New 3G to be potentially provided as part of mitigation for loss of South Tyneside College site	Protect, improve quality. Application proposing new 3G AGP and 9v9 pitch recently approved	High
		Poor	Cricket	Disused cricket	Square no longer available due to expansion of football club	Cricket to be reprovided as part of mitigation works for South Tyneside College which deliver improvements for South Shields FC and at Epinay School	High
			Bowling	1	Bowling green of reducing quality. Scope to improve membership	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Medium
		Standard	3G x2	Small	Some limited availability,	Protect, ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement	Ongoing
Jack Clark Park	STC / Clubs	Low standard	Football	1 adult 11v11, 1 9v9	Pitch is compacted and damp, some spare capacity available across the week and at peak time	Protect, improvement to ancillary facilities. Improved site maintenance to enhance quality	Medium

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
		Standard	Cricket	1 grass cricket square (14 wickets)	Standard quality facility with need to increase maintenance. Changing accommodation poor. At capacity	Protect, prioritise qualitative improvements to reach good standard. Install NTP and improve training facilities. Upgrade and modernise ancillary provision.	Medium
			Bowling	2	Both greens tidy and well managed and maintained. Clear evidence of recent irrigation and fertilisation. Accessed up steps which might impact usage. Membership requires increase	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Medium
Laygate Community School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Lord Blyton Primary School	Education	Standard	Sand Filled	Small	Not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Lord Blyton School	Education		Football	MUGA	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Marine Park Primary	Education		Football	1 9v9	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Monkton Academy	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Mortimer Community Association & Community College	Education	Low standard	Football	1 9v9	Important site for community activity, requires additional maintenance to accommodate level of use.	Protect, improve maintenance to enhance quality of grass pitch to a good standard, to ensure site can accommodate all existing demand. Secure CUA	High
		Standard	3G	Full Size	Important venue for football, at capacity.	Protect, ensure registration on FA register is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement.	high
		Standard	Cricket	1 NTP	NTP of limited quality. No community use	Reinstate if demand evident from school	Low
North Marine Park	Club		Bowling	2	Includes additional disused green, average quality. Membership per green could improve	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Medium

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
Robert Redhead Park	STC	Standard	Tennis	3	Standard quality parks courts, fenced in and secure. Line markings fading slightly. Tarmac surface	Protect. Enhance court quality and improve customer journey through implementation of LTA technology	Medium
	Club		Bowling	1	Good quality pavilion functioning well as social venue. Scope to improve quality, irrigation system recently installed.	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Medium
Sea View Primary School	Education		Football	2 7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
South Shields Westoe Club	Club	Standard to good	Tennis	3	Playing surface adequate but ageing. New LED floodlights recently installed. Wooden clubhouse not currently usable due to loss of roof during Storm Arwen. Small amount of capacity for growth.	Explore potential opportunities to relocate site as part of multi sports hub. If relocated, replicate facilities. Until relocation, protect. Retain maintenance procedures to ensure good quality. Invest in changing accommodation / ancillary provision	
		Good	Cricket	1 grass square, 12 wickets	Good square, no off field training	Cricket function to be relocated to Epinay School,	

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					facilities, ripped and unusable NTP. Changing facilities and clubhouse in need of renovation	where 2 pitches will be provided	
		M0/D1	Rugby Union	1	Quality impacted by overuse, compacted and damage to surface. Floodlighting requires upgrading, changing facilities unusable. Significant overplay evident	Additional rugby pitch to be marked following relocation of cricket club. Retain maintenance procedures to ensure good quality. Invest in changing accommodation / clubhouse.	
South Tyneside College	Developer		Football	Disused playing field	Planning application recently approved. Mitigation be delivered through a combination of new provision at Epinay School and Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare. Mitigation is in part none policy compliant (in that it includes use of former playing fields), but delivers significant benefit for sport. The proposed new facilities at	Playing fields to be disposed of subject to delivery of appropriate mitigation (Epinay School / Harton and Westoe Miners Welfare.	

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					Epina School should include provision for cricket and rugby.		
St Gregorys R. C. Va Primary School	Education	Standard	Sand Dressed	Small	Limited role in formal sport	Protect	Ongoing
St Oswald'S Rc Va Primary School	Education		Football	7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
			Football	small AGP	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
St Wilfrids Rc College	Education	standard	Football	2 adult 11v11, 1 9v9	Unsecured site, basic school facilities of standard quality	Protect, secure community use agreement, improve pitch quality to good.	high
		Standard	Tennis	5	Courts overmarked but linings well defined and clear fencing	Protect	Ongoing
Stanhope Primary School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Temple Park Centre			Football	Disused playing field with scope to	Large area of land containing some	Protect. New strategic hub to be created as part of	high

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
				accommodate circa 9 pitches	disused playing fields as well as land that could be used to create new playing fields. Land never previously used as playing field in particular offers opportunities to create a secure site. Site to be used to create a new strategic hub.	mitigation strategy for Chuter Ede and Brinkburn CIO. Playing fields should be provided to good standard with associated changing provision and appropriate maintenance procedures, meeting with NGB specifications. Detailed works required to explore feasibility and determine overall suitability of proposals.	
		Standard	3G	Full Size	Small amount of remaining spare capacity, important venue for RFYL. Will require retest in 2024.	Protect, ensure registration on FA register is maintained. Ensure sinking fund is in place for surface replacement.	High
West Park South Shields	STC	Poor	Tennis	13	9 courts in a block and four separate. The four separate are slightly better but all poor. Water is pooling, there are weeds coming out of the tarmac. Broken fencing. Only four courts have equipment, but what	Protect. Reconfigure site to retain 9 of 13 courts and invest in improvements to quality of remaining 9 courts. Improve customer journey through implementation of LTA technology.	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority Level
					is there is poor. High potential penetration rate for tennis participation		
	Club		Bowling	2	Well looked after, new irrigation system. Pavilion requires investment	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Medium
Westoe Crown Primary School	Education		Football	General playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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5.5 Table 5.5 summarises the key recommendations in the South Sub Area, whilst Table 5.6 provides site specific actions and recommendations.

Table 5.5 – South Sub Area

Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 wickets required, 60 available to meet current demand – supply tightly matched with demand. No spare capacity at peak time Spare capacity of 35 MES (Boldon CA and Boldon CC), but eliminated by overplay of 48 MES at Whitburn CC Future demand not met Poor training facilities at Boldon CC and Whitburn CC Changing facilities require upgrade at Whitburn CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing facilities Improve maintenance procedures to retain good quality provision Provide NTP / hybrid pitch at all sites, prioritising Whitburn CC due to capacity issues Improve training facilities at Whitburn CC through mitigation from loss of Hebburn CC pitch Improve training facilities at all sites
Rugby Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rugby union provision in the South of the Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/a
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One strategic facility provided to serve Borough as a whole – no provision dedicated to hockey in South Shields Boldon School is currently an important facility for hockey Pitch now of poor quality and requires immediate refurbishment Low potential use of hockey venue (following provision of new facility in Sunderland) raises question marks over sustainability of facility – England Hockey currently exploring long term solution to relocate existing usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing pitch for hockey unless any permanent relocation is agreed with England Hockey which means that hockey facilities are no longer required Any conversion of surface should be agreed through the planning process Should facility for hockey still be required, short term refurbishment required
Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornthwaite Park and Coulthard Park are key sites, 2 courts at Cornthwaite Park require refurbishment. Scope to improve customer journey on both sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all courts Refurbishment of courts at Cornthwaite Park, installation of LTA gate technology and engagement with LTA initiatives at both sites

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Sport	Key Issues	Priority Recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boldon LTC provides important opportunities for club tennis, some courts will require replacement in 3 – 5 years Access to tennis courts at Boldon School but poorly promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Boldon School with promotion of opportunities for community use Resurface of courts at Boldon LTC longer term.
Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cornthwaite Park is the only site in this part of the Borough – contains two greens Green quality needs to be maintained Club struggling with volunteers Site would benefit from increase in number of members to maximise sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of existing greens Focus upon tailoring maintenance regimes to improve quality. Improve identified quality issues Work with clubs to increase membership
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity for adult football (6 MES spare at peak time) Shortfalls for youth football (-0.5 MES at peak time) and no remaining capacity for 9v9 (0 MES at peak time) Position exacerbated further if unsecured sites excluded and use is relocated Future growth will see this position more tightly matched with demand Overplay on several sites (Boldon CA Sports Ground due to high demand, Oakleigh Gardens due to quality, Whitburn C of E Academy due to quality and curricular use) No existing 3G AGP – deficiency of 1 identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of all sites Focus on improving quality - engagement with PitchPower on increased maintenance to enhance pitch quality on poor sites and busy sites. In this area, these include Cleadon Lane Playing Field, Boldon CA, Oakleigh Gardens, Whitburn C of E Academy Ensure school sites offering current access remain secured Provision of additional 3G AGP to benefit this area –to determined through AGP working group. Potential locations include Cleadon Lane Playing Fields, Whitburn Academy, Boldon School (depending on outcome of hockey discussions). The South is the priority location for a new 3G AGP, particularly to serve the Whitburn and Cleadon market.

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Table 5.6 – Site Specific Recommendations – South Sub Area

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
Academy Of Light	Private	Good	Football	6 11v11, 3 youth 11v11, 1 9v9 and 2 7v7	Private academy venue belonging to Sunderland FC	Protect for club use.	Ongoing
Boldon CA Sports Ground	Sports Club	Standard (Mid)	Football	1 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v11	Both pitches at capacity, element of overplay on adult football pitch (outside of peak time).	Protect, improve quality to 'good' rating	Medium
		Standard	Cricket	1 grass square, 17 wickets	Small amount of spare capacity remaining	Protect, improve quality to 'good' rating, new NTP, improve training facilities	Medium
Boldon Cricket And Squash Club	Sports Club	Good	Cricket	1 grass square, 16 wickets	Good quality ground, club concerns about drainage. Small amount of spare capacity remaining	Protect, improve maintenance and investigate drainage issues, improve ancillary provision. New NTP, improved training facilities	Medium
Boldon Lawn Tennis Club		Good	Tennis	6	Clear line markings, well maintained court	Protect, resurface courts in circa 5 years.	Low

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
					surface, 3 courts refurbished in 2022. All courts floodlit, 3 with LED floodlights replaced 2022. Brick built pavilion which was refurbished 3 years ago with new kitchen, flooring and windows. Parking is off street only. Older three courts will need replacing in next 3 - 5 years. Small amount of capacity for growth		
Boldon School	Education	Low standard	Football	2 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v11 and 1 9v9	Unsecured site with some spare capacity at peak time, although youth pitch is overplayed.	Protect, secure community use agreement, improve pitch quality to good.	Ongoing
		Standard	Cricket	1 NTP	NTP of limited quality. No community use	Reinstate for school use only	Low

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
		Standard	Tennis	4	Basic school courts, circa 15 years old. No floodlighting.	Protect, improve quality. Work with school to enhance promotion of courts	Medium
		Poor	Sand Filled	Full Size	Currently key site for hockey, pitch requires refurbishment due to ageing poor quality surface. Suffers from vandalism. Lots of spare capacity	Protect, retain surface suitable for hockey (either sand or Gen 2) unless a permanent relocation strategy is agreed with England Hockey.	High
Cleadon C Of E Academy	Education		Football	2 7v7	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Cleadon Lane New Fields	STC	Standard (Mid)	Football	2 adult 11v11, 1 11v11 youth, 1 9v9 and 1 7v7	Club seeking to lease site, small amount of spare capacity on 11v11 adult pitches, but at capacity for youth and 9v9 football. Some waterlogging issues and scope to improve	Protect, improve maintenance and investigate drainage issues. Support club to obtain lease for site. Potential location for new 3G AGP. Investment into ancillary facilities	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
					maintenance procedures.		
Cornthwaite Park	STC	2 standard, 2 poor	Tennis	4	Basic tarmac tennis courts in 2 banks of two. One bank poorer than other set. Both sets have weeds growing out of tarmac, but poor set are almost unusable. Lines fading.	Protect. Enhance court quality and improve customer journey through implementation of LTA technology	High
	STC		Bowling	2	Greens of similar quality, cage and good pavilion. Lack of volunteers and scope to increase membership	Protect, improve quality of site. Support club with drive to increase participation	Ongoing
Coulthard Park	STC	Standard	Tennis	2	Courts basic with clear markings. Lots of debris impacting playing surface and some loose tarmac. High potential	Protect. Enhance court quality and improve customer journey through implementation of LTA technology	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
					penetration rate for tennis		
East Boldon Junior School	Education		Football	general playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Hedworth Lane Primary School	Education		Football	General playing field	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
	Education	Poor	Cricket	1 NTP	NTP of limited quality. No community use	Reinstate if demand evident from school	Low
Marsden Primary School	Education		Football	9V9	Primary School playing field not available for community use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Oakleigh Gardens	STC	Standard	Cricket	1 grass square, 12 wickets	Basic cricket ground with outfield shared with football. Slightly sloping square, old NTP. No other training facilities and poor changing rooms. Slight overplay evident. Site	Protect. Improve maintenance and work on square to improve to good quality. Invest in changing accommodation and provide NTP and new changing facilities.	Medium

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
					functions as important venue for South Shields CC as well as Simonside CC		
		Poor	Football	1 11v11 youth	Poor quality facility with weeds, potential to provide additional facilities. Changing accommodation also poor. Evidence of overplay	Protect, improve maintenance to enhance quality of grass pitches to a minimum of standard quality.	Medium
Sunderland AFC(Academy Of Light)		Good	3G	Youth Size	Private academy venue belonging to Sunderland AFC	Protect	Ongoing
The Shack Field		Low standard	Football	1 adult 11v11	Site of limited quality but offers some spare capacity. No changing accommodation	Protect. Improve maintenance procedures to enhance pitch quality to ensure that as a minimum, standard quality rating is retained.	Medium

South Tyneside Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
West Boldon Primary School		N/a	Football	General playing field only	Primary school field for curricular use	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing
Whitburn C Of E Academy	Education	Low standard	Football	1 adult 11v11, 1 youth 11v11	Unsecured school playing field demonstrating evidence of wear and tear and compaction. Some overplay evident	Protect, improve maintenance procedures to reach good quality standard. Secure community use agreement.	High
		Standard	Cricket	1 NTP	NTP of limited quality. No community use	Reinstate if demand evident from school	Low
		Unknown	Tennis	2	2 basic courts.	Protect. Work with school to improve marketing of courts.	Low
		Unknown	AGP		Old sand based AGP, no floodlights	Not required to meet demand from hockey. Potential location for new 3G AGP	Medium
Whitburn Cricket Club	Club	Good	Cricket	1 grass square, 15 wickets	Square good, lack of practice nets / training facilities. Some improvements to	Protect, retain maintenance procedures to ensure good quality pitch	High

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Site Name	Ownership / Management	Rating	Sport	Final Pitch Layout	Site Summary	Recommendation	Priority
					changing accommodation needed. Evidence of overplay	provision continues. Provide NTP / hybrid wicket to improve capacity on site. New training facilities required – to be delivered through mitigation for lost cricket pitch at Hebburn Town FC. Investment into ancillary provision to facilitate women and girls cricket.	
Whitburn Village Primary School	Education	Poor	Football	1 9v9	Unsecured primary school facility of limited quality	Protect for curricular use	Ongoing

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Implementation

- 5.6 Given the potential level of funding required, investment will only be achieved through a combination of opportunities and funding sources as well as partnership opportunities.
- 5.7 Local authority finances remain under pressure and previous major national funding programmes are no longer available. Some funding opportunities, however, still remain and it is essential that these are capitalised upon in order to maximise the opportunities to protect and improve pitch provision. The proposed mitigation strategy, which will offset potential losses of playing fields, should however deliver improved provision across the Borough, providing high quality new pitches that meet current and projected future needs.
- 5.8 The council will seek to work on a multi-agency approach to address the facility requirements in the strategy and partnership working will be central to the achievement of this objective.
- 5.9 The main funding delivery mechanisms for the Council and others in delivering the strategy are:
- Section 106 developer contributions (using the PPC as a base)
 - Capital Grant funding: From schools and national agencies such as Sport England, including its small grants, community asset fund and strategic facilities fund
 - National Governing Body (NGB) support.
- 5.10 There are currently many funding streams which are accessible to clubs and some providers. To support the delivery of this strategy therefore, clubs will be encouraged to work alongside the respective sports bodies to apply for funding.

New facilities

- 5.11 In addition to the overarching strategy principles outlined earlier in this section, the following should be considered when providing any new facilities;
- Location - When planning new facilities, the existing sporting infrastructure should be taken into account. In particular, the provision of single or double pitch sites with no or limited supporting facilities should be avoided.
 - Quality - Any new pitch provision should meet with the design and quality standards guidance provided by Sport England and/or the relevant NGB (detailed below). The following general criteria must also be met:
 - a high standard of design, construction and maintenance, enabling the pitch to be played at least twice per week without detrimental impact and ensuring that sites are clean and attractive facilities
 - adequate changing facilities that:
 - are flexible, fit for a variety of purposes
 - fully comply with the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act
 - provide for a number of different groups to use the facility at the same time, in safety and comfort

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- meet current standards - Sport England & NGB guidelines
 - managed community access
 - accessible by public transport and by car
 - sufficient car and coach parking
 - size of pitches and run offs complies with NGB specification
 - located in a no-flood zone
 - security of tenure (at least 20 years) if a club is to be based at the site
 - for rugby clubs in particular, sites should include floodlit training facilities
- 5.12 All new and enhanced sports facilities must be designed in accordance with the relevant Sport England and (where applicable) National Governing Body (NGB) design guidance in order to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose and of a suitable quality.
- 5.13 Sport England's web site contains a range of current guidance documents which provide detailed specifications and information regarding the design of sporting and ancillary facilities.
- 5.14 It should be ensured that any new facilities that are delivered as mitigation meet with the above requirements and adhere to NGB technical specifications and guidance.

Monitoring and Review

- 5.15 The evolving context of participation in sport and active recreation means that monitoring and review of the strategy is as important as the initial preparation of the document to ensure it remains sufficiently robust to fulfil the above roles.
- 5.16 Reflecting the importance of this phase of work, monitoring of the strategy represents Step 10 of the approach to the production of a playing pitch strategy set out in the guidance for the delivery of a playing pitch Strategy (Sport England 2013).
- 5.17 This strategy document has been developed in conjunction with a steering group and this group will be retained to deliver the implementation phase, functioning as a Delivery and Implementation Group. Further people with appropriate expertise may be brought into the process as and when required to maximise the benefits that the strategy can bring.
- 5.18 Following adoption of the PPOSS, a series of task and finish groups will be set up, comprising members of this group, designed to support the implementation of specific recommendations. These may include groups to evolve the developer contributions process, groups targeting maintenance improvements and groups supporting the delivery of the mitigation strategy relating to the local plan allocations. These subgroups will meet regularly.
- 5.19 The Delivery and Implementation group will seek to deliver the key actions of the strategy document, but will also keep the strategy alive by;

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- Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and actions and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action
 - Recording changes to the pitch stock in the Borough and evaluating the impact of this on the supply and demand information
 - Assessing the impact of changes to participation, including changing trends and the development of new formats of the game as well as affiliation data for each of the National Governing Bodies of Sport
 - Assessing the impact of demographic changes and new population estimates / housing growth
 - Undertaking ongoing consultation to understand the evolving needs of clubs and governing bodies, and any requirements for major facilities in the area
 - Analysing funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities
 - Reviewing growth of emerging sports, their participation rates, facilities available for them and likely facilities necessary for their support and development.
- 5.20 The group will also need to meet to continue works on the proposed mitigation strategy linking with proposed local plan allocations.
- 5.21 The ongoing monitoring of the strategy will be led South Tyneside Council and it has been agreed that the working group members will review progress twice annually on the strategy delivery and discuss any issues arising.
- 5.22 The steering group will also be responsible for agreement of the requirement for a full update of this playing pitch assessment and strategy.
- 5.23 The delivery, implementation and monitoring process is formalised in action plan format in Table 5.9.

Table 5.9 – Monitoring Processes

Recommendation	Action	Timescale
M1	<p>Reconvene steering group and establish small delivery groups to drive the implementation of key actions. These should include (but not be limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer contributions process group • Maintenance Improvement Group 	Short Term

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Recommendation	Action	Timescale
M2	<p>Record individual updates to pitch provision and any key changes that have occurred. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pitches; • Pitch improvements; • Pitch re-configuration; • Pitch loss/threat; • Community Access agreements (e.g. education or private sites); • Plans for future provision • Changes arising as a result of new development. 	Ongoing – led by South Tyneside Council
M3	<p>Prepare annual PPS progress paper. This should include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known changes to supply and demand • The delivery of PPS recommendations and any changes in priority; • Details of any developments of a specific sport or particular format; • Details of any new or emerging issues and opportunities; • Any issues with the application of the PPS and lessons learnt; • Actions needed to keep the PPS 'live' and up to date. 	Annually – led by South Tyneside Council
M4	<p>Circulate annual progress paper to steering group for comment. Full steering group meeting to be arranged if deemed to be required.</p> <p>The full annual progress paper will determine when a full refresh of the PPS is required.</p>	Annually
M5	<p>The preparation of this PPS should inform updates to NGB sport specific strategies and investment plans, in particular;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Football Facilities Plan (update required in short term) • Cricket Facilities Strategy, Durham Cricket Board 	

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