



WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2015

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CSP	County Sports Partnership
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FE	Further Education
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
WCC	Wolverhampton City Council

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Wolverhampton City Council (WCC), Black Country Consortium Limited and its partners. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report it provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between 2015 and 2020. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Cycle facilities

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting playing fields, as appropriate, directing open space contributions secured through development and informing and shaping local planning policy
- ◀ Inform the protection and provision of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and playing fields (capable of accommodating pitches) across the City;
- ◀ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of outdoor sports across the City;
- ◀ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for outdoor sports facilities;
- ◀ Providing the basis for on-going monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport facilities.

1.1: Structure

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

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

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Wolverhampton, which should be implemented from 2015 to 2020. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding may be identified.

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

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

1.2 Context

The rationale for undertaking the study is to identify current levels of provision in the area, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and to compare this with current, and likely future levels of demand.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised Playing Pitch Assessments and Strategies which identified current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer, wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Identify inequalities in supply and demand across the five areas of the City
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public sector cuts.

The Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy covers the overall City area and considers in certain cases the overlap of supply and demand with adjoining areas.

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

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

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1.3 Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Assessment Report:

Table 1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future demand (2037)
Football (grass pitches)	Bilston	No current shortfall of pitches	Shortfall of 3.5 matches on youth 11v11, 3.5 on youth 9v9, 0.5 on 7v7 and 1.5 on 5v5
	Central & South	No current shortfall of pitches	No future shortfalls
	North	Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on youth 11v11	No change in future shortfalls. Youth 11v11 would remain at 4.5
	Tettenhall	Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5 matches on youth 11v11, 0.5 on youth 9v9, 1.5 on 7v7 and 1.5 on 5v5.
	Wednesfield	No current shortfall of pitches	Shortfall of 0.5 matches on youth 11v11
Football (3G AGPs)	Bilston	Current demand is being met	Pitch/s will require resurface .
	Central & South	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch based on FA model.	Pitch/s will require resurface .
	North	Current demand is being met	Pitch/s will require resurface .
	Tettenhall	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch based on FA model.	Pitch/s will require resurface .
	Wednesfield	Shortfall of 1 3G pitch based on FA model.	Pitch/s will require resurface .
Cricket	Bilston	Current demand is being met	Shortfall of one cricket ground
	Central & South	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	North	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Tettenhall	Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.
	Wednesfield	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met.
Rugby union	Bilston	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Central & South	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	North	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Tettenhall	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Wednesfield	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Outside (Wolverhampton RUFC)	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions.	Future demand will exacerbate current shortfalls

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Sport	Analysis Area	Current picture	Future demand (2037)
Rugby league	Bilston	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Central & South	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	North	Current demand is being met	Potential future increase in demand
	Tettenhall	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Wednesfield	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Bilston	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected
	Central & South	Current demand is being met	Pitch/s will require resurface.
	North	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected
	Tettenhall	Current demand is being met	Pitch/s will require resurface.
	Wednesfield	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected

Non pitch sports

Current demand for athletics, tennis, bowls and cycling is being met on the current facilities. Analysis predicts that future demand for bowls and tennis could lead to the requirement for additional capacity.

1.4 Scenarios

The following scenarios were tested in order to further understand the impact of particular actions within Wolverhampton:

What would be the impact if all currently used school football pitches were removed from the supply?

Table 2: The current usage of school sites

Football pitch type	Current play (match equivalent sessions)
Adult	25.5
Youth 11v11	6.5
Youth 9v9	8.5
Mini 7v7	6.5
Mini 5v5	1.5
Total	48.5

If access to school and college sites was lost there would be a need to accommodate 48.5 match equivalent sessions, which if all played at peak time would require **49** pitches. The impact, of which, is significant and also highlights the importance of sustained access to education sites.

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What is the impact of adding new football pitches to the supply?

A number of new pitches with community use are in the process of being built or will be created in the next 1-2 years, and when completed will have an impact on the overall supply and demand analysis in Wolverhampton. There will be:

- ◀ Nine (four adult, three 9v9 and two mini) new pitches at Barnhurst Lane (North Analysis Area)
- ◀ One 9v9 pitch to be reinstated at Our Lady & St Chads College (North Analysis Area)
- ◀ One adult pitch at St Edmunds Academy (Central & South Analysis Area)
- ◀ One youth pitch at St Luke's Primary (Central & South Analysis Area)
- ◀ One adult pitch and improved changing facilities for club use at Rooker Avenue Sports Ground (Central & South Analysis Area)
- ◀ Two youth pitches on a new 1.5 ha playing field at Colman Avenue Open Space (Wednesfield Analysis Area)

The new pitches to be provided at Barnhurst Lane will be used by Bilbrook Junior FC to accommodate the needs of the Club as well as other community use and Aldersley High School. This site, together with reinstatement of a youth pitch at Our Lady & St Chads is likely to eliminate the identified shortfalls in the Area, particularly for youth 11v11 and 9v9 but the exact level of surplus capacity will need to be determined once the pitches are in full use and club and school use known. The Bilston Partnership Youth League highlighted that the most difficult age group to find pitches for is youth 9v9. The reinstated pitch at Our Lady & St Chads as well as the additional pitches at Barnhurst Lane will help to accommodate some of this play as well as providing pitches for future demand.

Provision of new pitches in the Central & South Analysis Area could further increase the availability of the community use pitch stock to accommodate unmet/future growth, if appropriate community use agreements are put in place. Although supply is already meeting demand in the Area, it is likely that creation of new, good quality pitches will attract new users. The new youth pitches to be provided at Colman Avenue Open Space in the Wednesfield Analysis Area will help address any future shortfall in this area.

If pitches at Wolverhampton RUFC are improved to good quality will this accommodate all shortfalls?

The three pitches at Wolverhampton RUFC are over played by six match equivalent sessions per week. Qualitative improvements would provide approximately three additional match sessions per week of capacity. This would not be sufficient to accommodate all of the over play and additional capacity would therefore be required.

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PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

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

'Provide a network of good quality outdoor sports provision to increase participation and promote a healthier lifestyle for all.'

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PART 3: KEY ISSUES

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations. The section below highlights the summary boxes from each sports section within the assessment report:

Football summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 172 grass football pitches in Wolverhampton, of which 129 are available for community use- 49 of these are on school sites.
- ◀ Pitches located outside the Wolverhampton boundary at Old Wulfrunians AFC, Castlecroft Stadium, Wolverhampton Casuals and Highfields Secondary School are included within this report.
- ◀ In total, 26 community available pitches are assessed as good quality, 90 as standard and 13 as poor.
- ◀ 230 teams were recognised as playing within Wolverhampton, consisting of 91 men's, three women's, 94 youth boys', five youth girls' and 37 mini teams. In addition, 44 teams from Wolverhampton based clubs play on pitches outside of the Area.
- ◀ The highest increase in teams is seen in mini soccer, with 25% of clubs reporting growth over the last three years and only 11% noting a decrease. Similarly, 19% of clubs report an increase in youth teams whilst only 7% recount a decrease.
- ◀ Although 9% of clubs report an increase in the number of adult teams over the previous three years, 11% report a decrease.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Girls FC reports unmet demand at a level that suggests that it could field an additional adult women's team if another pitch existed in the Area which met league standards.
- ◀ There is latent demand equating to one match equivalent session for youth 11v11 football, 1.5 match equivalents for 9v9 football and 0.5 match equivalent sessions for 7v7 football.
- ◀ Discounting teams which play at Old Wulfrunians AFC, Castlecroft Stadium, Wolverhampton Casuals and Highfields Secondary School, a further six adult men's, six youth boys', one youth girls' and three mini teams are displaced out of Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Based on population growth it is predicted that there will be a potential increase of 15 youth boys' teams and five mini teams.
- ◀ Of clubs which quantify their potential increase in teams, there is a predicted growth of 21 teams equating to a demand for two adult, 12 youth and six mini match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ The table shows a total of 43 match sessions of actual spare capacity, the majority of which (28.5) is on adult pitches.
- ◀ Currently six pitches are overplayed amounting to a combined total of 10.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is spare capacity to accommodate adult teams both now and in the future, with each analysis area showing spare capacity.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches of one match equivalent session currently and 15.5 match equivalents in the future.

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Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 15 grass wicket cricket squares in Wolverhampton, 11 of which are available for community use.
- ◀ Pitches located Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall Cricket Club, Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club and Springhill Cricket Club have also been included as all three pitches service Wolverhampton clubs.
- ◀ In addition, there are nine standalone non-turf wicket pitches. Of these, only Highfields Secondary School, the Royal Wolverhampton (junior) School and South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy record any regular community use.
- ◀ Whitmore Reans CC is in talks with the Council over potentially acquiring their pitch on a 25 year lease.
- ◀ There are eight clubs servicing Wolverhampton generating 39 senior teams and 29 junior teams. Of these, 30 senior and 23 junior teams play within Wolverhampton, whilst the remainder play on pitches just outside the Wolverhampton boundary.
- ◀ In total, three clubs have plans to increase their number of senior teams and six clubs have plans to increase their number of junior teams, amounting to a total potential increase of four senior teams and 11 junior teams.
- ◀ Last man stands does not currently operate in Wolverhampton, however, it did operate in 2014 and is expected to be in operation again in 2016.
- ◀ No non-turf wicket pitches are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket.
- ◀ There are 14 grass wicket pitches which show potential spare capacity totalling 291 match sessions per season. Of these, two have actual spare capacity during peak time for senior cricket (Saturday).
- ◀ There are no pitches overplayed.
- ◀ There is an overall surplus of 0.5 pitches across Wolverhampton, however, there is a shortfall of 0.5 pitches in the Bilston Analysis Area, which is a direct result of future demand expressed by Springvale CC.
- ◀ As there are no other grass wicket pitches within the Bilston Analysis Area, the Club will have to seek a pitch in a different analysis area or another pitch will have to be provided.
- ◀ Expressed future demand from Springhill CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC also needs to be accommodated as pitches currently used by these clubs (outside the Wolverhampton boundary) show no spare capacity during peak time.

Rugby union summary

- ◀ Within Wolverhampton, there are four senior and one mini rugby union pitch across four sites.
- ◀ Pitches at Aldersley High School, Highfields Secondary School and Wolverhampton Grammar School are available for community use (however unused), whilst pitches at Tettenhall College are unavailable.
- ◀ The Royal Wolverhampton (junior) School are planning on providing a senior pitch from 2016 onwards. The pitch will be available for community use.
- ◀ All pitches are assessed as either M1/D1 or M1/D2, meaning all pitches are rated as standard.
- ◀ Wolverhampton RUFC consists of three senior men's teams, one senior women's team, an U21s (male) colt's team, an U19s (male) colt's team, four junior boys' teams and six mini teams. All match play and training occurs at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- ◀ It is reported by Wolverhampton RUFC that the Club trains at Wolverhampton Rugby Club an average of six hours per week.

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- ◀ Teams from the University of Wolverhampton (which play BUCS fixtures) are currently displaced outside of Wolverhampton; the teams use Walsall Rugby Club for competitive matches. This is preferred by the University as they have a partnership with Walsall RUFC.
- ◀ TGRs predict that there will be an increase of one mini team, whilst Wolverhampton RUFC reports plans to increase its number of teams by one senior women's team.
- ◀ There is spare capacity on mini pitches at Aldersley High School and Wolverhampton Grammar School, which is considered to be *actual* spare capacity. There is no spare capacity on senior pitches.
- ◀ All three pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club are overplayed by a combined total of six match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ There is evidence to suggest the need for an alternative (off pitch) floodlit training venue/pitch.
- ◀ Another way to alleviate overplay would be to install additional floodlighting.
- ◀ By potentially marking out additional mini pitches away from senior pitches (should the land exist), overplay will reduce.

Rugby league summary

- ◀ There is one rugby league pitch within Wolverhampton, located at Moreton Community High School. Rugby league is also played on a rugby union pitch at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- ◀ The pitch at Moreton Community High School is assessed as standard quality, meaning it can accommodate two match sessions per week.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Wasps RLFC fields one senior men's team, two junior teams and one primary team. The senior team plays home matches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, whilst the junior and primary teams play at Moreton Community High School.
- ◀ Moreton Dragons RLFC fields one team which plays at Moreton Community High School.
- ◀ Based on match play only, the pitch at Moreton Community High School has spare capacity amounting to 0.25 of a pitch.
- ◀ Communication with both Moreton Dragons RLFC and Wolverhampton Wasps RLFC is recommended to fully understand any relevant needs.

Hockey summary

- ◀ There are four full size sand based artificial pitches in Wolverhampton. The Tettenhall Analysis Area contains three pitches, whilst the remaining pitch is located in the Wednesfield Analysis Area.
- ◀ An additional sand based pitch at Heath Park Business Enterprise College has recently been lost as the School undergoes a new build. When the pitch is re-provided in 2016, it is expected to be brought back into use as a 3G AGP and therefore will not be suitable for hockey use.
- ◀ A further AGP located at Royal Wolverhampton School is considered marginally too short to host competitive hockey fixtures, however, the pitch is currently used by adult teams.
- ◀ The AGP at Royal Wolverhampton School has not been resurfaced since the pitch was provided in 2004.
- ◀ There are three hockey clubs in Wolverhampton; Finchfield Hockey Club, Old Wulfrunians Hockey Club and Wolverhampton and Tettenhall Hockey Club. All three clubs report an intention to increase their number of teams in the future.
- ◀ Supply is deemed adequate enough to meet demand for both senior and junior hockey.

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- ◀ Focus should be placed on ensuring the quality of the current supply of AGPs is improved and sustained. Particular priority, therefore, should be directed at refurbishing the AGP at Royal Wolverhampton School.
- ◀ The lack of hockey demand should also be explored at South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy.

3G AGP summary

- ◀ There are two full size 3G pitches available for community use in Wolverhampton at Our Lady & St Chads College and at Wolverhampton College. The pitch at Wolverhampton College is not currently FA certified and the College reports that the 3G pitch is running close to capacity when it is available during the peak period.
- ◀ Both full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ There is also a full size 3G pitch at Compton park which is unavailable to the community.
- ◀ 57% of football clubs expressed a need for access to more training facilities, with the majority highlighting 3G pitches as a requirement.
- ◀ On the basis that 267 teams are playing competitive football in Wolverhampton, in order to satisfy training demand, there is a recommended need for at least five full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ Based on the number of teams in each analysis area, demand is being met in the Bilston and the North Analysis Areas, whilst there is a shortfall of one 3G pitch in each of the three remaining analysis areas.
- ◀ Moving all competitive mini football matches from grass pitches to 3G pitches would require the use of three AGPs subject to match programming outlined in the assessment report.
- ◀ Moving all youth 11v11 football would require 13 pitches if they all played on the same day, or ten pitches if they continued to play on the same day as they currently do (Saturdays and Sundays).
- ◀ Transferring youth 11v11 teams from adult pitches would require seven 3G pitches.

Bowls summary

- ◀ There are 22 crown green bowling greens in Wolverhampton across 20 sites.
- ◀ Of the greens, 14 are assessed as good quality and the remaining eight are assessed as standard quality. Of clubs responding to consultation, five deem their green to be good quality, six assess theirs as standard and three rate theirs as poor.
- ◀ Five clubs report that the quality of their home green has got 'much better' since the previous season, whilst one club reports that their green has got 'slightly better'. Two clubs report that their home green has got 'slightly poorer', whilst the remaining clubs report no difference.
- ◀ There are 19 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton, of which, 14 have been consulted. There are a total of 655 members across the consulted clubs, consisting of 512 men, 113 women and 30 juniors.
- ◀ Seven clubs report that there has been a decrease in membership over the previous three years. In addition to this, four Wolverhampton clubs were discovered to have folded within this time period. Penn Bowling Club, Fordhouses Bowling Club and 44 Club Bowling Club all report an increase in membership.
- ◀ 12 clubs have plans to increase the number of members in the future. When asked to quantify potential growth, clubs report plans to increase membership by 87 senior members and 39 junior members.

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- ◀ The average club membership in Wolverhampton is 46 (per one green). 10 clubs are operating below this average and as such are likely to have capacity to increase use of their home green.
- ◀ ECC Bowling Club (49 members) and Express & Star Bowling Club (50 members) report no additional demand for more greens to be provided.
- ◀ Fordhouses Bowling Club (73 members) and Penn Bowling Club (107 members) report a demand for an additional green in order to sustain and increase membership.
- ◀ Additionally, the Bilston Bowling League reports that Springvale Bowling Club is almost at saturation with its two greens. As the Club did not respond to consultation, further communication with the Club is recommended in order to better understand its needs.

Tennis summary

- ◀ There are a total of 122 tennis courts across 26 sites provided in Wolverhampton, 72 of which are available for community use across 16 sites.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use, 34 courts are assessed as good quality, 33 are deemed standard and five are rated as poor.
- ◀ The only courts available for community use and assessed as poor quality are located at East Park. Courts at Colton Hills High School, Moreton Community High School and Moseley Park School are also assessed as poor quality, however, these courts are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ The seven clubs servicing Wolverhampton collectively provide a total of 1,198 senior members and 461 junior members.
- ◀ Bilston Tennis Club no longer has a home facility after its four tennis courts became disused due to a lack of funding and maintenance. The Club now uses Tipton Sports Academy, which is outside of Wolverhampton, resulting in displaced demand.
- ◀ Four clubs report plans to increase their membership. When asked to quantify potential growth, clubs report plans to increase membership by 170 senior members and 180 junior members.
- ◀ Use of park courts in Wolverhampton is more common than in other local authorities, in part due to the Wolverhampton Parks Tennis League.
- ◀ No clubs readily allow for casual use of their courts by the community and no education sites which are available to the community report any regular community demand.

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PART 4: SPORT BY SPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following objectives have been created through the use of the sport specific issues and the supply and demand analysis within the assessment report:

FOOTBALL RECOMMENDATION

Seek to focus future investment on improving the current offer for football with the creation of three new 3G AGPs to serve the game for training, affiliated match play and recreational football as a priority.

Grass pitches

- ◀ Where pitches are assessed as poor quality at key strategic sites, review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Link with Pitch Improvement Programme.
- ◀ Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand on sites which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Seek to improve quality at sites used by teams within the football pyramid to ensure sustainability.
- ◀ Seek to improve changing provision on key strategic sites.
- ◀ Ensure that teams are playing on the correct sized pitches.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise access to primary/secondary schools and academies to address latent, displaced or future demand and to develop school-club links.
- ◀ Ensure all club sites have security of tenure.

3G pitches

- ◀ Seek to provide three new full size AGPs to reduce shortfalls and ensure that they are fully utilised and available for community use at peak times, including weekends. All new pitches should be FA tested.
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain 3G pitches in the long term and consider the operational and management model of future hub sites.
- ◀ Engage with Wolverhampton Football Steering Group which services all 3G pitches in the Area.
- ◀ Ensure that all current AGPs are FA tested and reviewed.
- ◀ Ensure that all new full size 3G pitches are built to correct size specifications.
- ◀ Ensure pricing policies are in line with current provision.
- ◀ Consider the impact of AGPs in neighbouring authorities when considering demand for new pitches.

CRICKET RECOMMENDATION

Protect all current provision, including local authority pitches, and work to improve quality of standard and poor quality pitches

- ◀ Protect current levels of provision to accommodate current and future demand
- ◀ Improve quality of grass pitches through increased maintenance
- ◀ Support clubs to develop and improve 'off pitch' practice facilities or additional access to training provision elsewhere.

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- ◀ Ensure that any facilities developed support opportunities for women's and girl's competitive cricket.
- ◀ Consider the use of non-turf wickets for LMS

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RUGBY UNION RECOMMENDATION

Work towards reducing over play at the Club site and improve the quality of ancillary facilities

- ◀ Improve the quality and maintenance of pitches to help address overplay.
- ◀ Seek access to additional pitches to accommodate shortfalls
- ◀ Floodlighting would help to alleviate over play, however pitch improvements would also be required.
- ◀ Consider access to or provision of additional pitches, particularly for training, as a way to reduce over play.
- ◀ Improve poor quality ancillary facilities
- ◀ Consider sites for World Rugby AGPs as a way to accommodate shortfalls

RUGBY LEAGUE RECOMMENDATION

Work towards providing rugby league on dedicated sites and/or pitches

- ◀ Work with the NGB to increase play and provide dedicated pitches to relieve over play at rugby union sites
- ◀ Improve pitch quality if demand increases

HOCKEY RECOMMENDATION

Protect current provision and improve pitch quality where possible and appropriate.

- ◀ Protect existing sand based pitches that have community use (Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton Grammar and Royal Wolverhampton School).
- ◀ Further explore demand for hockey at South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy
- ◀ Improve pitch quality where possible, particularly Royal Wolverhampton School
- ◀ Ensure that sinking funds are in place to maintain AGP quality in the long term.

BOWLS RECOMMENDATION

Maximise access to existing provision and monitor future demand

- ◀ Investigate the possibility of transferring teams from single green sites to double green sites when supply exists in order to reduce potential maintenance and associated costs;
- ◀ Where possible ensure clubs provide pay and play opportunities at greens located in public parks.
- ◀ Support and encourage junior bowls development in order to grow and sustain future participation levels in the sport.
- ◀ Further investigate future demand for additional greens on a site by site basis

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TENNIS RECOMMENDATION

Maximise access to existing provision and increase capacity at club sites where it is necessary to accommodate future demand.

- ◀ Improve court quality where sites are assessed as poor.
- ◀ Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.
- ◀ Where demand exists seek to increase court capacity through installation of floodlighting, and link to indoor provision.
- ◀ Ensure that parks courts are of appropriate quality to accommodate recreational usage.

NETBALL RECOMMENDATION

Protect key netball site in order to sustain participation

- ◀ Protect the key site for netball
- ◀ Prioritise courts at key sites for improvements in the future

ATHLETICS RECOMMENDATION

Maximise access to existing provision and protect for athletics

- ◀ Maximise use of current facilities for athletics
- ◀ Ensure sinking fund in place for future track refurbishment

CYCLING RECOMMENDATION

Maximise access to existing provision and improve quality to protect long term use

- ◀ Improve fencing at Aldersley Track
- ◀ Ensure appropriate maintenance is in place at all cycle facilities
- ◀ Consider options for bringing disused sites back in to use
- ◀ Further investigate the potential impact of latent/ future demand.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 5: OBJECTIVES

The Wolverhampton PPS is a strategy not just for the local authority, but holistically for sport across the City as a whole. Delivery of the Strategy is the responsibility of and relies on, *all* stakeholders.

The following overarching objectives are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1 below). It is recommended that the following are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the Strategy and Sport England planning objectives. Objective specifics and timescales are included within the action plan (Part 7).

AIM 1

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

AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

PART 6: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of an assessment report, as well as key drivers identified for the Strategy.

Implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations. Provision for disability sport should also be considered and acknowledged in the decision making process.

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that sports facilities are protected through the implementation of policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities where there is a need to do so.

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

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

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

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

Protect the existing supply of sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current or future needs. The majority of facilities from the assessment report justify protection. Local plan policies should protect facilities and the scope to legally safeguard long term use of strategically important sites to the community such as the strategic sites and key centres should be considered. For example, through the Fields in Trust programme (www.fieldsintrust.org).

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

For further information please refer to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy - 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' Policy Exceptions E4 and E5 which can be found at:

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

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/123588/policy-exception-5.pdf>

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

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

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

- ◀ Location and willingness of the Council or a club (or other party) to take on ownership/lease/maintenance
- ◀ Size
- ◀ Quality
- ◀ Physical accessibility
- ◀ History of community access
- ◀ Availability of ancillary facilities

There are a number of dormant sites within Wolverhampton that have been identified through this study and can be seen in the table below. With some shortfalls across the City it is important therefore **to protect these sites in the short term until such a point when there is no evidence of unmet demand**. Furthermore, these sites can act as strategic reserve and provide additional spare capacity:

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 3: Strategic reserve sites

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Analysis area	Current number of pitches	Potential additional pitches that could be accommodated	Comments
5	Bantock Park	Yes	Tettenhall	2 Adult	1 Adult	Site has room for three adult pitches but only two are used at any one time in order to rest and rotate the pitches.
6	Bee Lane Playing Fields	Yes – unused	North	1 Youth	1 Adult and 1 Mini	Site has room for three pitches but only one pitch has been marked out since 2009 (poor quality). Two primary schools adjoining the Site have no playing field but do not appear to use Bee Lane.
20	Colton Hills High School	Yes	Central & South	2 Adult	2 Mini	Site previously also had two mini pitches marked out. Assumed that demand does not exist for the mini pitches.
26	Dixon Street Playing Fields	Yes	Central & South	2 Adult	1 Youth	Site previously had a youth pitch marked in addition to adult pitches.
33	Fallings Park Primary	No	North	-	1 Youth	Site currently has no pitches marked but previously had a youth pitch.
35	Fowlers Park	Yes	Wednesfield	5 Adult	2 Adult	Site has room for seven adult pitches but only five are marked out currently. A sixth pitch is also used so that pitches can be rested and rotated and a seventh has been taken out of use due to poor quality.
73	Prouds Lane Playing Field	Yes – unused	Bilston	1 Youth	1 Youth	Site previously had two youth pitches marked out but reduced to one pitch due to lack of demand.
88	St Michael's C of E	No	Tettenhall	-	1 Youth	Site previously had a youth pitch marked out but not currently.
109	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Yes	Tettenhall	6 Adult	1 Adult and 1 Youth	Site has room for seven adult pitches but only six are marked out currently. The seventh is used so that pitches can be rested and rotated. Youth pitch not currently marked due to lack of demand.
114	Wolverhampton Girls High School	No	Central & South	-	1 Youth	School previously marked youth pitch but does not do so anymore as school plays mostly cricket and tennis. No community use.
155	Graiseley Recreation Ground	Yes	Central & South	-	1 Mini	Site can accommodate a mini pitch and has previously done so but not currently marked due to demand.
184	West Park Primary	No	Central &	-	1 Youth	Site previously had a youth pitch marked out but not currently.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Analysis area	Current number of pitches	Potential additional pitches that could be accommodated	Comments
			South			
201	Springdale Infant School	Yes	Tettenhall	-	1 Youth	Site previously had a youth pitch and additional generic playing field.
211	Parkfields School	Yes	Central & South	-	1 Adult	Site previously had an adult pitch marked out but not currently.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

There are a number of sites in Wolverhampton where security of tenure for the club/user needs to be secured, including on education sites where formal community use agreements are not in place. NGBs can often help to negotiate and engage with schools, particularly academies where the local authority may not have direct influence. For further information on this, please refer to Recommendation (c) of Objective 1.

A minimum of 25 years is recommended by Sport England and NGBs to ensure security of a site and enable clubs to apply for external funding. There is one club that has been identified as having less than this term remaining on its lease and **it is recommended that agreements are in place to future proof the sustainability of the club:**

- ◀ AFC Wulfrunians, Castlecroft Stadium (Site ID 215) – Six years into 15 year lease

There is potential in the future for more sites in Wolverhampton to be leased to sports clubs. Each club should be required to meet service and/or strategic objectives. However, an additional set of criteria should be considered, which takes into account the quality of the club, aligned to its long term development objectives and sustainability.

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

Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations:

Club	Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award. ◀ Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links. ◀ Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (see section 7.2) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City wide significance) but which offer development potential. For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' (see section 7.2) are also appropriate. ◀ If required, sites should acquire capital investment via external funding and partnerships to improve quality.

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Ideally, clubs should have themselves already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified. ◀ Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site. ◀ An NGB/Council representative should sit on a management committee for each site leased to a club.

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

Where clubs are unable to meet the required outcomes of the agreement the Council will consider the continued support and use of the site and an intervention may be required.

Club outcomes for lease agreements

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

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

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

Community Asset Transfer Policy

Wolverhampton Council already has a Community Asset Transfer Policy which supports community management of assets, to include local clubs, community groups and trusts. The policy presents sports clubs and national governing bodies with opportunities to take greater responsibility for their own facilities. The Council encourages the better and wider use of assets.

For any asset transfer that involves changing facilities and/or buildings, but not pitches, it is imperative that community use of the pitches continues; not only for the organisations taking on the asset transfer, but for other clubs as well.

The Council Asset Advancement Policy can be accessed via the following website link:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/2882/Community-Asset-Transfer>

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The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit is a generic, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process: www.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx to be used by clubs as an information point for any club considering an asset transfer request. The Council policy and procedures set out the specific requirements for a Wolverhampton asset transfer.

Recommendation (c) Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities

Education sites

In order to maximise community use of educational facilities it is recommended to establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools, regardless of ownership, i.e. academies, independent schools, etc. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play, but especially to train. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some of the education sites but physical access and resistance from schools, especially academies, to open up provision is also an issue for a number of reasons.

The following clubs play all of their games on education sites and **it is recommended therefore that a formalised community use agreement is negotiated and put in place:**

◀ Penn Colts FC

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college and the local clubs. The Council and other key partners must work with schools and colleges to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access. Support should be provided, where appropriate, to address underlying problems and concerns that schools may have.

It is not uncommon for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use. Even on established community use sites, access to outdoor sports facilities to the community is limited. Consultation identified several issues relating to the use of school facilities:

- ◀ Cost and insurance is the overarching problem for most schools.
- ◀ Many schools report that pitches cannot be accessed by the community due to being unable to staff the opening/closing of facilities both during and outside of the school day.
- ◀ Health and safety regulations/ child protection present barriers for opening schools out of hours.
- ◀ Community use is limited and often based on informal agreements between individual schools and clubs.
- ◀ There is no strategic guidance as to which clubs are allocated the use of playing pitch facilities (i.e. in accordance with a strategic need).
- ◀ There are management issues inherent in developing, implementing and managing community use agreements. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Sport England's Schools toolkit and Sports organisations toolkit. (www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning)

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Where appropriate, it will be important for schools to negotiate and sign formal and long-term agreements that secure community use. This needs to be examined against the following:

- ◀ The analysis provides a clear indication of the future pitch requirements and provides a basis for partners to negotiate.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on the needs of schools to deliver curricular and extracurricular activities and;
- ◀ Community use must not impact on the school's educational budget.
- ◀ Community use should not impact on safeguarding during the school day.
- ◀ Consideration of "wear and tear" on school premises versus budget available for repairs and maintenance.
- ◀ The need for agreement by Governing Bodies responsible for the safe management of school premises.

'Use Our School' is a Sport England resource to support schools in opening their facilities to the community and keeping them open. It provides tried and tested solutions, real life practice, tips from people making it happen and a range of downloadable resources. The information can be accessed here:

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The following schools were reported as being **available for community use but currently unused**. It is recommended that these schools are prioritised in terms of further exploring the reason pitches are currently unused by the community:

Site ID	Site name	Available for community use?	Analysis area	Sport	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches
19	Claregate Primary School	Yes - unused	Tettenhall	Football	Youth	(9v9)	1
45	Holy Rosary Catholic School	Yes - unused	Bilston	Football	Youth	(9v9)	1
51	Long Knowle Primary School	Yes - unused	Wednesfield	Football	Youth	(9v9)	1
51	Long Knowle Primary School	Yes - unused	Wednesfield	Football	Mini	(5v5)	1
65	Palmers Cross Primary School	Yes - unused	Tettenhall	Football	Youth	(9v9)	1
92	Stowlawn Primary School	Yes - unused	Bilston	Football	Mini	(5v5)	2
111	Wodensfield Primary School	Yes – unused	Wednesfield	Football	Youth	(9v9)	1
159	Royal Wolverhampton (junior) School	Yes – unused	Central & South	Football	Mini	(7v7)	2
163	D'eyncourt Primary School	Yes – unused	Wednesfield	Football	Youth	(9v9)	2
214	Westcroft Sports College	Yes – unused	North	Football	Adult	-	1
214	Westcroft Sports College	Yes – unused	North	Football	Mini	(7v7)	1
221	St Stephens CE Primary	Yes – unused	Wednesfield	Football	Youth	(9v9)	1

In addition to the school sites that are reported to be available but unused there were also a number of sites identified as having pitches marked out previously or with space around existing pitches to mark out further pitches (see Table 3 above). These sites should be considered to accommodate any shortfalls, particularly if demand increases in the future. The pitches provide potential spare capacity and should be held as strategic reserve.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve pitch quality on poor quality sites.

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that most councils are operating under reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving only poor quality pitches as a priority. However, given such pressures on budgets any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, for example for cricket, the Club could maintain the square and the Council the outfield. Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

The FA, ECB and RFL are all part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the clubs' playing surface. Where quality issues are identified the Pitch Improvement Programme should be accessed to help support improvements.

Addressing quality issues

Pitch quality in Wolverhampton is variable but on the whole pitches are assessed as standard quality, with a small proportion of both poor and good quality pitches. Currently used sites that are of poor quality and require pitch improvements are listed in the table below. Improving pitch quality increases the carrying capacity of pitches and can help to reduce overplay and/or shortfalls.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Currently used sites with poor pitch quality and over played:

Sport	KKP ref	Site ²	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches
Football	20	Colton Hills High School	Central & South	Adult	2
	194	Danescourt Road Sports Club	Tettenhall	9v9	1
Cricket	58	Newbridge Playing Fields	Central & South	Senior	1

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

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

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

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

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

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:

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

Addressing overplay

In order to improve the overall quality of the playing pitches stock; it is necessary to ensure that pitches are not overplayed beyond recommended weekly carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing pitch quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a weekly match limit to each. Each NGB recommends a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take:

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week

² For extended detail on the location of sites please refer to Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Assessment Report and Database.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches
Rugby union*	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5 per week
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25 per week
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3 per week
Rugby League	Adult pitches	3 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season

* Please note that the RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme afforded to a site.

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

Whilst it works both ways, in so much as, poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and, therefore, more popular; which in the long run can lead again to poor quality pitches if they are not maintained properly.

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

Increasing pitch maintenance

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

For example, NGBs have introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and has been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG). The key principles behind the scheme are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

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

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

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

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities. Priorities should be identified from the NGBs that can also feed into the overall priorities of Wolverhampton.

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

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

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

Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health through, for example, the CCG.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development. As the Council does not intend to adopt CIL, the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy should be used as the evidence base for securing and negotiating developer contributions.

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

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed specifying the amount which will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission, and timing of the Contribution(s) to be paid.

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- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance .
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved playing pitches on school sites should be subject to community use agreements. For further guidance please refer to Sport England:
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-use-agreements/>

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 4).

It is important that the current levels of grass pitch provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. Maximising use of existing pitches through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls:

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

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited.

Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults as well as mid-week 11 aside matches and hub sites for mini and youth football.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Qualitative improvements to national league stadia facilities to sustain clubs at that level.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and The FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to accommodate this demand.
Cricket	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	The Rugby Football Union work towards achieving the stated outcomes of the Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the Rugby Football Union National Women and Girls Strategy and the Rugby Football Union National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches in Wolverhampton that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth particularly in light of the Rugby World Cup 2015. Further, that the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.	Work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate improving pitch quality to accommodate demand. Access to additional pitches is likely to be required to accommodate shortfalls.
Rugby league	Sustain the current level of demand and look to grow where possible.	Sustain current levels of access to grass pitches and improve pitch quality/capacity.
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches in the City. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches, especially for training, will increase.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf
Hockey	Potential increase of adult and junior teams.	Sinking funds in place and resurface in the future.
Bowls	No expected increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Tennis	No clubs report latent demand for access to additional courts. Therefore, it is likely that any increase in participation will be accommodated at existing courts	Increases in participation can be achieved through floodlighting courts to provide additional hours and the re-surfacing of courts.
Netball	EN aim to increase netball participation by 10,000 per year, through a range of programmes and initiatives.	Potential for access to additional netball courts.
Cycling	Potential to increase participation in track cycling through initiatives.	Improvements to current facilities and ongoing maintenance to accommodate any additional use.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

The Steering Group should use, and regularly update, the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to council pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area. Although there are some shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, the majority of demand is currently being met and most of these shortfalls are likely to be addressed by pitch creation projects which are well underway. Furthermore there are dormant sites which have capacity to accommodate additional pitches, which could be brought back in to use if required. **Adding to the pitch stock, particularly in the short term is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of AGPs where there is a discrete need for three additional pitches.** Based on the FA model for calculating AGP requirements the table below identifies the current number of 3G pitches across the City and the shortfalls based on the FA model. Given the catchment of AGPs, it is possible that new pitches provided in adjoining areas could service the shortfalls in areas identified below:

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Bilston	38	1	1	-
Central & South	25	1	-	1
North	58	1	1	-
Tettenhall	54	1	-	1
Wednesfield	55	1	-	1
Wolverhampton	230	5	2	3

PART 7: ACTION PLAN

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

Wolverhampton has a number of 'key centres', which are sites that are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mostly to football pitch hire. However, the Council should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Proposed tiered site criteria

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/planning_tools_and_guidance/sports_hubs.aspx

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

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

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

Local club/education sites refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with more than one pitch. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.

It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the pitches or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the facilities.

Reserve sites could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with The FA.

Action plan columns

Partners

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

Site hierarchy tier and priority level

Strategic sites have a **high** priority level as they have City wide importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment.

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

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

Costs

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

(L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above. These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at www.sportengland.org/media/198443/facility-costs-4q13.pdf

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Timescales

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

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

Site recommendation

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

Due to the significant shortfalls in provision almost all sites are currently recommended to be protected. It is imperative therefore to **keep the action plan up to date and review regularly** as developments take place. With pitch improvements and/or facility developments the status of sites could therefore change, as could any site specific recommendations.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

BILSTON AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity ³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent / Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	4	-	-	-4	1	-3
Youth pitches 11v11	1	-	-	-1	-	-1
Youth pitches 9v9	1	-	0.5	-0.5	5	+3.5
Mini pitches 7v7	1	-	-	-1	1.5	+0.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	1.5	+1.5

- ◀ Spare capacity exists overall on adult pitches and youth 11v11 pitches both now and in the future.
- ◀ Although spare capacity exists currently on youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches, future demand is likely to result in a shortfall of 3.5 and 0.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity, with a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalents identified after taking into account future demand.
- ◀ No pitches are currently overplayed throughout the Analysis Area.
- ◀ There is one full size 3G pitch, which is deemed sufficient to accommodate the 38 teams playing within the Analysis Area.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain spare capacity where it can be used to protect/improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 teams from adult pitches on to youth 11v11 pitches. Use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to create and build future capacity on youth pitches.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitch at City of Wolverhampton College remains suitable for use through a sinking fund. Explore having the pitch FA certified to host competitive matches.
- ◀ Explore potential for accessing school sites such as Holy Rosary and Stowlawn Primary School.

Cricket

- ◀ There is one grass wicket cricket pitch in the Analysis Area (Springvale Sports & Social Club) which is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The pitch currently has spare capacity of five match equivalent sessions, however, no capacity exists during peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Future demand from Springvale CC results in a shortfall of 0.5 pitches.
- ◀ There is one standalone non-turf wicket pitch, located at South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy, which is available for community use and used.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain spare capacity in order to protect and improve wicket quality.

³ In match equivalent sessions

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Explore ways to accommodate expressed future demand.
- ◀ Improve/increase training provision.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are no rugby union pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore possibilities should demand for rugby union pitches exist in the future.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Hockey

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP, located at South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy.
- ◀ The pitch is floodlit and assessed as good quality.
- ◀ There are currently no hockey users of the pitch.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore lack of local hockey demand.

Tennis

- ◀ There are six community available courts, five at East Park and one at South Wolverhampton & Bilston Academy.
- ◀ The courts at East Park are assessed as poor quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve courts at East Park.

Bowls

- ◀ There are four greens, all of which are good quality.
- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, with no clubs expressing a need for an additional green.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain green quality.

Cycling

- ◀ A cycle speedway track at East Park is used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.

Recommendations

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Sustain speedway track quality in order to ensure continued club use.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴	Cost ⁵
8	Bilston Town Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
9	Bilston C of E Primary School	Football	School	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality. Available and used by the community, of which all users are youth 11v11 teams. One match equivalent of spare capacity remains.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better suit youth 11v11 users. Ensure maintenance is appropriate for levels of use. Retain some spare capacity to accommodate school use.	School FA	Education	S	L
11	Bilston Town Football Ground, Queen Street	Football	Club	Stadia adult pitch assessed as good quality. Leased by Bilston Town FC, which plays at Step 6 of the football pyramid. There are 22 years remaining on the lease. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Extend lease arrangement to provide greater security of tenure. Ensure club can advance through the football pyramid. Retain spare capacity to protect pitch quality.	Club Council FA	Local	S	L
29	East Park	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality with no actual spare capacity.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate for levels of use.	Council FA	Key Centre	M	M
		Cycling		A cycle speedway track used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.	Sustain track in order to ensure continued club use.	Council		L	L
30	East Park Primary School	Football	School	One adult and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Both pitches are available to the community however the 7v7 pitch is unused. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains on the adult pitch.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Education	S	L
31	Eastfield Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
45	Holy Rosary Catholic School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Education	S	L
46	Holy Trinity Catholic Primary	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
52	Loxdale Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
56	Moseley Park School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch available to the community and used to capacity.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate for levels of use.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain and improve court quality for school use.	School LTA		S	M
66	South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy (Prosser Street)	Football	School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. All pitches are available to the community, however, the 9v9 pitch is unused. Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalents remains on the adult pitches.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit, sand based AGP which was provided in 2013. Not currently used for hockey.	Consider value in its current state. Ensure sinking fund is in place.	School EH		L	L

⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁵ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴	Cost ⁵
		Cricket		An artificial wicket pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used.	Retain for continued school and community use.	School ECB		L	L
		Tennis		One good quality macadam court. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
73	Prouds Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	An unused youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality.	Explore options to maximise use of the site. Consider transfer of youth 11v11 teams currently playing on adult pitches.	Council FA	Local	S	L
86	St Martin's CE Primary School	Football	School	A 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. No community use is allowed.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
92	Stowlawn Primary School	Football	School	Two 5v5 pitches available to the community but unused. Both pitches assessed as standard quality.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Education	S	L
121	Nordley Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
129	Springvale Sports & Social Club	Football	Club	An adult and a youth 11v11 pitch managed by Springvale Steelers FC and assessed as standard quality. No spare capacity is deemed to exist. Pitches are over marked on cricket outfield.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate for levels of use.	Club FA	Key Centre	S	L
		Cricket		A standard quality pitch with 11 grass wickets. No capacity available during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance in order to sustain current usage.	Club ECB		S	L
		Bowls		Two good quality greens. Reported to be close to saturation by the Bilston Bowling League.	Sustain green quality. Explore clubs needs in relation to green requirements.	Club Council		S	L
133	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	3G AGP	College	A full size, floodlit, 3G AGP. Available to the community but not officially during weekends due to staffing issues. Provided in 2010.	Seek FA testing to host competitive matches. Ensure a sinking fund is in place.	College FA	Education	S	L
153	East Park Tennis Courts	Tennis	Council	Five poor quality macadam courts.	Improve quality in order to better accommodate recreational use.	Council LTA	Local	S	M
181	Villers Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
222	Field View Primary	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CENTRAL & SOUTH AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent / Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	4	1	-	-3	-	-3
Youth pitches 11v11	1	-	-	-1	-	-1
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	-	0	-	0
Mini pitches 7v7	1	-	-	-1	-	-1
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	0

- ◀ There are no shortfalls evident across any pitch type, with spare capacity existing on adult, youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches both now and in the future. Youth 9v9 and Mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.
- ◀ No future demand is identified.
- ◀ Overplay of one match equivalent session exists on an adult pitch at Colton Hills High School.
- ◀ There is one 3G pitch located at Compton Park, however, the pitch is considered unavailable for community use. Therefore, there are no 3G pitches to satisfy demand for 25 teams.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate overplay
- ◀ Retain spare capacity where it can be used to protect/improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 teams from adult pitches on to youth 11v11 pitches. Use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to create and build future capacity on youth pitches.
- ◀ Explore potential sites to provide 3G provision available to the community.

Cricket

- ◀ There are two grass wicket pitches, located at Newbridge Playing Fields and Penn Cricket Ground. Newbridge Playing Fields is assessed as poor quality, whilst Penn Cricket Ground is assessed as standard.
- ◀ There are 19 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity identified at Newbridge Playing Fields and eight match equivalents at Penn Cricket Ground. Despite this, neither pitch has spare capacity during peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ There are four standalone non-turf wicket pitches, however, only Royal Wolverhampton (junior) School is available for community use.
- ◀ Overall, pitches are adjudged to be played to capacity.

Recommendations

⁶ In match equivalent sessions

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Improve pitch and changing facility quality at Newbridge Playing Fields. Improve cricket wickets from poor to (at least) standard
- ◀ Retain some spare capacity in order to help improve/sustain pitch quality.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure to Whitmore Reans CC at Newbridge Playing Fields.
- ◀ Improve/increase training provision.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are no rugby union pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore possibilities should demand for rugby union pitches exist in the future.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Hockey

- ◀ There are no full size AGPs suitable for hockey.
- ◀ An AGP at Royal Wolverhampton School is considered marginally too short to host competitive hockey fixtures, however, the pitch is currently used.
- ◀ There are a further two smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs located at Colton Hills School and All Saints Games Area.
- ◀ The surface of the AGP at Royal Wolverhampton School has not been resurfaced since the pitch was provided in 2004.

Recommendations

- ◀ Resurface the AGP at Royal Wolverhampton School to ensure continued hockey use.

Tennis

- ◀ There are 24 community available courts.
- ◀ Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club and Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis Club contain two and 12 courts respectively, whilst all remaining courts are within local authority or education sites.
- ◀ All courts are assessed as good or standard.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain court quality.
- ◀ Support Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club in developing its facility in order to allow for the clubs planned growth.

Bowls

- ◀ There are six greens, all of which are good or standard quality.
- ◀ Penn Bowling Club reports plans to create a new green at Penn Bowling & Social Club.
- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand for all remaining clubs.

Recommendations

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Sustain green quality.
- ◀ Support Penn Bowling Club in its need for an additional green.

Other sports

- ◀ There is one cinder athletics track at St. Edmunds Catholic Academy

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain cinder track for school use.
- ◀ Retain netball courts for school use.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷	Cost ⁸
20	Colton Hills High School	Football	School	Two adult pitches assessed as poor quality and over played by one match equivalent session.	Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate overplay.	School FA	Education	S	M
		Sand AGP		A half size, sand based, floodlit AGP which is poor quality. Available to the community.	Consider value of pitch in current state.	School EH		S	L
		Cricket		A poor quality artificial wick pitch which is not available to the community.	No current demand. Improve quality and retain for school use.	School ECB		S	M
		Tennis		Eight poor quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain and improve quality for school use.	School LTA		S	M
26	Dixon Street Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two good quality adult pitches with 0.5 match equivalents of actual spare capacity. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain pitch quality. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	Council FA	Local	L	L
40	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Two good quality artificial courts.	Sustain court quality.	Club LTA	Local	L	L
44	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with 1.5 match equivalents of spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels.	Council FA	Local	S	L
49	Lanesfield Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	L
53	Manor Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	L
58	Newbridge Playing Fields	Football	Council	An adult and a 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains on the adult pitch, whilst the 7v7 pitch is unused.	No current demand for 7v7 pitch. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels on adult pitch.	Council FA	Local	S	L
		Cricket		A poor quality square with eight grass wickets. No available capacity during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage and improve from poor to standard quality. Improve cricket and football changing facility.	Council ECB		S	L
69	Penn Cricket Ground	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 10 grass wickets and an artificial strip. No spare capacity during peak time. The artificial strip is in need of refurbishment.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Improve artificial wicket.	Club ECB	Local	S	M
76	Royal Wolverhampton School (Senior School playing fields)	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch available to the community and used. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Sand AGP		A floodlit, sand based AGP considered marginally too short to host competitive hockey but still used. The carpet is 11 years old.	Resurface AGP to ensure continued hockey use.	School EH		S	M
		Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L

⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷	Cost ⁸
78	Springvale Junior School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	L
80	Springvale Park	Football	Council	An adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Explore alternative options.	Council FA	Local	S	L
83	St Edmunds Catholic High School	Football	School	Three adult, two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. No community use is allowed as it cannot be staffed by the School.	Compete provision of new adult pitch and make available for community use.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts unavailable to the community. Floodlit.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
89	St Peters Collegiate High School	Tennis	School	Eight standard quality macadam courts, four of which are available to the community however are unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
90	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	L
95	The Giffard Roman Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A youth 11v11 pitch and a 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is available to the community and used, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. The 9v9 pitch is unavailable to the community.	No current demand for 9v9 pitch. Retain for school use. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels on youth 11v11 pitch.	School FA	Education	S	L
105	West Park Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Council	Local	L	L
114	Wolverhampton Girls High School	Cricket	School	An artificial wicket pitch of good quality. Not available for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB	Education	L	L
		Tennis		Two good quality and four standard quality macadam courts. No community use is allowed.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
115	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Tennis	Club	Five good quality artificial turf courts, three good quality macadam courts, one good quality clay court and three standard quality grass courts. All are floodlit with the exception of the grass courts. Club reports that it requires additional court space.	Sustain good quality. Support club in order to allow for its planned growth.	Club LTA	Local	L	L
122	Newhampton Inn Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
123	Oaklands Bowling and Social Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
127	Penn Bowling & Social Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green which does not satisfy demand from Penn Bowling Club.	Sustain green quality. Support club in attaining additional green space.	Club	Local	M	M
144	All Saints Games Area (pay and play)	Sand AGP	Council	A half size, floodlit, sand based AGP available to the community.	Consider value of pitch in current state.	Council	Local	S	L
159	Royal Wolverhampton School (Junior School Playing Fields)	Football	School	Two 7v7 pitches assessed as poor quality. Available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Retain and improve quality for school use.	School FA	Education	S	M

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁷	Cost ⁸
		Cricket		An artificial wicket pitch which is standard quality. Not available for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L
160	West Park Tennis Courts	Tennis	Council	Six standard quality macadam courts.	Retain for recreational use.	Council LTA	Local	L	L
177	St Luke's Primary School	Football	School	Standard quality youth 11v11 pitch available for community use but currently unused.	Create new youth 11v11 pitch with community use on adjoining land which will replace lost pitch at former St Luke's Junior School. Promote community use of both pitches.	Council	Local	S	M
199	Stile Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
200	44 Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
211	Former Parkfields School	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch available to the community and used. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels. Retain spare capacity in order to protect quality.	Council	Local	L	L
216	Compton Park - Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Training Ground	Football	Club/School	Four adult, two youth 11v11, two 9v9, one 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches all assessed as good quality. Community use is not considered available as pitches are reserved for sole use by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.	Retain pitches for private use. Sustain good quality.	Club FA	Local	L	L
		3G AGP		A full size, floodlit, 3G pitch considered unavailable to the community. Provided in 2013. FA certified to host competitive matches.	Retain for use by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Ensure sinking fund is put in place.	Club FA		L	L
		Cricket		A standard quality artificial wicket pitch used by St Peters Collegiate High School. Not available to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School Club ECB		L	L
219	Molineux Stadium	Football	Club	A stadia adult pitch owned and used solely by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Good quality.	Retain pitch for private use. Sustain good quality.	Club FA	Local	L	L
-	Rooker Avenue Sports Ground	Football	Council	Disused adult pitch and derelict changing facilities.	Improve quality and bring back in to use.	Club	Local	S	M

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NORTH AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ⁹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent / Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	5.5	3.5	-	-2	-	-2
Youth pitches 11v11	-	4	0.5	+4.5	-	+4.5
Youth pitches 9v9	6.5	-	-	-6.5	-	-6.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	-	0
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	0

- ◀ Spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions exists on adult pitches both now and in the future, however, overplay is evident at Moreton Community High School and North East Wolverhampton Academy.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches.
- ◀ Spare capacity of 6.5 match equivalent sessions exists on youth 9v9 pitches, whilst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.
- ◀ There is one 3G pitch, which satisfies demand for 58 teams.
- ◀ Barnhurst Lane site coming on board with nine new pitches should reduce shortfalls

Recommendations

- ◀ Monitor the impact of Barnhurst Lane on overplay/ shortfalls.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay through the transfer of play from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ◀ Retain spare capacity where it can be used to protect/improve quality.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 teams from adult pitches on to youth 11v11 pitches. Use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to create and build future capacity on youth pitches.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitch at Our Lady & St Chads Catholic Sports Quality is sustained to a high quality through a sinking fund.
- ◀ Consider the impact of 3G pitches in neighbouring authorities when considering the need for new 3G pitches

Cricket

- ◀ There are three grass wicket squares, one at Goodyear Sports & Social Club and two at Fordhouses Cricket Club. There are no non-turf wicket pitches.
- ◀ One square at Fordhouses Cricket Club is assessed as good quality, whilst the other is assessed as standard. Goodyear Sports & Social Club is assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ There is overall spare capacity of 44 match sessions at Fordhouses Cricket Club, whilst Goodyear Sports & Social Club is currently unused by the community despite being available.
- ◀ No spare capacity exists at Fordhouses Cricket Club during peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ Overall spare capacity of one pitch exists across the Analysis Area.

⁹ In match equivalent sessions

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain some spare capacity in order to help improve/sustain pitch quality.
- ◀ Seek potential use at Goodyear Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Improve/increase training provision.

Rugby union

- ◀ There is one senior and mini pitch at Aldersley High School. Both pitches are available to the community but unused.
- ◀ The pitches are assessed as standard quality, with natural adequate drainage and adequate maintenance.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain pitches for school use and any future community demand.

Rugby league

- ◀ There is one rugby league pitch, located at Moreton Community High School and assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ The pitch is used by both Wolverhampton Wasps RLFC and Moreton Dragons RLFC.
- ◀ The pitch has spare capacity amounting to 0.25 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Wasps RLFC also use a rugby union pitch at Wolverhampton Rugby Club for competitive matches.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain spare capacity at Moreton Community High School in order to sustain/improve pitch quality.
- ◀ Seek transfer of usage away from Wolverhampton Rugby Club to a site with a dedicated rugby league pitch.

Hockey

- ◀ There are no hockey suitable AGPs and no current demand.

Tennis

- ◀ There are seven community available courts.
- ◀ All courts are located within school sites, of which none record any regular community demand.
- ◀ All courts are assessed as good or standard quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain courts for school use and sustain quality.
- ◀ Seek court provision within local authority sites should demand exist.

Bowls

- ◀ There are three greens, all of which are good or standard quality.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Fordhouses Bowling Club reports plans to create an additional green to service its demand at Fordhouses Cricket Club.
- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand at all other clubs.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain green quality.
- ◀ Support Fordhouses Bowling Club in its need for an additional green.

Other sports

- ◀ There is a BMX track located at Aldersley High School which is now disused and unmaintained due to management and safety issues.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore options to bring BMX track back into use.
- ◀ Retain netball courts for school use.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹
-	Barnhurst Lane	Football	School Council	New site currently being developed at Barnhurst Lane which will provide adult, youth and mini pitches on a total of nine community use pitches. The Site will be managed by Aldersley High School and will have new changing facilities.	Ensure development of pitches and changing rooms is completed	Council School	Strategic	S	H
2	Aldersley High School	Football	School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community however only one team adult team currently accesses the pitches. Therefore, spare capacity exists across the site.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches on completion of Barnhurst Lane and new changing facility. Explore options to maximise use.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Rugby Union		A senior and a mini rugby pitch available to the community however unused. Drainage is natural (adequate) and maintenance is adequate.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L
		Tennis		Two good quality and two standard quality macadam courts which are floodlit. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
		BMX		A disused BMX track that cannot be staffed by the School.	Explore options to bring track back into use.	School Council		S	L
6	Bee Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch unused by the community.	Improve pitch quality. Consider youth 11v11 provision.	Council FA	Local	S	M
14	Bushbury Hill Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality adult pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use and improve quality.	School FA	Education	S	M
34	Fordhouses Cricket Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch. Minimal spare capacity discounted due to being over marked on to cricket outfield.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels.	Club FA	Local	S	L
		Cricket		One good quality square with 14 grass and one artificial wicket and one standard quality square with eight grass and one artificial wicket. No spare capacity during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	Club ECB		S	L
		Bowls		A standard quality green that does not satisfy demand from Fordhouses Bowling Club.	Sustain and improve green quality. Support Club in attaining additional green space.	Club		M	M
37	Goodrich Sports Ground	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches (one is a stadia pitch) with spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.	Retain some spare capacity to protect quality and stadia pitch.	Council FA	Local	S	L
55	Moreton Community High School	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch available to the community but overplayed. School use results in pitch being played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality in order to alleviate overplay. Explore transfer of community use to sites with spare capacity.	School FA	Education	S	M
		Rugby League		A standard quality pitch available to the community and used by Moreton Dragons RLFC and Wolverhampton Wasps RLFC. Close to capacity.	Ensure appropriate levels of maintenance to sustain usage.	School RFL		S	L

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

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

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹
		Tennis		Six poor quality, floodlit, macadam courts. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Improve courts quality and retain for school use.	School LTA		S	M
59	Northwood Park	Football	Council	Two adult pitches of standard quality. Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions remains. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Consider reconfiguration of site to better accommodate youth 11v11 users. Retain some spare capacity to protect quality.	Council FA	Local	S	L
63	Our Lady & St Chads Catholic Sports College	Football	School	A poor quality youth 11v11 pitch overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. School use alone results in overuse of one match equivalent session. 9v9 pitch to be reinstated following building work.	Improve pitch quality to accommodate school use. Seek transfer of community teams to sites with spare capacity. Calculate impact of having 9v9 pitch once reinstated – community teams may be able to be accommodated.	School FA	Education	S	M
		Tennis		Four floodlit, good quality macadam courts. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
		AGP		New full size 3G pitch on site, FA certified.	Ensure sinking fund is in place and that pitch remains FA registered.	School		L	M
67	North East Wolverhampton Academy (Pendeford Site)	Football	School	Three adult pitches overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions. Four youth 9v9 pitches with 3.5 match equivalents of spare capacity. All pitches are assessed as standard quality. Adult pitches used by four youth 11v11 teams.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams and reduce overplay. Seek transfer of teams to sites with spare capacity.	School FA	Education	S	L
		3G AGP		A half size 3G pitch available to the community.	Retain given local shortfalls. Explore options to maximise use. Look to get FA certified.	School FA		S	L
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts which are floodlit. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
125	The ECC Sports Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
132	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	Football	Club	Two adult, two 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Two match equivalent sessions of spare capacity exists on the 9v9 pitches, whilst remaining pitches are played to capacity during peak time. Three youth 11v11 teams use the adult pitches.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usages. Move to 11v11 youth to Barnhurst Site and provide good quality pitches for mini at current site. Explore options to make ground suitable for national league.	Club FA	Local	S	L
154	Goodyear Sports and Social Club	Football	Private	A standard quality adult pitch played to capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage.	Private FA	Local Local	S	L
		Cricket		A standard quality square with 12 grass wickets. Currently unused by the community.	Explore options to maximise use of the pitch following improvements to the changing facilities.	Private ECB		S	L
		Bowls		A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Private		L	L
214	Westcroft Sports College	Football	College	An adult and a 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. Available to the community however unused.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options.	College FA	Education	S	M
217	St Pauls Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch with spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Sustain pitch quality.	School FA	Education	L	L

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

TETTENHALL AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent / Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	9.5	-	0.5	-9	0.5	-8.5
Youth pitches 11v11	1	-	0.5	-0.5	1	+0.5
Youth pitches 9v9	1	1	0.5	+0.5	-	+0.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	1.5	+1.5
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	1.5	+1.5

- ◀ Spare capacity of nine match equivalent sessions exists on adult pitches currently and 8.5 match equivalent sessions exists in the future.
- ◀ Future shortfalls are identified on each remaining pitch type, whilst a current shortfall is identified on youth 9v9 pitches.
- ◀ A youth 9v9 pitch at Danescourt Road Sports Club is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
- ◀ There are no 3G pitches to satisfy demand for 54 teams.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain spare capacity where it can be used to protect/improve quality.
- ◀ Alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 teams from adult pitches on to youth 11v11 pitches. Use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to create and build future capacity on youth and mini pitches.
- ◀ Seek potential sites to provide 3G provision.
- ◀ Consider the impact of 3G pitches in neighbouring authorities when considering the need for new 3G pitches

Cricket

- ◀ There are nine grass wicket squares, however four are unavailable to the community.
- ◀ A standalone non-turf wicket pitch at Highfields Secondary School is available to the community and used.
- ◀ All grass wicket squares are assessed as standard or good quality.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on each square, although actual spare capacity only exists at Claregate Playing Fields, which is available but unused by the community.
- ◀ Overall spare capacity totalling 0.5 pitches exists.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain some spare capacity in order to help improve/sustain pitch quality.
- ◀ Seek potential use at Claregate Playing Fields.
- ◀ Improve/increase training provision.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union

- ◀ There are senior pitches at Highfields Secondary School and Wolverhampton Grammar School which are available but unused by the community. Wolverhampton Grammar School also contains a mini pitch.
- ◀ A senior pitch located at Tettenhall College is unavailable to the community.

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain pitches for School use and any future local demand.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Hockey

- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs, two at Aldersley Leisure Village and one at Wolverhampton Grammar School.
- ◀ All three pitches are floodlit and all have been resurfaced in the last two years.
- ◀ Old Wulfrunians Hockey Club uses Wolverhampton Grammar School for competitive fixtures, whilst Wolverhampton and Tettenhall Hockey Club uses Aldersley Leisure Village.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure quality of AGPs is sustained.

Tennis

- ◀ There are 31 community available courts.
- ◀ Albert Lawn Tennis Club, Tettenhall Tennis Club and Woodfield Sports & Social Club all provide courts to club users. Remaining courts are within education or local authority sites.
- ◀ All courts are assessed as good or standard quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain court quality.

Bowls

- ◀ There are five greens, all of which are good or standard quality.
- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, with no clubs expressing a need for an additional green.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain green quality.

Other sports

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ There is one athletics track located at Aldersley Leisure Village, assessed as good quality and used by Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club.
- ◀ Additionally, there is a cinder track located at The King's Church of England School.
- ◀ There is an outdoor velodrome at Aldersley Leisure Village.
- ◀ Netball courts at Aldersley Leisure Village record regular community use.

Recommendations

- ◀ Maintain quality of the athletics track.
- ◀ Retain cinder track for school use.
- ◀ Sustain quality of velodrome through condition and risk assessment report commissioned by British Cycling.
- ◀ Sustain quality of netball courts

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴
3	Aldersley Leisure Village Sports Pitches	Football	Council	Three adult pitches, one of which is good quality (Stadia pitch) and the remaining two are standard quality. Spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions exists overall. Used by two youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality. Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	Council FA	Key Centre	S	L
		Sand AGP		Two, floodlit, sand based AGPs which were resurfaced in 2013. Used by Wolverhampton and Tettenhall Hockey Club.	Retain for continued hockey use. Ensure sinking fund is in place.	Council EH		L	L
		Tennis		Six good quality macadam courts which are floodlit.	Sustain and improve court quality for recreational use.	Council LTA		L	L
		Athletics		An eight lane, floodlit, synthetic track used by Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club.	Sustain quality.	Council		L	L
		Cycling		An outdoor velodrome which has undergone a risk assessment survey via British Cycling.	Act upon risk assessment in order to sustain and improve quality.	Council		S	M
5	Bantock Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage.	Council FA	Local	S	M
13	Bradmore Recreation Ground	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Council	Local	L	L
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts.	Sustain court quality for recreational use.	Council LTA		L	L
16	Christ Church Junior School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
18	Claregate Playing Fields	Football	Council	A good quality adult pitch played to capacity during peak time.	Sustain pitch quality.	Council FA	Local	L	L
		Cricket		A standard quality square with 10 grass wickets. Currently unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the pitch.	Council ECB		S	L
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts.	Sustain and improve court quality for recreational use.	Council LTA		L	L
19	Claregate Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site. Sustain quality.	School FA	Education	S	L
43	Highfields Secondary School	Football	School	One adult, one 9v9, two 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches used by Penn Colts that has 12 teams. Minimal spare capacity.	Due to extensive use by Penn Colts secure tenure via, for example, a community use agreement.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Rugby Union		A senior rugby pitch available to the community but unused. Drainage is natural (adequate) and maintenance is adequate.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L
		Cricket		An artificial wicket pitch assessed as good quality. Available and used by the community.	Sustain good quality.	School ECB		L	L

¹³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁴ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
65	Palmers Cross Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site in order to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
68	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site in order to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
77	Smestow School	Football	School	Two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity of one match equivalent exists on the adult pitches, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site in order to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Tennis		Six standard quality macadam courts, available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
93	Tettenhall College	Football	School	An adult and a 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalents exists on both pitch types. Adult pitches are used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Rugby Union		A senior rugby pitch unavailable to the community. Drainage is natural (adequate) and maintenance is adequate.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares with 10 grass wickets and eight grass wickets respectively. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L
94	Tettenhall Upper Green	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch used solely by youth 11v11 teams. No spare capacity.	Consider reconfiguration in order to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	Council FA	Local	S	L
96	The Kings CE (High) School	Football	School	Two adult pitches played to capacity and a youth 9v9 pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions remaining. Adult pitches are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. All pitches are assessed as standard quality.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Tennis		One good quality macadam court and three standard quality macadam courts. Not available for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
101	Uplands Junior School	Football	School	Poor quality 9v9 and 5v5 pitches unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	M
102	Warstones Primary School	Football	School	Poor quality youth 11v11 pitch unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Education	S	M
109	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Football	Council	Six standard quality adult pitches with two match equivalents of spare capacity. Used by two youth 11v11 teams. Changing rooms are considered to be poor.	Consider youth 11v11 provision in order to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage. Improve changing provision.	Council FA	Local	S	M

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴
112	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Football	Club	One adult, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity discounted due to being over marked on cricket outfield. Adult pitch suffers from drainage issues.	Sustain pitch quality	Club FA	Local	S	M
		Cricket		One good quality square with 16 grass and one artificial wicket and one standard quality with 11 grass and one artificial wicket. No spare capacity during peak time.	Sustain pitch quality.	Club ECB		S	M
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit, macadam courts used by Tettenhall Tennis Club.	Sustain good quality.	Club LTA		L	L
113	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches available to the community but not on weekends. Currently unused.	Explore weekend community use options.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Sand AGP		A full sized, floodlit, sand based AGP which was resurfaced in 2014. Used by Old Wulfrunians Hockey Club.	Retain for continued hockey use. Ensure sinking fund is in place.	School EH		L	L
		Rugby Union		A senior and a mini rugby pitch available to the community but unused. Drainage is natural (adequate) and maintenance is adequate.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares with 12 and eight grass wickets respectively. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L
116	Wolverhampton RUFC	Rugby union	Club	Site sits just outside Wolverhampton boundary but servicing Wolverhampton residents. Three senior pitches of standard quality all over played.	Support the Club to find additional capacity whether it be through pitch improvements, additional floodlighting and/or additional pitches.	Club Council	Local	M	M
120	Woodfield Sports & Social Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
		Tennis		Four standard quality artificial courts which are floodlit. Rated as poor by users.	Improve court quality.	Club LTA		S	M
173	Pennfields Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
194	Danescourt Road Sports Club	Football	Private	A 9v9 and a 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. The 9v9 pitch is overplayed by two match equivalents.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Seek transfer of play to sites with spare capacity.	Private FA	Local	S	M
		Bowls		A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Private		L	L
		Tennis		Two disused macadam courts.	No current demand for courts to be re-provided.	Private LTA		S	L
207	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Cricket	Council	A standard quality square with seven grass wickets. No spare capacity during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	Council ECB	Local	S	L
215	Castlecroft Stadium	Football	Club	Site is leased long term to the RFU who currently sublease to AFC Wulfrunians. There are nine years left of the 15 year lease.	Ensure the Club has security of tenure for the long term and continue to improve site in line with league requirements for step football.	Club	Local	L	M

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WEDNESFIELD AREA

Football

Summary of pitches required to meet current and future demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Latent / Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	5.5	1	-	-4.5	-	-4.5
Youth pitches 11v11	1	-	-	-1	1.5	+0.5
Youth pitches 9v9	-	-	-	0	-	0
Mini pitches 7v7	-	-	-	0	-	0
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-	0	-	0

- ✦ Spare capacity of 4.5 match equivalent sessions exists on adult pitches both now and in the future.
- ✦ Although spare capacity of one match equivalent session exists currently on youth 11v11 pitches, future demand results in a shortfall of 0.5 match equivalents.
- ✦ Youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches are played to capacity.
- ✦ Overplay is evident on an adult pitch at Wednesfield Town Football Ground amounting to one match equivalent session.
- ✦ There are no 3G pitches to satisfy demand for 55 teams, however, a new 9v9 pitch at Heath Park Academy (completion expected January 2016) will alleviate some of this shortfall.

Recommendations

- ✦ Retain spare capacity where it can be used to protect/improve quality.
- ✦ Alleviate overplay
- ✦ Transfer youth 11v11 teams from adult pitches on to youth 11v11 pitches. Use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to create and build future capacity on youth and mini pitches.
- ✦ Ensure 3G pitch at Heath Park Academy is provided and maintained to a high quality. Seek FA testing so that it can host competitive matches. Further review impact of pitch following delivery.
- ✦ Consider the impact of 3G pitches in neighbouring authorities when considering the need for new 3G pitches

Cricket

- ✦ There are no grass wicket squares in the Analysis Area and no current demand.
- ✦ A standalone non-turf wicket pitch at Coppice Performing Arts School is unavailable to the community, whilst a non-turf wicket pitch at Wednesfield High School is available but unused.

Recommendations

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Explore options should demand for cricket pitches increase.

Rugby union

- ◀ There are no rugby union pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore possibilities should demand for rugby union pitches exist in the future.

Rugby league

- ◀ There are no rugby league pitches within the Analysis Area and no current demand.

Hockey

- ◀ There are no hockey suitable AGPs and no current demand.

Tennis

- ◀ There are four community available courts, all of which are located within Wednesfield High School.
- ◀ The School reports no regular community use.
- ◀ The courts are assessed as standard quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain court quality.
- ◀ Seek provision of courts within local authority sites should demand exist.

Bowls

- ◀ There are four greens, all of which are good or standard quality.
- ◀ Current supply is deemed adequate to service demand, with no clubs expressing a need for an additional green.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain green quality.

Other sports

- ◀ A cycle speedway track at Ashmore Park is used by Wednesfield Aces Cycle Speedway Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain speedway track quality in order to ensure continued club use.
- ◀ Retain netball courts for school use.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
4	Ashmore Park Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Council	Local	L	L
7	Bellamy Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no spare capacity during peak time. Space exists for additional pitches. Lease for Wednesfield FC recently agreed.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage. Explore creation of additional pitches to alleviate over play at Wednesfield Town Football Ground. Monitor the lease agreement and support any future developments by the Club	Council FA	Local	S	M
17	Chubbs Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Council	Local	L	L
22	Coppice Performing Arts School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch unavailable for community use. No spare capacity exists beyond school usage.	Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	L	L
		3G AGP		A half size 3G pitch available for community use.	Retain given local shortfalls and explore options to maximise use.	School FA		S	L
		Cricket		A poor quality artificial wicket pitch which is unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain and improve quality for school use.	School ECB		S	M
35	Fowlers Park	Football	Council	Five standard quality adult pitches with 3.5 match equivalents of spare capacity. Used by two youth 11v11 teams. Changing rooms are considered to be poor quality.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users. Improve changing rooms.	Council FA	Local	S	M
41	Heath Town Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with two match equivalents of spare capacity. Used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	Council FA	Local	S	L
48	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent of spare capacity.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage. Retain some spare capacity to sustain quality.	Council FA	Local	S	L
51	Long Knowle Primary School	Football	School	A 9v9 and a 5v5 pitch of poor quality. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Improve pitch quality and retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	M
60	Oak Meadow Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	L	L
71	Perry Hall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	L	L
98	Trinity C of E (Primary) School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch unavailable for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	L	L
103	Wednesfield High School	Football	School	Two adult, a youth 11v11, four 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches assessed as good quality. Available to the community and well used. Remaining spare capacity discounted due to pitches being over marked.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain good quality and levels of use.	School FA	Education	S	L
		Cricket		A good quality artificial wicket pitch available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L

¹⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
		Tennis		Four standard quality, floodlit macadam courts available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
104	Wednesfield Town Football Ground	Football	Club	A stadia adult pitch assessed as standard quality and over played by one match equivalent. Leased by Wednesfield Town FC until 2033.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate over play and consider transfer of play to sites with spare capacity. Seek extension of lease in order to provide greater security of tenure and to secure investment into the Site to address quality.	Club FA	Local	S	M
111	Wodnesfield Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Improve pitch quality and retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	M
117	Wolverhampton United Ground	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitch and a standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Spare capacity of one match equivalent exists on the youth 11v11 pitch.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain usage levels on adult pitches.	Club FA	Local	S	L
131	Wednesfield Conservative Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local	L	L
135	Heath Park Business Enterprise College	3G AGP	School	A 3G AGP in development, expected to be available from September 2016.	Ensure pitch is provided to a good quality. Seek FA testing. Ensure a sinking fund is in place. Explore options to maximise use.	School FA	Education	S	H
		Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L
145	Ashmore Park	Football	Council	Two good quality adult pitches used to capacity during peak time. Users report a need for changing provision.	Sustain good quality. Explore possibility of providing changing provision.	Council FA	Local	S	M
		Cycling		A cycle speedway track used by Wednesfield Aces Cycle Speedway Club.	Retain for continued club use.	Council		L	L
182	Wednesfield Park Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Council	Local	L	L
192	Edward the Elder Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Improve pitch quality and retain for school use.	School FA	Education	S	M
221	St Stephens CE Primary	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch available but unused by the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Education	L	L
-	Colman Avenue Open Space	Football	Council	Currently no pitches	Create two new youth pitches to address shortfalls.	Council	Local	S	H

PART 8: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Wolverhampton. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Wolverhampton can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring and updating

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

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

Furthermore, the process of refreshing the PPS would be much less resource intensive if changes and updates have been made throughout the five years. If there are no updates to the document within the period the nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is likely to have changed. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
- ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
- ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).

Alongside the regular steering group meetings it is recommended that the City Council holds annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant organisations. These meetings should look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities. Things to consider include formation of new teams or loss of teams, any new formats of the sports that would impact on facilities, changes in quality or creation of new facilities.

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

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education or other private sites in the future. Updating the action plans will make the task of updating the PPS much easier.


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

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Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

National context

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

DCMS (Department for Culture Media & Sport) is currently (2015) consulting on a new strategy for sport. It will seek to address the following challenges:

- ◀ How to address the recent decline in the number of people that regularly take part in sport and deliver a long-term sustainable increase in participation;
- ◀ What type(s) of participation should be encouraged and how should they be measured;
- ◀ How to ensure that funding goes to those who can best deliver results;
- ◀ How to specifically target under-represented groups;
- ◀ Understanding the role of the private sector, and how public sector bodies, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and other sports bodies should work with the private sector to help deliver an increase in participation;
- ◀ How to best support participation in new and/or non-traditional sports and activities;
- ◀ How to maximise the potential of new technology to increase participation;
- ◀ How to use the power of sport to achieve broader positive social outcomes and whether some funding should specifically be spent for that purpose.

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

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

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

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

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

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

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

The main aims of the National Game Strategy are summarised below:

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ An increase in participation as measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500
- ◀ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest CricketForce from 2,000 to 2,200

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

‘The right pitches in the right places’¹⁸

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90’s. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

England Hockey Strategy

EH’s new Club Strategy will assist hockey clubs to retain more players and recruit new members to ultimately grow their club membership. EH will be focusing on participation growth through this strategy for the next two years. The EH Strategy is based on seven core themes. These are:

- 1 Having great leadership
- 2 Having Appropriate and Sustainable Facilities
- 3 Inspired and Effective People
- 4 Different Ways to Play
- 5 Staying Friendly, Social and Welcoming
- 6 Being Local with Strong Community Connections
- 7 Stretching and developing those who want it

¹⁸

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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



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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

The new strategy is presented in a concise one page framework that includes key strategies relating to three participation "focus" areas, six participation "drivers" and three participation "enablers". To achieve success, the 12 strategy areas will need to work interdependently to stem the decline and unlock sustainable growth:

The three participation "focus" areas are where tennis is consumed:

- ◀ Deliver great service to clubs
- ◀ Build partnerships in the community, led by parks
- ◀ Enhance the tennis offer in education

The six participation "drivers" are the areas that will make the biggest difference where tennis is consumed. They must all be successful on a standalone and interconnected basis and include:

- ◀ Becoming more relevant to coaches
- ◀ Refocusing on recreational competition
- ◀ Providing results orientated facility investment
- ◀ Applying best in class marketing and promotion
- ◀ Jump starting the peak summer season
- ◀ Establishing a "no compromise" high performance programme with focus

The final layer is comprised of three participation "enablers" that underpin our ability to be successful. These enablers are rooted in how the LTA will get better; how the entire network of partners must be harnessed to work together and the need to raise more financial resources to fund our sport's turnaround. They include:

- ◀ Becoming a more effective and efficient LTA
- ◀ Harnessing the full resource network
- ◀ Generating new revenue

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to <http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

British Crown Green Bowling Association

Please note there is no current facility guidance provided by British Crown Green Bowling Association responsible for crown green bowls in England.

<http://crowngreenbowls.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx>

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement Fund Sportsmatch Small Grants Protecting Playing Fields Inspired Facilities Strategic Facilities Fund http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/strategic-facilities/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Awarding body	Description
	Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

Protecting Playing Fields

SE launched a funding programme; Protecting Playing Fields (PPF) as part of its Places People Play Olympic legacy mass participation programme. The programme is being delivered via funding rounds with approximately £4 million being awarded to projects in each round.

Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also providing opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces

Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport

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England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

- ◀ A robust needs and evidence base which illustrates the need for the project and the proposed facility mix
- ◀ Strong partnerships which will last beyond the initial development of the project and underpin the long-term sustainability of the facility
- ◀ Multi-sport provision and activity that demonstrates delivery against NGB local priorities
- ◀ A robust project plan from inception to completion with achievable milestones and timescales.

Lottery applications will be invited on a solicited-only basis and grants of between £500,000 and £2,000,000 will be considered.

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

- ◀ Are large-scale capital developments identified as part of a local authority sports facility strategic needs assessment/rationalisation programme and that will drive a significant increase in community sports participation
- ◀ Demonstrate consultation/support from two or more NGBs and delivery against their local priorities
- ◀ Are multi-sport facilities providing opportunities to drive high participant numbers
- ◀ Are a mix of facility provision (indoor and/or outdoor) to encourage regular & sustained use by a large number of people
- ◀ Offer an enhancement, through modernisation, to existing provision and/or new build facilities
- ◀ Have a long-term sustainable business plan attracting public and private investment
- ◀ Show quality in design, but are fit for purpose to serve the community need
- ◀ Have effective and efficient operating models, combined with a commitment to development programmes which will increase participation and provide talent pathways.

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

Funder's requirements

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

- ◀ Identify need (i.e., why the Project is needed) and how the Project will address it.
- ◀ Articulate what difference the Project will make.
- ◀ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ◀ Provide baseline information (i.e., the current situation).
- ◀ Articulate how the Project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ◀ Financial need and project cost.
- ◀ Funding profile (i.e., Who's providing what? Unit and overall costs).
- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g., planning permission).

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- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e., the situation after the Project/what the Project will achieve)
- ◀ Evidence of support from partners and stakeholders.
- ◀ Background/essential documentation (e.g., community use agreement).
- ◀ Assessment of risk.

Indicative costs

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

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

There are two sets of costs that are highlighted here; facility capital costs and lifecycle costs.

Facility capital costs

- ◀ Facility capital costs are calculated using estimates of what it typically costs to build modern sports facilities, including fees and external work, naturally taking into account varying conditions, inflation and regional adjustments.
- ◀ Costs are updated regularly in conjunction with information provided by the BCIS (Building Cost Information Service) and other Quantity Surveyors.
- ◀ The document is often referred to as the Planning Kitbag costs as the figures are often used by planners and developers when reviewing potential planning contributions to site developments.

Lifecycle costs

- ◀ Life cycle costs are how much its costs to keep a facility open and fit-for-purpose during its lifetime.
- ◀ It includes costs for major replacement and planned preventative maintenance (PPM) – day to day repairs. The costs are expressed as a percentage of the capital cost.
- ◀ You should not underestimate the importance of regular maintenance and the expense in maintaining a facility throughout its life.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX THREE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pitch quality

The quality of pitches in Wolverhampton has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the methodology) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

Criteria for pitch quality, and examples of non-technical assessment forms, can be accessed on the Sport England website:

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

Unmet demand

See page 21 of the Sport England methodology:

<http://www.sportengland.org/media/217868/pps-guidance-october-2013-updated.pdf>

*“Current **unmet demand** could be in the form of a team that has currently got access to a pitch for its matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. It could also be from an educational establishment that is currently using an indoor facility because of the lack of access to outdoor pitch provision. Along with a lack of pitches of a particular type being available to the community unmet demand may be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.”*