



DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

JUNE 2021 (WITH FOREWORD)

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd

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FOREWORD

The Playing Pitch Strategy was completed in 2019 and formed part of the evidence base for the planning document, the County Durham Plan. As the Covid pandemic took hold throughout 2020, the position in relation to pitch stock remained static and no changes were reported. However, following the adoption of the County Durham Plan in October 2020, the process for ensuring the Playing Pitch Strategy remained up to date and relevant, was implemented in January 2021 with the first of a series of stakeholder steering group meetings which included the following internal service representatives and external partners:

- *Culture Sport and Tourism (Chair)*
- *Corporate Property and Land (Strategic Assets)*
- *Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Clean and Green)*
- *Spatial Policy*
- *Children and Young People's Services*
- *Sport England*
- *Football Foundation*
- *Durham County Football Association*
- *England Hockey*
- *Rugby Football Union*
- *Rugby League*
- *England Cricket Board*

Following further consultation, it was also agreed that Adult and Health Services would also provide representation to subsequent meetings.

The information included in the following document provides the baseline data in terms of pitch stock and quality, against which the 2021 team affiliations and age group data, together with refreshed information from Sport England's Active Places database, will be reflected in a "live" business intelligence dashboard which has been developed to plan changes to provision and scenario plan for the future.

The Strategy is a living document which forms the foundation of real developments that will ensure our valuable outdoor sports assets are located in the heart of our communities, meet the needs of our communities and are protected as those communities grow.

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CFA	County Football Association
DCC	Durham County Council
DCB	Durham Cricket Board
DFA	Durham Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football club
FE	Further Education
FF	Football Foundation
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf Pitch
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
SE	Sport England
TGR	Team generation rate

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Durham County Council. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch provision and accompanying ancillary facilities (up to 2035, in line with the emerging County Durham Local Plan).
- 1.2 The Strategy has been developed to provide:
- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches.
 - ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
 - ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch stock.
 - ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
 - ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.
- 1.3 A PPS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future playing pitch requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively.
- 1.4 The Strategy is capable of:
- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch providers, including the public, private and third sectors;
 - ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues;
 - ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas;
 - ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision;
 - ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision;
 - ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study;
 - ◀ Supporting funding applications;
 - ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.
- 1.5 The Strategy recommends numerous priority projects for Durham County Council that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding.
- 1.6 Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations, education establishments and parish/town councils. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations; the PPS is not just for the Council to act upon, it applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved. Further, the recommendations contained in the plan are aspirational and subject to available funding and capacity to deliver.

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Scope

- 1.7 The following types of outdoor sports facilities were agreed by the steering group for inclusion in the PPS:
- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G artificial grass pitches (AGPs))
 - ◀ Cricket pitches
 - ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G AGPs)
 - ◀ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
 - ◀ Rugby league pitches
- 1.8 Each sport is assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England’s PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS.
- 1.9 Please note that non-pitch sports are not included within the PPS. Bowls is subject to a separate study being undertaken by DCC Culture & Sport and lawn tennis has a separate county project underway and is covered within this.
- 1.10 Please note that the site data obtained through the consultation process for education, parish/town council and private sites has not been independently verified by the Council. However, Durham County Council officers have verified the accuracy of the local authority pitch sites, and a small selection of schools only. Each relevant national governing body of sport (NGB) has, where possible, also checked the data and signed off the relevant sections for their sport.

Study area

- 1.11 The study area is the whole of the Durham County Council’s administrative area. In addition, cross-boundary issues will also be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand from and to neighbouring authorities.
- 1.12 Analysis areas (or sub areas) have been created to allow for a more narrowed analysis in addition to the analysis for County Durham as a whole. The agreed upon areas align to the Council’s five Local Plan delivery areas or North, South, East, West and Central. They incorporate the Local Plan monitoring areas, of which there are nine, with some of these have been grouped together.

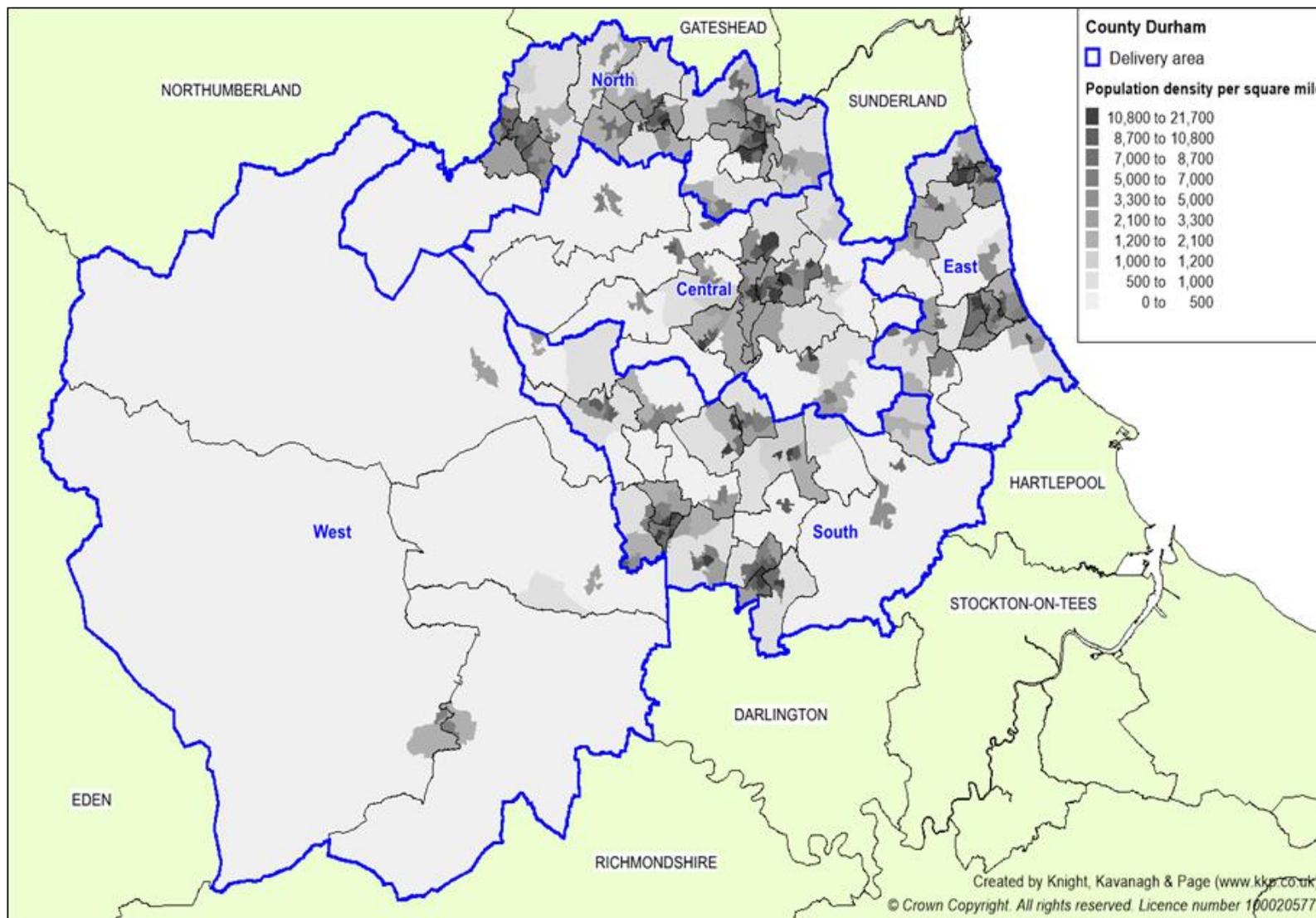
Table 1.1: Summary of analysis areas

Analysis area	Local Plan Monitoring Area/s
North	North Durham; North West Durham
South	South Durham; South East Durham; Mid Durham
East	East Durham
West	West Durham
Central	Central Durham; Durham City

- 1.13 Please see Figure 1.1 overleaf.

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Figure 1.1: Map of analysis areas



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Context

- 1.14 The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within the Durham County Council area across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitch facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.
- 1.15 Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised playing pitch assessments and strategies which identify 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 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 and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
 - ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.
- 1.16 This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination whilst meeting the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 1.17 One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
- 1.18 Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.
- 1.19 Paragraph 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Headline findings

- 1.20 The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings for the playing pitch sports in the Durham County Council area from the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.
- 1.21 Current demand is calculated from an analysis of overplay and spare capacity, whereas future demand takes into consideration club aspirations and population growth up to 2035 (using ONS figures).

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Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total 2035 (match equivalent sessions)
Football (grass pitches)	North	Adult	Spare capacity of 6	Spare capacity of 4
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 7
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	Central	Adult	Spare capacity of 20.5	Spare capacity of 19.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 3.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Youth 9v9	At capacity	At capacity
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 2.5	Spare capacity of 2.5
	East	Adult	Spare capacity of 17.5	Spare capacity of 16.5
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 1
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 5.5	Spare capacity of 5.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
	South	Adult	Spare capacity of 23.5	Spare capacity of 22
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 2	Spare capacity of 2
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
West	Adult	Spare capacity of 4	Spare capacity of 4	
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 1.5	
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1	
	Mini 7v7	At capacity	At capacity	
	Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity	
Football (3G pitches) ¹	North	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
	Central	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5
	East	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
	South	Full size, floodlit	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
	West	Full size, floodlit	Sufficient capacity	Sufficient capacity
Cricket	North	Senior	Shortfall of 155	Shortfall of 199
	Central	Senior	Shortfall of 141	Shortfall of 151
	East	Senior	Shortfall of 79	Shortfall of 87
	South	Senior	Shortfall of 47	Shortfall of 75
	West	Senior	Spare capacity of 39	Spare capacity of 39
Rugby union	North	Senior	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6.25
	Central	Senior	Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 2.25
	East	Senior	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 13.25
	South	Senior	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5.75
	West	Senior	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 8.25

¹ Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch

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Sport	Analysis area	Pitch type	Current capacity total (match equivalent sessions)	Future capacity total 2035 (match equivalent sessions)
Hockey (sand AGPs)	County Durham	Full size, floodlit	Insufficient supply for community hockey	Insufficient supply for community hockey
Rugby league	County Durham	Senior	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5

Conclusions

- 1.22 From a quantitative perspective, the current position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall. In the future, further shortfalls are created for some pitch types. There are current and future shortfalls of 3G pitches and rugby union pitches and future shortfalls of football pitches and cricket squares. Similarly, for hockey AGPs, there is also an insufficient supply both now and in the future.
- 1.23 Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming current shortfalls and accommodating existing or future demand. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing playing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost.
- 1.24 For the most part, shortfalls can be alleviated by better utilising current provision, primarily through improving quality but also by installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. Another example of how to develop existing provision to overcome shortfalls is pitch re-configuration (or re-designation).
- 1.25 Notwithstanding the above, a shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through creating new provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements. The County Durham Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP), aligned to the PPS, identifies the sites/areas that should be prioritised for the creation of new 3G provision.

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PART 2: VISION

Vision

2.1 Below is a vision for the County Durham PPS.

“To provide a network of good quality playing pitch provision that facilitates participation in physical activity and promotes a healthier lifestyle for the residents of County Durham.”

2.2 To achieve this vision, the PPS seeks to deliver the following objectives:

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

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PART 3: AIMS

3.1 The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes. It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and partners to enable delivery of the overall PPS vision and Sport England planning objectives.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitch facilities where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

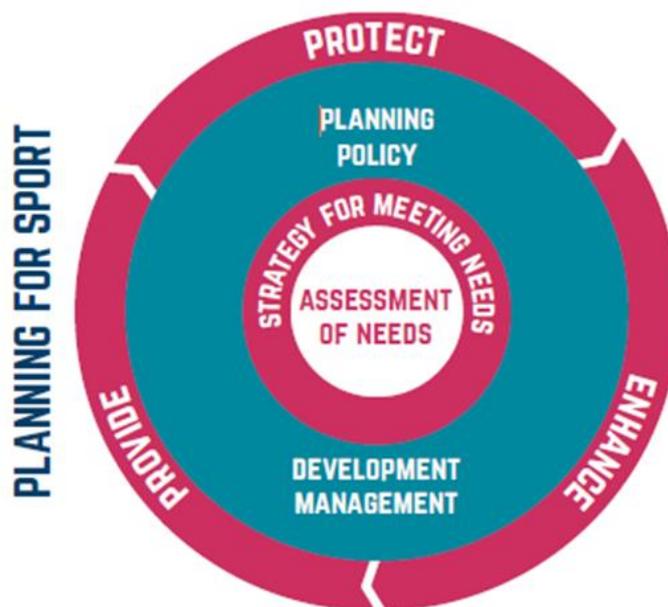
AIM 2

To **enhance** playing pitch facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitch facilities where there is current or future demand to do so.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (June 2019)

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PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, several relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues for each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations.

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- 4.2 Below is the summary from the Assessment Report:

There are current and future shortfalls across County Durham on youth 11v11 pitches. However, there is spare capacity expressed on all other type of grass football pitches.
Shortfalls are as a result of overplayed pitches which have low carrying capacity due to poor quality.

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 474 grass football pitches in County Durham across 264 sites. Of these, 379 pitches are available, at some level, for community use across 195 sites. Those unavailable for community use are mostly located at education sites.
- ◀ The South Analysis Area has the largest number of community available grass pitches (122 pitches) which equates to 32% of all provision available for community use across the County.
- ◀ The majority of teams across County Durham play on local authority managed pitches and are therefore considered to be secure for at least the next three years as part of the Council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering.
- ◀ Of pitches available for community use, 73 pitches are assessed as good quality, 189 as standard quality and 117 as poor quality.
- ◀ Generally, clubs across County Durham perceive that the quality of pitches has declined in recent seasons due to a reduction in the maintenance programmes. Despite this, many note that some sites with drainage problems have these issues irrespective of basic maintenance.
- ◀ Overall the quality of ancillary provision in County Durham is of an adequate quality. There are some sites which suffer from vandalism or require modernisation; and some appear to have insufficient changing rooms to service all pitches. The size of changing rooms was consistently good but the maintenance of facilities varies. Changing provision at Durham County Council managed sites is generally poor quality.
- ◀ There are currently no clubs competing in the Football League, however, there are 19 teams that compete in the National League pyramid (2018/19 season).
- ◀ There are seven women's teams competing in the Women's National League System, with Durham Women FC the highest ranked, competing in Tier 2.
- ◀ Through the audit and assessment, 870 teams identified as playing or training on formal pitches within County Durham. This consists of 190 adult men's, 15 adult women's, 324 youth boys', 46 youth girls' and 295 mini mixed teams.
- ◀ In total 30 clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they are providing, with a predicted growth of 3 teams.
- ◀ When applied by analysis area, team generation rates² forecast the creation of 11 adult men's teams and 14 youth 11v11 boys' teams, with one new team to be established.

² Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area. Population changes are based on ONS data.

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- ◀ Overplay on football pitches across County Durham amounts to 47 pitches totalling 41.5 match equivalent sessions³ across 30 sites. The majority of which is on adult pitches.
- ◀ Despite 368 pitches across County Durham displaying a combined 544 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity, only 130.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity (i.e. at peak time) exists.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality at all sites identified for pitch improvement in the Local Football Facility Plan

- 4.3 The local football facility plan (LFFP) for County Durham identifies 29 sites for potential pitch improvements. These sites either currently or potentially have two full size pitch equivalents; and accumulatively currently supply 172 match equivalent sessions of capacity across 90 pitches.
- 4.4 Should all pitches on these sites be improved to good quality; and multiple full size, good quality, pitches be established or added to four sites on this list (Horndale Playing Fields, Daisy Fields Sports Ground, Park View School (Church Chare) and Charlie Wayman Playing Fields) then this would create 194 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity. This additional capacity would be sufficient to address both current and future shortfalls on football pitches in County Durham.
- 4.5 It should be noted that delivering improvements across all of these sites in County Durham may not be feasible; therefore projects that will provide the most significant positive impact on addressing shortfalls in County Durham should be prioritised.
- 4.6 Increasing the quality and, consequentially, the capacity of these pitch formats, would ease analysis area overplay on each pitch type; whilst overall County Durham shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitches would be addressed.

Improving pitch quality at all community available sites by one increment

- 4.7 If maintenance was improved across the County, subsequently causing the quality of all pitches available for community use to increase by one qualitative increment (poor to standard; standard to good), then this would create an additional 398 match equivalent sessions per week of capacity.
- 4.8 The majority of this new capacity would be on youth pitches (180 match equivalent sessions); with 162 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches; and 56 match sessions on mini pitches. This increased capacity would be sufficient to eliminate overplay when County Durham is considered as a whole; however, it would not be sufficient on some individual sites. In these cases, teams would need to be relocated to alternative sites that have sufficient spare capacity during the peak period.
- 4.9 Given the cost of improving maintenance throughout the County; and the coordination that this would take it is not considered a feasible approach to undertake.

³ Match equivalent sessions is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). See Appendix Two: Glossary for further details.

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Pitch reconfigurations

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

Securing access to education sites

- 4.11 Education sites generally accommodate large areas of playing field and playing pitches. However, as tenure on these sites is generally considered to be unsecure, potential capacity is not captured, or it is discounted. Securing access to these sites can provide an opportunity to help address remaining shortfalls across the County.
- 4.12 There are a number of education sites in County Durham which contain football pitches which have the potential to help address remaining shortfalls by securing access through community use agreements. The following table looks to identify which schools could be suitable for securing use of playing pitches, some of which are currently used by community clubs regardless of a lack of formal community use agreements being in place.

Table 4.1: Potential schools for securing community use

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches
16	Belmont Community School	Central	Adult	1
			Youth 11v11	2
22	Bishop Barrington Sports Centre (School)	South	Youth 11v11	2
			Youth 9v9	1
70	Croft Community School (Annfield Plain)	North	Adult	1
			Mini 5v5	1
			Mini 7v7	1
			Youth 11v11	1
			Youth 9v9	2
108	Ferryhill Business Enterprise College	South	Adult	1
			Youth 11v11	2
			Youth 9v9	2
113	Framwellgate School Durham	Central	Youth 11v11	3
			Youth 9v9	2
116	Fyndoune Community College (Sacriston)	North	Youth 11v11	2
			Youth 9v9	2
136	Hermitage Academy (Chester le Street)	North	Adult	1
			Mini 5v5	1
			Youth 11v11	1
			Youth 9v9	1
201	Park View School (North Lodge)	North	Adult	1
			Youth 9v9	2
244	St Bede's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form (Lanchester)	Central	Adult	3

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Number of pitches
246	St John's RC School (Bishop Auckland)	South	Adult	5
			Mini 5v5	2
			Mini 7v7	2
			Youth 11v11	1
			Youth 9v9	2
270	Staindrop Academy	West	Adult	1
			Youth 11v11	2
331	Wolsingham Academy	West	Adult	1
			Youth 11v11	1
			Youth 9v9	2
332	Woodham Academy	South	Adult	2
			Mini 5v5	1
			Youth 11v11	1
			Youth 9v9	2

- 4.13 It should be noted that a number of school sites have secure community access by virtue of community use agreements established as a consequence of site (re)developments; for this reason, these have not been included in the table above.

Low value sites

- 4.14 There are some existing football sites across County Durham which are not considered to be of value to football moving forward, for a variety of reasons such as poor quality pitches, accessibility/location, poor quality or no changing rooms. Therefore, there is a need to consider the reconfiguration of existing sites but also a need to consider bringing back into use lapsed/disused sites.
- 4.15 Given the significant number of single pitch sites, for example, there are 81 sites that have a single adult football pitch marked out; it may be beneficial in the longer term to consider consolidating existing provision.
- 4.16 The action plan explores these possibilities and identifies potentially surplus football sites which are not required for the purposes of football in the future and where savings can be made linked to the development of Hub or Key sites. It may be appropriate to consider de-commissioning of some of these sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger, better quality sites and creating additional capacity.
- 4.17 Given the number there is a need to annually review current sites to ensure enough capacity is retained to meet current and future demand for football.

Recommendations

- 4.18 The following recommendations are proposed:
- ◀ Ensure that a sufficient level of grass pitch provision is retained to meet current and future demand.
 - ◀ Explore opportunities to reduce the number of one pitch football sites which are unsustainable and reinvest in the development of Hub and Key sites.
 - ◀ In accordance with the LFFP, improve the quality of grass pitches at the seven priority sites to good quality; to increase capacity across the District.

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- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and rated as standard or poor quality, review maintenance regimes in order to help address shortfalls.
- ◀ Carry out pitch reconfigurations to address remaining shortfalls, particularly at sites with unused mini pitches.
- ◀ Work with education providers to secure access to football pitches through establishing community use agreements, as well as, utilising existing agreements.
- ◀ Seek to improve changing provision at Key and Hub sites, ensuring that each site has a sufficient number of changing rooms to service all pitches on site.
- ◀ Ensure clubs in the football pyramid can progress by being compliant to FA ground grading regulations.

3G pitches

Summary

4.19 Below is the summary from the Assessment Report:

**Priority should be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches, with precedence given to those identified in the County Durham LFFP.
Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified in Rugby Union, there is evidence to suggest a need for additional World Rugby compliant 3G pitches to be provided.**

- ◀ There are 16 full size 3G pitches within County Durham, 15 of which are floodlit and available to the community (Durham Johnstone Comprehensive School is neither).
- ◀ In addition, there are also 19 smaller sized 3G pitches, with 15 of these available to the community.
- ◀ In total, 13 of the 16 full size 3G pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches; Durham Johnstone Comprehensive School, Parkside Academy and Sedgfield Community Sports College are not.
- ◀ Five pitches are World Rugby compliant; three at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre) as well as the pitches at Consett Leisure Centre and East Durham College (Peterlee).
- ◀ The full size pitches at both Parkside Academy and Sedgfield Community Sports College are assessed as poor quality, with both facilities over ten years old; the former has plans to resurface the pitch in July 2019.
- ◀ One of the pitches at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre) as well as the pitches at East Durham College (Peterlee Campus) and King James I Academy are also at or nearing the end of their recommended lifespan.
- ◀ The remaining pitches are all within their recommended lifespan and are assessed as either good quality or standard quality, with no significant issues identified.
- ◀ Of football clubs responding to consultation, just under half (43%) report that they require additional training facilities, of which, 81% specifically mention demand for 3G pitches.
- ◀ With 1,019 football teams currently affiliated to County Durham, there is a need for 27 full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 26.8); when discounting pitches not readily available to clubs, this means a shortfall of nine full size pitches.
- ◀ When assessing demand on an analysis area basis, there is a need for ten additional full size 3G pitches (five centrally, two in the North, two in the East and one in the South).

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Scenarios

Moving all mini teams to play on 3G pitches

- 4.20 There are currently 294 mini (5v5 and 7v7) teams playing competitive football in County Durham, regardless of site management type.
- 4.21 Based on the FA model for playing competitive football on 3G pitches, 15 full size FA/FIFA certified 3G pitches (rounded up from 14.34) would be required to accommodate all mini soccer teams. This is on the basis that both playing formats can be accommodated on one day using staggered kick off times.
- 4.22 On this basis, there is enough existing provision across the District to cater for this demand if programming is maximised. However, it is not necessarily all ideally located to service where the demand is based.

Use of 3G pitches to accommodate current and future grass pitch shortfalls

- 4.23 In order to accommodate current grass pitch shortfalls, additional capacity equivalent to one FA/FIFA certified 3G pitch would be required in County Durham. This increases to a total need for four 3G pitches when accounting for future growth.
- 4.24 Creating additional 3G pitches for training demand will enable current and future match play shortfalls to be met. The location of any new 3G pitches should consider grass pitch shortfalls for match demand. Furthermore, consideration should be given to any pre-existing small sided 3G pitches in County Durham which may be able to provide opportunities for match play, if able to gain certification onto the FA Register.

Effect of removing match demand from non-registered 3G pitches

- 4.25 Competitive match demand should not take place on 3G pitches that are not on the FA Register. The Register is available for all to view online; and ensures that pitches meet a minimum safety standards. Currently four full size 3G pitches are not on the FA Register (Belle Vue Stadium (Consett AFC), Durham Johnston School, Parkside Academy and Sedgfield Community Sports College. These pitches currently accommodate 13.5 match equivalent sessions of match demand (27 teams). If this demand was to be removed from the provision then eight match equivalent sessions of adult demand would need to be accommodated elsewhere; 4.5 match equivalent sessions of youth 11v11 demand would need re-accommodating; and one match equivalent session of mini 7v7 demand.
- 4.26 If this demand was accommodated on grass provision, there would be a shortfall increase on youth 11v1 grass pitch provision to five match equivalent sessions per week; and a reduction of spare capacity on adult and mini 7v7 pitches.
- 4.27 Accommodating this demand on registered 3G pitches would require four full size 3G pitches; provided that peak time for adult football remains different to that of youth and mini formats.

Establishing 3G pitches at sites identified in the Local Football Facility Plan

- 4.28 The LFFP identifies seven projects to establish eight additional full size 3G pitches in County Durham. Creating these new 3G pitches would address the current shortfall of 3G pitches to accommodate football training demand in the County, based on one 3G pitch being able to accommodate 38 teams for training per week.

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- 4.29 Shortfalls would be addressed in the North, East and South analysis areas, but the current shortfall in the Central Analysis Area would be reduced to two full size 3G pitches. Given the limited availability of land in the Central Analysis Area it is feasible that some demand from this Area could be accommodated on provision located in the North and South analysis areas. Therefore, the LFFP proposes that three new 3G pitches are established in these two analysis areas, more than the current respective shortfalls require.
- 4.30 The table overleaf displays the 3G pitch projects identified in County Durham's LFFP. It should be noted that whilst some sites are specifically named, other projects identify areas in which a pitch should be established, and further examination of the options would be required. Even though a project is listed in the LFFP it does not necessarily mean that it will come to fruition in the future.

Table 4.2: Priority 3G projects identified in County Durham's LFFP

Analysis area	No. of AGPs proposed	Proposed 3G site/s (or area)
Central	2	East Durham College (Houghall)
		Framwellgate School*
		Sniperley Area
North	3	Crookhall Playing Fields - Consett AFC
		Riverside Sports Pavilion (x2)
East	1	Seaham Area
South	2	Whitworth Park Academy or Daisy Fields Sports Ground
		Woodham Academy
West	0	-

* This site will only be considered if not feasible to install floodlights at existing Durham Johnston school (as contained in LFFP).

Recommendations

- 4.31 The following recommendations are proposed:
- ◀ Provide additional 3G pitches in County Durham aligned to identified shortfalls in football training.
 - ◀ Retain all certified 3G pitches on the respective sporting registers and ensure certification of each is renewed through performance standard testing so to maintain the level of 3G capacity available to accommodate demand from different sports.
 - ◀ Seek to maximise use of all existing 3G pitches at weekends to accommodate match play in order to accommodate all mini demand and additionally to reduce grass pitch shortfalls.
 - ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, ensure they are constructed to required specifications and to meet FA and RFU recommendations rather than minimum dimensions where land footprint allows, so to maximise opportunities for use for all formats of competitive play.
 - ◀ Further to this, seek to secure access through usage agreements where possible as a condition of partnership investment or planning conditions.
 - ◀ Seek to maximise use of the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches throughout the County by community rugby clubs to reduce shortfalls on grass pitch provision.
 - ◀ Ensure that all rugby union activity currently taking place on 3G pitches that are not WR compliant is non-contact (Sedgefield Community Sport College and Park View School (North Lodge)).
 - ◀ Encourage providers to have a mechanism in place which ensures the long term sustainability of provision, such as an adequate sinking fund for repairs or resurfacing formed over time.

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- ◀ Through the creation of new full sized 3G pitches, consider options to deliver a wide variety of sporting opportunities, including new formats of competitive football such as central venue midweek flexi and vets leagues, as well as walking football and female development centres.
- ◀ Should any new 3G pitches be built, consider potential to certify for competitive use by sports additional to football as part of a shared scheme, for example, to reduce shortfalls for rugby union or rugby league.
- ◀ Should any WR compliant 3G pitches be established in the West of or South analysis areas then secure community use agreements for clubs currently situated in those respective areas.
- ◀ Cease any contact rugby union sessions that are taking place on non-WR compliant 3G pitches, particularly at Sedgfield Community Sports College, King James I Academy and Park View School (North Lodge) where community clubs are reported to occasionally train.

Cricket pitches

Summary

4.32 Below is the summary from the Assessment Report:

Present and future demand for cricket cannot be sufficiently accommodated by existing supply of facilities.
Supply and demand analysis of natural turf cricket squares in County Durham at peak times suggests there is a significant shortfall of provision.

- ◀ In total, there are 59 natural turf cricket squares in County Durham located across 57 sites, all, of which, are available for community use in some form.
- ◀ The Central Analysis Area has the most natural grass squares available for community use accommodating 24% of the supply, whilst the East Analysis Area has the fewest number of natural grass squares available for community use (ten squares) equating to 17% of supply.
- ◀ There are 20 non-turf pitches (NTPs) in County Durham. Of which, six are standalone and the remaining are all within existing squares alongside grass wickets.
- ◀ Pitch quality ratings determined by non-technical quality assessments and user feedback found 29 natural turf cricket squares (48%) to be of good quality; 29 (48%) to be of standard quality and two (4%) of poor quality.
- ◀ Nine of the 53 clubs (17%) in County Durham consider the ancillary facilities home venues to be of a poor quality, with 15 (28%) considering ancillary facilities on site are of a good quality; the remaining sites are considered to have standard quality ancillary provision.
- ◀ Seventeen of the responding clubs report a need for additional training facilities. Two of these clubs, Belmont CC and Murton CC, report aspirations for new NTPs to be installed alongside existing grass squares.
- ◀ Most cricket clubs in County Durham are considered to have secured use, however, only nine responding clubs own sites freehold.
- ◀ There are 53 cricket clubs playing in County Durham producing 145 senior and 147 junior teams playing competitive matches.
- ◀ Applying TGRs by analysis area to give a more localised approach in County Durham, it is apparent that the Central, East and North analysis areas will see a growth of one junior boys team each.
- ◀ Of responding clubs, 21 express ambitions to increase the number of teams representing respective clubs.

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- ◀ In practice, although 22 sites display potential spare capacity, only nine of these sites have actual spare capacity at senior peak time (Saturday), in addition, 16 sites can accommodate more competitive senior teams on Sunday.
- ◀ There are 23 natural grass squares in County Durham considered to be overplayed by an accumulative 473 match sessions per season.

Scenarios

Improving quality

- 4.33 Improving the quality of all natural grass squares by one increment (poor to standard or standard to good) where possible, increases potential spare capacity in the County by 142 match equivalent sessions per season; with overplay on four sites being eliminated, two of which, subsequently have potential capacity for additional demand. All of these sites are accessed for regular match demand by clubs.
- 4.34 Increasing the capacity across the County by improving the quality would not provide sufficient capacity across County Durham to accommodate all future demand, therefore an alternative supplementary solution should be sought. Installing NTPs for some junior demand and lower level senior match play could be a solution.
- 4.35 It should be noted that the increased capacity includes squares located at education sites which are currently considered to have insecure tenure; and not all capacity available will be during the peak period for match demand.

Using NTPs for some senior cricket

- 4.36 There are 13 NTPs located at club sites in County Durham alongside grass squares. This provision is currently utilised for some training demand by clubs with or without mobile batting nets. Seven club sites with NTPs are currently overplayed; allowing lower levels of senior activity and some junior match demand to take place on NTPs could eliminate overplay from five of these sites.
- 4.37 Using NTPs for junior cricket (up to and including U11) match demand; as well as for 3rd XI and midweek T20 cricket could remove significant levels of demand from all seven sites with NTPs accommodating club demand.
- 4.38 As mentioned, overplayed would be eliminated at five of these sites; however, at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club overplay would be reduced to just two match equivalent sessions per season, which is a manageable amount.
- 4.39 Accommodating some youth and lower levels of cricket activity on an NTP would not be sufficient to eliminate overplay at Beamish & East Stanley Sports Club, reducing overplay from 33 match equivalent sessions per season to nine match equivalent sessions. If the quality of the pitch on the site was also improved from poor to standard quality then overplay would be eradicated from the site, with 31 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity then created.
- 4.40 The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility.

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Loss of access to sites without security of tenure

- 4.41 At present, 11 responding clubs are identified as accommodating match demand at sites without security of tenure. This is either virtue of annual rental agreements, licences or lease agreements. If all 11 clubs were to lose access to respective home venues this would result in a requirement to re-accommodate 444 match equivalent sessions on grass squares.
- 4.42 In addition, if Wolsingham CC was unable to access the NTP at Wolsingham School, given the pitches notably poor quality, then a further four match equivalent session would need to be accommodated.
- 4.43 Given that there are current shortfalls of provision throughout County Durham, re-accommodating this unsecure demand is not feasible. Therefore, work should be done with clubs to secure long term agreements to prevent shortfalls from increasing or from potentially ceasing to exist.
- 4.44 The following clubs currently lack security of tenure:
- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| ◀ Belmont CC | ◀ Langley Park & Bearpark CC |
| ◀ Blackhall CC | ◀ Mainsforth CC |
| ◀ Coundon CC | ◀ Middleton in Teesdale CC |
| ◀ Evenwood CC | ◀ Murton CC |
| ◀ Esh Winning CC | ◀ Peterlee CC |
| ◀ Hornden CC | ◀ Raby Castle CC |

Impact of All Stars future growth

- 4.45 In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine, All Stars Cricket delivers cricket programmes aimed at introducing cricket to children aged from five to eight. It is predicted that this will subsequently lead to increased participation in junior cricket at clubs. Given the target age demographic of All Stars participants, it should be considered that much future demand will be generated in more than five years, when participants will then be aged between ten and 13 years old.
- 4.46 Since its launch in 2017, the number of All Stars Cricket centres in County Durham has increased on an annual basis. Predominantly located at club sites, these sessions provide introductory opportunities for 5-8 year olds. With the continual growth of the programme in the County it is expected that this will eventually result in the formation of additional junior teams (both male and female); and as such increase the amount of activity taking place on pitches.
- 4.47 It should be noted that although All Stars Cricket sessions do not take place on match squares, they do take place on outfields meaning that no match play is able to take place on the site concurrently. This may cause an issue as junior participation grows, as a longer term consequence of All Stars Cricket; and the continued operation of existing, and potentially new, All Stars sessions.
- 4.48 Some clubs may need to access secondary venues to accommodate All Stars Cricket in the future; and may opt to utilise school playing fields that are often unused during the summer months. Currently, six education providers have grass cricket squares, with a further having NTPs (three, of which, are available for community use). As mentioned, not all current All Stars Cricket centres are based at club sites, with some located at education sites that do not currently have formal cricket provision.

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- 4.49 This supports the idea that a formal cricket pitch is not required to host All Stars Cricket, meaning that forging potential links between clubs and local schools (both primary and secondary) could be an option to ensure that club sites remain available for use with the increased level of demand. Security of tenure at these sites should be obtained with formal, long term community use agreements.

Impact of growth in female participation

- 4.50 The ECB, along with County Cricket Boards/Foundations, is focussing developing female participation at both senior and junior levels. Currently there are two senior women's teams and nine junior girls' teams playing within County Durham, with further junior female participation accommodated within some junior boys' squads.
- 4.51 As part of the ECB's Inspiring Generations Strategy, that was announced in January 2019, two of the six key priorities focus on increasing participation by girls. Investing in girls' county age group cricket and delivering a girls' secondary school programme should both aid an increase in participation. Should this happen then clubs will need to be able to accommodate female teams in relation to having pitch capacity available as well as appropriate supporting ancillary facilities, particularly changing provision.
- 4.52 Initially, this may mean that the clubs that currently support female teams strengthen player pools, but over the time it is expected that the overall number of female teams across the County will increase; and with it clubs will seek to modify and invest in ancillary facilities. This should be supported to improve the sustainability of any participation increases.
- 4.53 Four clubs (Crook CC, Leadgate CC, Murton CC and Sacriston CC) have aspiration to establish senior women's teams in the future with Sacriston CC aspiring to create two senior women's teams. It should be noted that of these clubs only Crook CC currently has a junior girls' team.

Recommendations

- 4.54 The following recommendations are proposed:
- ◀ Existing quantity of cricket pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
 - ◀ As a priority, work to secure long term tenure for clubs either renting pitches on an annual basis; or having a licence agreement in place.
 - ◀ Improve quality of accompanying pavilion facilities at Esh Winning CC, Evenwood CC, Langley Park & Bearpark CC, Littletown CC and Lands CC respective home venues, preferably through creation of a new buildings to ECB specifications, or through refurbishment of the existing building if not feasible.
 - ◀ Maintain and improve pitch quality through rigorous and regular maintenance, remedial and preparatory work.
 - ◀ Where clubs conduct their own maintenance ensure they have sufficient access to the required equipment.
 - ◀ Strong emphasis should be placed on improving pitches from poor to standard quality as this will have a greater impact.
 - ◀ Assist clubs to improve security at more rural sites that are reportedly more prone to unofficial use/vandalism.
 - ◀ Work with clubs and leagues towards permitting use of NTPs to make greater use of NTPs to help alleviate overplay at club sites.
 - ◀ Work with Wolsingham CC to relocate match demand from the NTP at Wolsingham School which is of a very poor quality and should not be used to accommodate any demand until quality is improved.

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- ◀ Continue to deliver the All Stars Cricket and seek to increase junior participation.
- ◀ Work to increase women and girls' participation in line with the Inspiring Generations ECB Strategy and protect existing provision so that women and girls have a suitable place to practise and play.
- ◀ Monitor future growth and ensure outfielders are improved to help increase capacity to accommodate future growth from All Stars Cricket.

Rugby union pitches

Summary

4.55 Below is the summary from the Assessment Report:

There is a current and future overall shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in County Durham. There is insufficient supply of junior and mini pitches across County Durham.

A lack of floodlit training areas or utilisation of the World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre); Consett Leisure Centre and East Durham College (Peterlee Campus) means that the majority of clubs are training on match pitches which is contributing to the significant levels of overplay.

- ◀ Within County Durham there are 35 senior, seven junior and two mini pitches provided across 26 sites. All but four of these pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Both Durham School and Barnard Castle School report aspiration to convert current grass rugby union pitches to World Rugby compliant 3G pitches.
- ◀ Six clubs currently lease their home grounds from third parties, either the Council, town/parish councils or Durham University. Two clubs have annual rental agreements with third parties to access provision; with just one community rugby union club in County Durham owning its home venue.
- ◀ Durham City Rugby Club (site ID 84), is leased to Durham City RFC on a six year agreement, on a two year rolling basis; this means that the Club is not considered to have security of tenure at the site.
- ◀ Seaham RFC has a lack of security of tenure and an inability to generate a secondary income at Seaham Leisure Centre that has resulted in the Club seeking for an alternative venue.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches in County Durham, 18 are assessed as good quality, over half, of which, are in the Central Analysis Area (11 pitches), with both the North (two pitches) and West (five pitches) analysis areas also having pitches considered good quality.
- ◀ There are seven standard quality rugby union pitches available for community use in County Durham, with three in the South Analysis Area, two in the East Analysis Area and one each in the North and Central analysis areas.
- ◀ Ancillary provision used by Barnard Castle RFC and Newton Aycliffe RFC are considered poor quality.
- ◀ There are nine community rugby union clubs based in County Durham, three in the South Analysis Area; two in the North and East areas; and one each in the Central and West areas. The community clubs provide a total of 86 teams.
- ◀ Three clubs in County Durham (Durham City RFC, Horden & Peterlee RFC and Bishop Auckland RUFC) report aspirations to establish additional teams.
- ◀ As mentioned earlier, there are currently five World Rugby compliant 3G pitches located across County Durham.

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- ◀ TGRs forecast the creation of one senior men's team and a junior boys' team, when applied County-wide. However, when these applied by Analysis Area it is likely that any increase in participation will be assimilated into existing playing squads rather than establishing new teams.
- ◀ There are several secondary schools already playing rugby union in County Durham, with Durham School and Barnard Castle having strong rugby union programmes in place. A significant part of the development programme in County Durham is to further increase the number of secondary schools playing in rugby union.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity totals 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week, with the East Analysis Area having the largest proportion of this (one MES); and the North Analysis Area having 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are 13 pitches across eleven sites considered overplayed in County Durham. Most overplayed pitches are senior size, with one junior and two mini pitches overplayed. Overplay throughout the County totals 30.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

Scenarios

Training on 3G

- 4.56 There are currently five 3G pitches within County Durham that are World Rugby (WR) compliant. The three pitches at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle) are used for both match and training demand by Durham University rugby teams; the 3G pitch at Consett Leisure Centre is utilised by Consett & District RFC for some training demand; whilst East Durham College (Peterlee) is not currently used by any community rugby union clubs.
- 4.57 As mentioned, Consett & District RFC already access 3G provision for training demand although this totals one match equivalent session per week with the Club noting that cost is a prohibiting factor. Even if all of the Club's training demand was accommodated on the 3G pitch at Consett Leisure Centre this would not be enough to remove overplay from the grass pitches at Consett RFC.
- 4.58 The junior pitch at Durham City RFC is used to accommodate midweek training demand by Durham City RFC, with restrictions of use placed on the senior pitch on site. Five match equivalent sessions of training demand are accommodated weekly, although the Club does utilise provision at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle) when availability and finances allow.
- 4.59 Given that Durham University demand is high from both University representative teams and intra-mural activity it is thought that only two match equivalent sessions of Durham City RFC training demand could be accommodated on site, although as mentioned with Consett & District RFC, cost may be prohibitive. As with Consett & District RFC, relocating this amount of demand to Durham University 3G provision would not be sufficient to eliminate overplay from the Club's primary home venue.
- 4.60 Horden & Peterlee RFC and Seaham RFC are both located in the East Analysis Area. Currently the WR compliant 3G pitch at East Durham College (Peterlee) is not accessed by a community club for midweek training demand. The latter of the two aforementioned clubs does not currently train due to a lack of floodlit or WR compliant provision, therefore emphasis should be placed on establishing a floodlit training area for this club. The College pitch is located too far away to be considered as an option for the Club to use on a regular basis.

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- 4.61 Horden & Peterlee RFC has the largest amount of midweek training demand on match pitches, totalling seven match equivalent sessions per week. Both grass pitches at Eden Park (Peterlee), the home venue of Horden & Peterlee RFC, are floodlit meaning that training demand is evenly distributed across the site.
- 4.62 Currently the grass pitches are overplayed by a combined ten match equivalent sessions per week. Relocating the Club's midweek training demand to East Durham College would reduce this overlap to three match equivalent sessions.
- 4.63 The Club is seeking to establish a third grass pitch on site, meaning that match demand will be less concentrated. If the new pitch is of a similar quality to the current provision then site capacity will increase by four match equivalent sessions per week. This would then mean that if all training demand is accommodated at East Durham College (Peterlee) 3G pitch then there would then be one match equivalent session of potential capacity available on the site, which could then accommodate the Club's aspirational demand of a new junior boys' team.
- 4.64 Given the size of County Durham travelling to alternative analysis areas for midweek training is prohibitive for the five clubs that do not have a WR compliant 3G pitch in proximity (Bishop Auckland RFC, Barnard Castle RFC, Newton Aycliffe RFC and Sedgfield RFC).
- 4.65 Both Chester le Street RFC and Sedgfield RFC currently access artificial pitches that are not WR compliant. Both clubs use these facilities for one match equivalent session per week each. Training demand from the latter could be accommodated at Consett Leisure Centre, enabling the Club to conduct contact training sessions throughout the season, although the weekly travel would be significant.
- 4.66 Given the size of County Durham travelling to alternative analysis areas for midweek training is prohibitive for the five clubs that do not have a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in proximity (Bishop Auckland RFC, Barnard Castle RFC, Newton Aycliffe RFC and Sedgfield RFC). It may be necessary for these clubs to displace training demand outside of the County if appropriate 3G provision becomes available, but priority should be given to providing clubs with floodlit training areas.
- 4.67 Should Barnard Castle School establish a WR compliant 3G pitch on site, as it aspires to, then securing a community use agreement for Barnard Castle RFC should be a priority. Alternatively, if the potential development at Teesdale School proceeds then ensure that any new 3G provision on site is WR compliant and that the Club has secured community use.
- 4.68 The table overleaf looks at the impact of relocating club training demand would have on individual sites. As midweek training demand can only take place on floodlit pitches; only those pitches that are subject to training demand are examined. It is a key action for RFU to work with these clubs to help realise this capacity.

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Table 4.3: Impact of relocating training demand to WR compliant 3G pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	Usage (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Training demand (MES per week)	Capacity effect (MES per week)
62	Consett RFC	North	Secure	Senior	M1 / D3	2	Yes	10	6	4	3.5 ⁴	0.5
84	Durham City RFC	Central	Secure	Junior	M2 / D1	1	Yes	5.5	3	2.5	2	0.5
35	Eden Park (Peterlee)	East	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	2	Yes	14	4	10	7	3

Improving pitch quality

- 4.69 As shown overleaf, improving maintenance from poor (M0) to standard (M1) or standard (M1) to good (M2) at sites where clubs have security of tenure would create additional capacity of 9.25 match equivalent sessions (MES) per week. Pitches accessed by Seaham RFC and Chester le Street RFC have not been included given that neither club has security of tenure at respective home venues.
- 4.70 This would create an additional 1.75 match equivalent sessions per week potential spare capacity for use, as well as removing overplay from two pitches; and reducing accumulative shortfalls from 24.25 match equivalent sessions per week to 15 match equivalent sessions.
- 4.71 Of note, all but one of the pitches that would retain overplay with pitch improvements are all floodlit and therefore, are subject to midweek training demand.
- 4.72 Maintenance of the pitches at Shincliffe (Durham City RFC) cannot be improved further with a current maintenance rating of M2 the maximum possible for a community club.

⁴ In addition to this total one MES of demand is already accommodated on 3G provision.

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Table 4.4: Impact of improving maintenance

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	Usage (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality	Capacity effect (MES per week)
21	Bishop Auckland Rugby Football Club	South	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	1	Yes	5.5	2	3.5	M2/D1	2.5
						M1 / D0	1	No	2	1.5	0.5	M2/D0	-0.5
						M1 / D1	1	No	3	2	1	M2/D1	-
62	Consett RFC	North	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D3	2	Yes	10	6	4	M2/D3	3
98	Eden Park (Peterlee)	East	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	2	Yes	14	4	10	M2/D1	8
190	Newton Aycliffe Sports Club	South	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D2	1	No	1	2.5	-1.5	M2/D2	-2.25
232	Shincliffe (Durham City RFC)	Central	Yes	Secure	Senior	M2 / D1	2	No	2.75	6	-3.25	M2/D1	-3.25
342	Sedgefield Cricket Club	South	Yes	Secure	Senior	M0 / D1	1	No	1	1.5	-0.5	M1/D1	-1
360	Barnard Castle Rugby Club (offsite)	West	Yes	Secure	Senior	M0 / D0	1	No	3	0.5	2.5	M1/D0	1.5
						M0 / D0	1	Yes	5.5	0.5	5	M1/D0	4

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Improving maintenance & drainage

- 4.73 Alternatively, improving both maintenance and drainage by one increment would increase capacity by 11 match equivalent sessions per week. This would eliminate overplay on two pitches; whilst concurrently decreasing overplay and increasing potential spare capacity. Five pitches remain overplayed, all but one of which are floodlit and are subject to midweek training demand.
- 4.74 At Consett RFC, also relocating training demand to the WR compliant 3G pitch at Consett Leisure Centre would be enough to eradicate overplay. However, this would not be sufficient at Eden Park (Peterlee) if Horden & Peterlee RFC relocated all of its midweek training demand to East Durham College (Peterlee) 3G pitch, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay remaining.
- 4.75 As mentioned, a lack of a WR compliant 3G pitch in the South or West analysis areas means that training demand at Bishop Auckland Rugby Football Club or Barnard Castle Rugby Club (offsite) cannot realistically be relocated away from home venues. Dedicated floodlit training areas would be required for both teams to remove midweek training demand from match pitches. Removing all midweek training demand from match pitches, in addition to drainage and maintenance improvements would be sufficient to eradicate overplay from Bishop Auckland Rugby Football Club; however, this would simply reduce overplay at Barnard Castle Rugby Club to 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- 4.76 Even if all pitches were improved to the maximum possible quality rating (M2/D3) this would create enough capacity on only one of the overplayed sites (Bishop Auckland Rugby Football Club) to completely remove shortfalls. Therefore, providing dedicated, floodlit training areas for clubs to utilise midweek would be the most suitable action.
- 4.77 It should be noted that drainage cannot be improved at Consett RFC as both pitches currently have the highest possible rating for a community club (D3).

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Table 4.5: Improving maintenance and drainage

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Quality rating	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	Usage (MES per week)	Site capacity (MES per week)	Capacity rating (MES per week)	Improved quality	Capacity effect (MES per week)
21	Bishop Auckland Rugby Football Club	South	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	1	Yes	5.5	2	3.5	M2/D2	2.25
						M1 / D0	1	No	2	1.5	0.5	M2/D1	-1
						M1 / D1	1	No	3	2	1	M2/D2	-0.25
62	Consett RFC	North	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D3	2	Yes	10	6	4	M2/D3	3
98	Eden Park (Peterlee)	East	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	2	Yes	14	4	10	M2/D2	7.5
190	Newton Aycliffe Sports Club	South	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D2	1	No	1	2.5	-1.5	M2/D3	-2.5
232	Shincliffe (Durham City RFC)	Central	Yes	Secure	Senior	M2 / D1	2	No	2.75	6	-3.25	M2/D2	-3.75
342	Sedgefield Cricket Club	South	Yes	Secure	Senior	M0 / D1	1	No	1	1.5	-0.5	M1/D2	-1
360	Barnard Castle Rugby Club (offsite)	West	Yes	Secure	Senior	M0 / D0	1	No	3	0.5	2.5	M1/D1	1
						M0 / D0	1	Yes	5.5	0.5	5	M1/D1	3.5

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Loss of sites where clubs lack security of tenure

- 4.78 Three community clubs in County Durham are not considered to have security of tenure at their primary home venues. Seaham, Durham City and Chester le Street rugby club each has short term agreements in place which do not guarantee long term presence on sites.
- 4.79 Should Durham City RFC lose access to the pitches at Durham City RFC, which is owned by Durham University, then the Club would be required to relocate all match demand to the two senior pitches at Shincliffe, which the Club owns on freehold. This would result in the two pitches having just one match equivalent session of potential capacity combined.
- 4.80 It should be noted that neither pitch at Shincliffe is currently floodlit meaning that the Club would either have to source portable floodlights and then accommodate training demand on match pitches which would result in overplay of one match equivalent session; or seek to utilise 3G provision locally. As mentioned, the high demand from Durham University student population means that accessing the WR complaint 3G provision at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle) would not be feasible. The Club and University should work together to secure a longer term agreement for the Club to continue to utilise Durham City RFC site for both match and training demand.
- 4.81 Chester le Street RFC currently rents pitch provision at Riverside Sports Pavilion (Chester le Street) on an annual basis. Only the Club's match demand takes place on the site, totalling 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. Should the Club lose access to the provision at this site then it would be required to relocate to an alternative site within the North Analysis Area, with no sites in the Area displaying any potential spare capacity.
- 4.82 An option may be to relocate to Hermitage Academy (Chester le Street) where the Club currently trains on an ad-hoc basis (utilising the sand based AGP); but the senior rugby union pitch at this site is overplayed from curricular demand; and the site is not considered secure. Improvements to pitch maintenance and drainage; coupled with a long term community use agreement would be required for the site to be feasible for Chester le Street RFC. With this in mind, all parties should resolve to secure a long term agreement for the Club at Riverside Sports Pavilion (Chester le Street) with the site having capacity to accommodate additional demand should the Club grow.
- 4.83 Seaham RFC utilises Lord Byron's Walk Playing Field for senior demand and Seaham Town Park for mini demand. The Club does not have security of tenure at either site renting both sites from Seaham Town Council and Durham County Council respectively. Rental agreements are currently annual with the Club responsible for maintaining the pitches. Should the Club lose access to both sites then two match equivalent sessions of demand would need to be relocated.
- 4.84 There only alternative site in the Seaham Area of the East Analysis Area is at Seaham Leisure Centre, where one senior pitch has 1.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity. This is insufficient for club demand; and the Club notes that it does not wish to return to the site due to previous issues regarding security of tenure and an inability to generate a secondary income.
- 4.85 The Club is in discussions with Seaham Town Council to secure a 35 year lease at Seaham Town Park; this will provide security of tenure for both the mini pitches and the supporting clubhouse facility. However, this agreement is yet to be secured to alternative provision may be required if it does not complete.

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- 4.86 A similar agreement should be sought for Lord Byron's Walk Playing Field to give the Club secure tenure of a senior pitch. There is space on the site to accommodate two additional senior pitches as well as a dedicated training area, so this may be a more suitable longer term prospect for the Club, provided that ancillary provision should be established on the site.

Accessing school provision

- 4.87 There are a number of school sites throughout County Durham that are noted as being available for community use. It may be an option for clubs that currently have shortfalls of capacity to access the provision at local schools as secondary venues. For Chester le Street RFC, Newton Aycliffe RFC and Sedgfield RFC this would not be a concern as each club has some capacity at current home venues.
- 4.88 Based on current pitch provision, relocating demand from Bishop Auckland RFC and Seaham RFC to school sites would not be possible as neither club has local schools with rugby union provision. King James I Academy (Bishop Auckland) had a rugby union pitch, but this has become disused due to continued unofficial use of the pitch degrading the quality.
- 4.89 Realistically, accessing school facilities for these two clubs would mean displacing demand to either alternative settlements or analysis areas which may impact the sustainability of each club.
- 4.90 For Durham City RFC, Barnard Castle RFC, Consett & District RFC and Horden & Peterlee RFC, accessing school sites may be a real possibility. Barnard Castle School currently has three match equivalent sessions of potential capacity on senior pitches. Ideally this could be accessed by Barnard Castle RFC, with the two organisations having close links; but given that no community use agreement is currently in place and the presence of boarders on site highlights a potential safeguarding issue this may not be possible in the shorter term. If a longer term solution could be sought this would be beneficial for the Club.
- 4.91 The closest school provision to the home venue of Horden & Peterlee RFC is located at St Bedes RC Comprehensive School (Peterlee) and The Academy of Shotton Hall (Peterlee). Both sites have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity on single senior pitches; however, the former is not available for community use. The latter is available for community use and is considered secure by virtue of a community use agreement. The low capacity available on the site may inhibit use of the site by the Club but improvements to pitch quality (currently M0/D1) could see site capacity increase.
- 4.92 There are options available at school sites in the North Analysis Area, to Consett & District RFC. However, none are within close proximity to the Club's current home venue; and only North Durham Academy currently has some potential capacity (0.5 match equivalent sessions). A suitable solution for the Club would be to increase utilisation of the WR compliant 3G pitch at (neighbouring) Consett Leisure Centre before considering utilising available capacity at North Durham Academy (Stanley). It should be noted that the pitch at North Durham Academy (Stanley) is poor quality with natural inadequate drainage meaning that pitch improvements would be required.
- 4.93 As mentioned previously, accommodating match demand on available pitches (either at Durham City RFC or Shincliffe) is not a concern for Durham City RFC. When training demand is added to this, however, shortfalls develop. Accessing available capacity at East Durham College (Houghall Campus) (one MES) presents the most realistic current option for the Club, with the site having secure community use via a current community use agreement. Accommodating some match demand at this site; would support the Club should it lose access to Durham City RFC; training provision would remain an issue, however.

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- 4.94 Other education sites in the Central Analysis Area are not considered feasible in the shorter term, with a lack of a community use agreement an issue in relation to Durham School, The Racecourse (Durham University) and Durham University Sports Centre; whilst the rugby union pitch at Durham Johnston Comprehensive School is not available for community use despite the site being considered secure and making the football provision on site available for community use.
- 4.95 Overall education sites may provide some opportunities for community clubs, however, a lack of community use agreements means that this provision should not be relied upon in the longer term. Clubs should seek to improve current grass provision and increase use of WR compliant 3G pitches to reduce current levels of overplay. Alternatively, floodlit training areas should be established to remove midweek training demand from match pitches.

Recommendations

- 4.96 The following recommendations are proposed:
- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby union pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
 - ◀ Seek to maximise use of the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitches at Durham University, East Durham College (Peterlee) and Consett Leisure Centre by County Durham based clubs particularly for training to help address overplay.
 - ◀ Improve pitch maintenance across the County through improved maintenance. Explore options for an equipment bank where clubs can share equipment.
 - ◀ Work to ensure that all clubs have long term lease agreements to provide the clubs with security of tenure on all currently used pitches.
 - ◀ Improve ancillary provision at Barnard Castle and Sedgefield rugby clubs; ensuring that there changing provision is of sufficient quality and number to service all pitches simultaneously.
 - ◀ Where clubs have female teams ensure that there are sufficient ensuite changing facilities to support continued growth.
 - ◀ Work with Barnard Castle RFC and Teesdale School as/when plans for development of the Teesdale School site progress, ensuring that the Club secures a long term community use agreement and appropriate pitch and ancillary facilities to support the Club in the longer term.
 - ◀ Should any WR compliant 3G pitches be established in the West of or South analysis areas then secure community use agreements for clubs currently situated in those respective areas.
 - ◀ Cease any contact rugby union sessions that are taking place on non-WR compliant 3G pitches, particularly at Sedgefield Community Sports College, King James I Academy and Park View School (North Lodge) where community clubs are reported to occasionally train.

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Rugby league pitches

Summary

4.97 Below is the summary from the Assessment Report:

Currently there is an overplay on senior rugby league pitches resulting in a shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week. There is some actual spare capacity in the East Analysis Area, however, this is outweighed by the overplay in the South.

This is predominantly a result of training and competitive demand taking place on pitches.

The current shortfall will be exacerbated when club aspirations and displaced demand are factored in, increasing the overall shortfall to 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of three grass rugby league pitches across two sites in County Durham. All of the pitches are senior size and available for community use.
- ◀ Both rugby league clubs, Durham Tigers ARLFC and Peterlee Pumas ARLFC, rent their respective home ground on annual agreements; meaning that neither is considered to have long term security of tenure.
- ◀ All of the rugby league pitches in County Durham are considered to be standard quality, although the pitches at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre have reportedly decreased in quality in recent years. There are issues with unofficial use at both sites, including, dog fouling, bike tracks, glass and some minor informal football.
- ◀ Both clubs in County Durham have access to changing room provision for home games; however, the quality of these varies.
- ◀ Durham Tigers ARLFC has concerns that the changing rooms are not secured during matches; and the car parking on site is not considered adequate to support the use of all available pitches.
- ◀ There are two competitive rugby league teams playing in County Durham, one representing each club (Peterlee Pumas ARLFC and Durham Tigers ARLFC).
- ◀ Both Clubs export partial levels of demand outside the Authority.
- ◀ Both clubs intend to increase the number of teams in future seasons.
- ◀ Given that one of the pitches at Helford Road Playing Fields is currently unused, there is one match equivalent session per week of actual spare capacity available during the peak period.
- ◀ Two pitches across two sites are overplayed by a total of 1.5 match equivalent sessions per week. This is predominantly as a result of training demand taking place on pitches and capacity being limited by standard quality ratings.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

4.98 All rugby league pitches in County Durham are currently standard quality. Improving the quality of each used pitch to good quality through improvements to current maintenance regimes would increase capacity for rugby league activity in the County by two match equivalent sessions. This would be sufficient to eliminate overplay at both Helford Road Playing Fields (Peterlee) and Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre; resulting in the former having 0.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity and the latter being at capacity.

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- 4.99 Whilst this would address current levels of overplay, it may be more cost-effective and more beneficial in the longer term if alternative strategies were considered, such as transferring training demand from match pitches.

Transfer of training demand from match pitches

- 4.100 Both Peterlee Pumas ARLFC and Durham Tigers ARLFC currently train on match pitches throughout the season, both contributing two match equivalent sessions each. It should be noted that Durham Tigers ARLFC also displaces some primary training demand to Darlington Rugby Club (Darlington) and that tenure at this site is not considered secure. Removing all training demand off match pitches eliminates site specific shortfalls; and with it the County wide shortfall.
- 4.101 Removing Durham Tigers ARLFC midweek training demand from the match pitch at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre would result in the site having one match equivalent session of potential capacity; and 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity during the peak period. This capacity could then be utilised by the senior women's team and two additional primary teams that the Club aspires to establish. Creating a dedicated training area off the match pitch would be the most appropriate solution at this site.
- 4.102 There is a second senior rugby league pitch at Helford Road Playing Fields (Peterlee) that is currently unused by Peterlee Pumas ARLFC. Midweek training demand could easily be transferred to this unused pitch creating 1.5 match equivalent sessions of potential capacity on the current match pitch. It should be noted that this would not result in the currently unused pitch to be overplayed; with this pitch considered to be standard quality it could accommodate the two match equivalent session of training demand required by the Club. However, the pitch is dual use with football which could result in some issues at the beginning and end of the rugby league season when the pitch is utilised for some football demand.
- 4.103 At both sites floodlighting may need to be installed to provide appropriate provision for preseason training demand.

Loss of access to sites without security of tenure

- 4.104 Neither rugby league club in County Durham is considered to have security of tenure at respective current home venues, with both clubs renting pitches on an annual basis. Should either club lose access to home venues then the lack of alternative rugby league pitches in the County means that neither club will be able to easily relocate. This will result in either the Club being displaced outside of County Durham to neighbouring local authorities to access provision; clubs having to rent alternative provision most likely to be rugby union pitches at sites owned/leased by rugby union clubs; or either club could potentially cease to exist without appropriate provision available.

Recommendations

- 4.105 The following recommendations are proposed:
- ◀ Existing quantity of rugby league pitches to be protected (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4).
 - ◀ Improve pitch quality where possible to increase capacity in the County and reduce overall shortfalls.
 - ◀ Where possible, encourage teams to utilise areas off match pitches for training demand; on some sites this may mean installing floodlighting to encourage use during pre-season in the winter months.

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- ◀ Secure access to each site through long term community use agreements to give each club security of tenure.
- ◀ Establish appropriate ancillary provision at Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre specifically for use by Durham Tigers ARLFC.
- ◀ Should future demand from both clubs be achieved then Durham Tigers ARLFC will potentially require access to a second rugby league pitch to provide sufficient capacity.

Hockey (artificial grass pitches - AGPs)

Summary

4.106 Below is the summary from the Assessment Report:

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

Security of tenure for all clubs needs to be addressed as all AGPs are located at education sites with clubs accessing provision without long term community use agreements.

Establishment of new provision with Durham Dales HC earmarked as a potential partner club should be a priority.

- ◀ There are currently five full size hockey suitable AGPs in County Durham, all of which, are available for community use and used. Four of these are floodlit, the one that is not floodlit is located at Durham School.
- ◀ Durham School has aspiration to establish floodlights on its hockey suitable AGP, which will then allow the pitch to be utilised to accommodate midweek training demand. However, this is subject to planning permission.
- ◀ Durham Dales HC acknowledges that in order to sustain participation; and potentially grow, then it needs access to a full size hockey suitable AGP locally. The Club identifies two potential sites within Wolsingham as potential venues; Wolsingham Show Field (Ring 2) and St Ann's Field.
- ◀ There are three full size hockey suitable AGPs rated as good quality; two located at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre) and one at Barnard Castle School.
- ◀ The remaining two AGPs are standard quality pitch and located at Durham School (Central) and Hermitage Academy (North).
- ◀ All five full size hockey suitable AGPs are owned by education establishments, with management of each of those pitches through the school.
- ◀ In total, this means that there are 27 teams regularly taking part in competitive hockey activity in County Durham.
- ◀ Bishop Auckland HC is currently displaced out of the County, accessing provision at Carmel College (Darlington) for both match and training demand for one senior women's team.

Scenarios

Loss of unsecure sites

4.107 Of the three community-based hockey clubs in County Durham, none are considered to have security of tenure at current home venues. If a situation did arise in the future which forced the clubs to vacate their sites there would be a need to re-accommodate a total of 10 senior and six junior teams.

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- 4.108 Based on a floodlit, full size AGP being able to accommodate four matches per Saturday and Sunday i.e. eight teams, there is a need for two full size AGPs (based on peak time demand i.e. Saturday). It should be noted that accommodating this demand would rely on adequate programming and leagues allowing match play to commence at the start of the peak period.
- 4.109 Durham City HC (13 teams) is currently accommodated across three education sites (Durham University (Graham Sports Centre), Hermitage Academy and Durham School without long term, formal agreements in place. Should Durham University College hockey activity increase, which it is predicted to with the University's addition/relocation of two internal colleges, then this will reduce capacity at Durham University available for community clubs. Coupled with this, Durham School does not currently have any floodlighting midweek capacity for training demand becomes limited.
- 4.110 Barnard Castle Junior HC currently rents the AGP at Barnard Castle School (Senior School) on an annual basis and is therefore not considered to have security of tenure. Should the School cease to make the pitch available for community use then this will result in the Club having to either be displaced outside of the County or displaced out of its current analysis area; as no other full size, hockey suitable AGPs exist in the West Analysis Area.
- 4.111 This lack of a pitch in the West Analysis Area has also affected Durham Dales HC which does not currently have any formal teams due to a lack of adequate hockey suitable provision. The Club rents the small size 3G pitch at Wolsingham School on an hourly basis but has no formal security of tenure.
- 4.112 The priority should be to work with the schools (Durham School, Hermitage Academy and Barnard Castle School) to secure Durham City HC and Barnard Castle Junior HC to long term community use agreements.

Installing floodlights at Durham School

- 4.113 The full size hockey suitable AGP at Durham School is currently the only pitch that is not floodlit. This means that, although it is available for community use, clubs are unable to access the provision for midweek training demand.
- 4.114 The School reports aspirations to install floodlights on the pitch to encourage community use; and if this were to occur then it would then encourage greater use of the facility by Durham City HC.
- 4.115 Should community use agreements also be established between the Club and Durham School and Hermitage Academy then both match and training demand from the Club could be adequately accommodated.

Creating new provision

- 4.116 Use of the small size 3G pitch at Wolsingham School is inadequate for club hockey and as such, the development of Durham Dales HC is being adversely impacted. The Club is unable to formalise any teams despite having a significant number of informal members (142 members).
- 4.117 Historically the Club utilised a shale pitch at the School; however, since reforming as Durham Dales HC the 3G provision has been utilised. For the Club to sustain and grow participation then access to a full size hockey suitable AGP is required. The Club notes that given the demographic of its membership any new provision should be within a short distance Wolsingham, with good public transport links.

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- 4.118 When displaced demand from Bishop Auckland is considered in addition to the latent demand from Durham Dales HC, then the feasibility of a hockey suitable AGP in the Bishop Auckland settlement may be the most sustainable in the long term. The population in Bishop Auckland is larger than that of Wolsingham; and the establishment of a new hockey suitable AGP in the Town would see the return of Bishop Auckland HC to the County, with the Club having been displaced for a number of years.
- 4.119 Ideally any new provision would be located at an education site to encourage daytime use by schools; this would then have a knock on effect of increasing hockey participation. It would also grow hockey activity outside of the Central Analysis Area where currently the majority of demand takes place.

Recommendations

- 4.120 The following recommendations are proposed:
- ◀ Consider options for a full size hockey suitable AGP within the Bishop Auckland settlement, providing both Bishop Auckland HC (displaced) and Durham Dales HC with long term, secure, community use agreements for both midweek and weekend activity.
 - ◀ Work with providers to secure formal community use agreements for all clubs playing in County Durham to ensure continued hockey usage.
 - ◀ Establish floodlighting at Durham School to encourage midweek community use, providing Durham City HC with a community use agreement concurrently.
 - ◀ In the medium term, resurface the AGP at Durham School and facilitate ongoing community use through a long term community use agreement.
 - ◀ Improve the maintenance regime at Hermitage Academy to prevent the pitch from declining to poor quality.
 - ◀ Secure increased access to midweek and non-peak time capacity to allow for both growth in training demand and development and delivery of alternative hockey formats, such as short format matches/leagues and less formal participation-based sessions.
 - ◀ Ensure that future demand from new England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s) can be accommodated.
 - ◀ Seek to maximise use of capacity freed up from anticipated transfer of football training demand to 3G pitches as part of any new 3G provision in order to grow hockey participation.
 - ◀ Maintain AGPs regularly and to the standard required to preserve quality for performance.
 - ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a mechanism for sustainability such as a sinking fund, (formed by periodically setting aside money over time ready for surface repair or replacement when required) in place to maintain AGP pitch quality in the long term.
 - ◀ Review security of tenure and long term planning for hockey in County Durham in line with annual PPS updates.

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PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Protect playing field sites through local planning policy
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

Recommendation a – Protect playing field sites through local planning policy

- 5.2 The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.
- 5.3 Paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 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.
- 5.4 **Lapsed and disused** – playing field sites that formerly accommodated playing pitches but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use.
- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
 - ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These sites fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

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- 5.5 As far as possible the PPS audit and assessment aims to capture all of the pitches within County Durham. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Any sites omitted from the PPS either intended or having been overlooked, whether used, disused or lapsed, are subject to the same conditions as those detailed herein. Any such site is not to be considered as not required or surplus as part of the planning process.

Table 5.1: Disused and lapsed sites

Disused site/pitches	Analysis area	Type and amount of provision
Beamish & East Stanley Sports Club	North	A poor quality youth 11v11 pitch.
Binchester Recreation Ground	South	A grass adult football pitch.
Brandon Carr Avenue	Central	A grass adult football pitch.
Brandon Park (Brandon Top)	Central	A poor quality adult pitch that is not currently in use due to poor drainage.
Chester le Street Leisure Centre	North	A junior 11v11 football pitch.
Coundon Gate	South	A grass adult football pitch.
Coundon Grange Recreation Ground	South	A grass adult football pitch.
Crook Greenhead Playing Field	South	A grass adult football pitch.
Daisy Fields (Spennymoor)	South	A large site that has not been used for several years. There is space to accommodate at least four adult pitches. Spennymoor Town Youth FC has expressed aspirations to relocate to the site.
Deborah Wood (West Auckland)	South	Two adult football pitches.
Dene Community School of Technology	East	A poor quality adult football/senior rugby union pitch that is no longer maintained or used by the School. The area does not drain well and has been subject to some unofficial use, damaging the ground.
Eden Park (Peterlee)	East	A youth good quality youth 9v9 pitch. The pitch is to be converted to a rugby union pitch to accommodate demand from Horden & Peterlee RFC, which access the site as a home venue.
Former Blackfyne School (Consett) main school site	North	One adult and one youth 9v9 football pitch. Drainage works are underway to alleviate flooding issues and enable pitch use. Blackfyne Jnrs FC expressed interest in accessing pitches. Another adult pitch on site is currently used.
Former Moorside Community Technology College (Consett)	North	A youth 9v9 and three youth 11v11 pitches with space for additional provision.
Henknowle Recreation Ground	South	A grass adult football pitch.
Horndale Playing Fields	South	Three grass adult pitches that are no longer marked/maintained. The site also previously had changing facilities. Newton Aycliffe Youth FC expressed an interest in potentially accessing the site.
Hussledown Road (former Stanley School of Technology detached playing fields)	North	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 football pitch.
INEOS (School Lane, Newton Aycliffe)	South	A grass adult pitch of standard quality that has not been marked/maintained since 2015.

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Disused site/pitches	Analysis area	Type and amount of provision
Laurel Avenue (Durham)	Central	A grass adult football pitch.
Morrison Welfare (Annfield Plain)	North	A grass adult football pitch that has ceased to be maintained.
Oxhill	North	A grass adult football pitch.
Park Road North (Park View School detached playing field)	North	Disused for several years and previously contained one adult and one youth 9v9 pitch.
Sunderland Road Playing Fields (Peterlee)	East	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer maintained as a pitch. There are two adult pitches on the site that are still maintained.
The Charlie Wayman Football Fields (Ferryhill)	South	A lapsed adult football pitch; although another adult football pitch on the site is currently used.
Toronto Recreation Ground	South	A grass adult football pitch.
Tudhoe Grange Lower School (former)	South	Former school site that included one youth 11v11 pitch and one King St Primary detached 7v7 pitch. A housing allocation is contained in the CDP.
West Cornforth Community Centre	South	A poor quality, grass adult football pitch.
Woodham Academy	South	Poor quality pitches, two adult and one youth 9v9.

- 5.6 The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field sites require protection and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future.
- 5.7 Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should also be protected from development or be replaced (unless adequately re-provided elsewhere in accordance with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy Exception E4), as there is potential need for playing field land to accommodate more pitches to meet the identified shortfalls.
- 5.8 It is recommended that the Council adopts the following priority order of options with regards to addressing any disused/lapsed playing field sites that may be identified for disposal:
- 1) Firstly, explore the feasibility of bringing the site back into use. A feasibility study may show either:
 - a) The site can be brought back into sustainable use where funding is available, and use is secured by the Council and relevant NGBs/Community Groups; or
 - b) The site is not in a sustainable location and in which case no amount of money will make it desirable.
 - 2) The site could become public open space to meet a need identified; or
 - 3) Redevelop the site for an alternative use but use the capital receipt or contribution to invest in existing sites in the locality
- 5.9 **New housing development** - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development.

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- 5.10 The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for and capacity of existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required. The starting point for this is through utilisation of Sport England's New Pitch Demand Calculator (NDC) which is provided separately but is shown within Part 7: Housing Growth Scenario. It is likely that during the life span of the PPS that the improvement of existing sites will adequately meet the new demand from housing developments in County Durham.
- 5.11 **Development management** - the PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England as statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of a playing field will use the PPS to help assess relevant planning applications against paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and their Playing Fields Policy.
- 5.12 Sport England's playing field policy exception E1 only allows for development of lapsed or disused playing fields if a PPS shows a clear excess in the quantity of playing pitch provision at present and in the future across all playing pitch sports types and sizes.
Policy Exception E1:
- 5.13 'A robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.'
- 5.14 Where the PPS cannot demonstrate the site, or part of a site, is clearly surplus to requirements then replacement of the site, or part of a site, will be required to comply with Sport England policy exception E4.
Policy Exception E4:
- 5.15 'The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field':
- ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
 - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
 - ◀ in a suitable location, and
 - ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements
- 5.16 Further to this, all playing fields should be protected or replaced up until the point where all satisfied demand has been met within the study area or each individual sports catchment areas within a sub area.
- 5.17 However, as detailed in the football scenarios, it may be appropriate to consider decommissioning some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger, better quality sites and creating capacity.
- 5.18 In relation to schools, local authorities wanting to dispose of school playing field land need consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, but consent is now also required for disposal of any land used by a school or academy under Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010.

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- 5.19 It should be noted that consent under Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act does not necessarily mean subsequent planning approval will be granted. Therefore, any application for planning permission must meet the requirements of the relevant policy, in this case paragraph 97 of the Framework, Local Plan Policy and Sport England Policy. Indeed, applicants are advised to engage Sport England before submitting applications. Robust implementation of the statutory obligation will ensure protection of school playing fields for use by pupils (and sometimes the community as a whole) to ensure receipt is ploughed back into sports education.

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

- 5.20 A number of schools, commercial and private sites are being used in County Durham for competitive play. In many cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of activity, such as St Johns RC School (Bishop Auckland) or Hermitage Academy (Chester le Street).
- 5.21 NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the agreement.
- 5.22 In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.
- 5.23 The Council should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via lease agreements (minimum 25 years as recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so clubs are in a position to apply for external funding.
- 5.24 Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁵. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.
- 5.25 For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding.
- 5.26 Each club interested in leasing a site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability.

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

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Table 5.2 Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management sites identified as 'Key' or 'Local' within the action plan hierarchy may be appropriate to consider.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve (which can be attributed to the presence of a Clubmark/Charter Standard club).</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

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

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

5.28 In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site, to some degree, remains available for other purposes or for other users.

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

5.29 To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. A key issue in County Durham is a lack of access to high quality provision located at education sites.

5.30 A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

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- 5.31 The following school sites are identified as having potential to accommodate large user groups due to their multi-pitch offerings and should be further explored for securing community access through the appropriate methods:
- ◀ Barnard Castle School
 - ◀ Durham School
 - ◀ Durham University (Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle) & The Racecourse (Durham University Castle)
 - ◀ Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College
 - ◀ Park View School (North Lodge)
 - ◀ St Bedes RC Comprehensive School (Peterlee)
- 5.32 In some instances, outdoors sports facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these pitches sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.
- 5.33 As detailed earlier, NGBs and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

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AIM 2

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

Recommendations:

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

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

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

The FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

- 5.35 The key principles behind the service are to provide football clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas and discounts on machinery and materials to support improving the clubs' playing surface. The programme should be utilised in order to help any clubs that take on the management and maintenance of sites or which are currently managing and maintaining their own pitch site.
- 5.36 As subsidy is removed for pitch maintenance, the PIP is an essential toolkit in supporting self-management/maintenance of sites, particularly on adult sites that have historically been maintained by councils.

Addressing quality issues

- 5.37 Quality in County Durham is variable but generally pitches are assessed as standard or poor quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve pitch quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality sites is also essential.
- 5.38 It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer facilities tend to become, especially if no drainage systems are in place or if existing drainage systems are inadequate. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.
- 5.39 Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as provided in electronic format). The Strategy approach to outdoor sports facilities achieving these standards should be to enhance quality and therefore the planning system should seek to protect them.

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- 5.40 For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of ‘Good’, ‘Standard’ or ‘Poor’ quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).
- 5.41 Good quality refers to provision with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.
- 5.42 Standard quality refers to provision with, for example, adequate grass cover, minimal signs of wear and tear and goalposts that may be secure but in need of minor repair. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets.
- 5.43 Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. If a poor-quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed. It may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.
- 5.44 Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality sites may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women’s and girls’ demand.
- 5.45 To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to County Durham, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.
- 5.46 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

- 5.47 In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and seasonal for cricket).
- 5.48 The FA, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, as seen in the table below. With the exception of rugby union and rugby league, no guidelines are set by the NGBs for other grass pitch sports, although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

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Table 5.3 Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	Number of match equivalent sessions per week		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	None
	One non-turf wicket	60 per season		None

- 5.49 It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.
- 5.50 A cost-effective way to reduce unofficial use (and therefore overplay), particularly for football, could be to remove goalposts in between match days, principally at open access, high traffic sites that are managed by clubs. This will, however, require adequate, secured storage to be provided.
- 5.51 For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares where the boundary size is adequate.

Increasing maintenance

- 5.52 Standard or poor quality may not just be a result of unofficial use, overplay or poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/ standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing maintenance regimes.
- 5.53 The FA and ECB are 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 knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. For ECB, the Regional Pitch Advisor supports the development of County Pitch Advisors in County Boards which can provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites.
- 5.54 All local authority sites in County Durham receive a basic level of maintenance, consisting of regular cutting and lining with adhoc works undertaken during the football off season. Some are line marked depending on locality maintenance arrangements.

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

Improving changing provision

- 5.56 There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in County Durham, including some local authority sites. It is recommended that a holistic view is taken in regard to improvements and provision on site.
- 5.57 Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance.

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

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

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

- 5.59 Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and accompanying ancillary facilities.
- 5.60 In order to address the community's needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group.
- 5.61 It is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.
- 5.62 One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.
- 5.63 Please refer to Appendix Two for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities, likely funding requirements and indicative project costs.

Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions

- 5.64 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.

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- 5.65 For playing pitches the Council is encouraged to work with Sport England to devise a process for securing developer contributions which may include the use of Sport England's strategic planning tool 'New Development Pitch Calculator'. The Calculator uses information from the PPS to estimate the demand from individual or cumulative housing developments. The PPS should be used to help determine whether there is sufficient capacity in existing to accommodate the new demand, if improvements are required, or new provision should be secured.
- 5.66 Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).
- 5.67 Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPS findings are taken into consideration and that consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused, such as single grass pitch football sites without adequate ancillary facilities or new cricket/rugby grounds located away from existing clubs. Instead, multi-pitch and multi-sport sites should be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities which consider the potential for future AGP development.
- 5.68 The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition and maintenance regimes of the pitches in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches. A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106/CIL Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
 - ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
 - ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
 - ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
 - ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

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AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

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

- 5.69 The Council should use, and regularly update its Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to its own pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.
- 5.70 Furthermore, any potential school sites which become redundant over the lifetime of the Strategy may offer potential for meeting community needs on a localised basis. Where schools are closed their playing fields may be converted to dedicated community use to help address any unmet community needs.
- 5.71 Some sites (or adjacent land) may also have the potential to accommodate more pitches which maybe a solution to meeting shortfalls identified as is further explored within the action plan.

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

- 5.72 The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 3) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).
- 5.73 It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. For most sports the current and future demand for provision identified in County Durham can be overcome through maximising use of existing stock through a combination of:
 - ◀ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
 - ◀ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
 - ◀ The re-designation of facilities.
 - ◀ Securing long term community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
 - ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.
- 5.74 Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of playing pitches.

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5.75 Sports development work also approximates unmet demand which cannot currently be quantified (i.e. it is not being suppressed by a lack of facilities) but is likely to occur. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities; however, it is important to note that these may be subject to change and are not necessarily area specific.

Table 5.3: 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.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain slightly increase for grass wickets for adult participation. The ECB targets participation increases at junior level through the Allstars Cricket Programme which may have a subsequent future impact on requirement for grass and non-turf cricket provision.	A requirement may be needed to utilise additional natural turf provision in the peak period for senior cricket. pitches are operating at capacity. A need to encourage greater use of non-turf wickets particularly for junior use to help meet shortfalls.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU wants to ensure access to pitches in County Durham that satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights.	Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock, support facility development where appropriate and increase the number of floodlit pitches where necessary.

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby league	RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch RL and 9 aside RL.	A need to improve pitch quality and address overplay. Seek 3G pitch venues for training, Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase.	Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey in the future and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure the subjected pitch is not required. Secure long term tenure for clubs.
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)	These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.
	Play Hockey	The launch of Play Hockey and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

- 6.1 The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.
- 6.4 The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a County-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport by sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Hub sites	Key sites	Local sites	Reserve sites
Strategically located in the County. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.	Serves the local community.
Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.
Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control remains within the local authority/provider or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Management control is likely to be the local authority/parish/town council.
Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting.
Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

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- 6.5 **Hub sites** are of strategic County -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.
- 6.6 **Key sites** although these sites are more community focused, some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both Hub sites and Key Centre sites to complement the pitches in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary), quality and that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.
- 6.9 **Local sites** refer to those sites which are hired to clubs for a season, or are sites which have been leased on a long-term basis. Primarily they are sites with one facilities or a low number of facilities that service just one sport. The level of priority attached to them for Council-generated investment may be relatively low and consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking a long-term lease on the site (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought.
- 6.10 It is possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the club would be in a position to source external funding to improve the provision. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.
- 6.11 **Reserve sites** could be used as overspill for neighbouring sites and/or for summer matches/competitions, training or informal play. They are most likely to be single-pitch sites with no ancillary facilities or school sites where there is no current demand for community use.
- 6.12 It may be appropriate to consider decommissioning of some existing football sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport. Potential sites for this are identified within the action plan as **Reserve sites**.

Management and development

6.13 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 hub sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with the FA.

Action plan columns

Partners

6.14 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

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

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

6.17 **Low** priority sites tend to be single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

Costs

6.18 The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost: (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Timescales

- 6.20 The action plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales included relate to delivery times and are not necessarily priority based: Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).
- 6.21 Please note that the Sport England PPS Guidance still requires supply and demand audit data to be updated within three years of the date of the Strategy.

Aim

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

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

6.3: North Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES)	Future demand (2035) (MES)
Football (grass pitches)	North	Spare capacity of 7.5 on adult pitches. Shortfall of 4.5 on youth 11v11. Shortfall of 1 on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 1 on mini 7v7. At capacity on mini 5v5.	Spare capacity of 5.5 on adult pitches. Shortfall of 7 on youth 11v11. Shortfall of 1 on youth 9v9 Spare capacity of 1 on mini 7v7. At capacity on mini 5v5.
Football (3G AGPs)	North	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Cricket	North	Shortfall of 155	Shortfall of 199
Rugby union	North	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 6.25
Hockey (sand & water AGPs)	County Durham	Insufficient supply for community hockey	Insufficient supply for community hockey
Rugby league	County Durham	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
5	Annfield Plain Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	The home venue of Annfield Plain CC. The site has 13 good quality, grass wickets; with some potential capacity. However, there is no actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. The Club has expressed interest in relocating to Croft School detached playing field and this should be considered.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
80	Annfield Plain FC (Derwent Park)	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch that is the home venue of Annfield Plain FC (Step 7). The pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
6	Annfield Plain Park	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that is used by community clubs. The poor quality of the pitch means that any actual spare capacity has been discounted.	Seek to improve pitch quality through maintenance improvements; if this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
11	Beamish & East Stanley Sports Club	Cricket	Sports Club	The home venue of Beamish & East Stanley CC; the site has eight poor quality grass wickets and an NTP. The site is overplayed by 33 MES per season. The Club has aspiration for new fixed bay nets.	Improve pitch quality to increase site capacity and alleviate overplay. Enhance the maintenance programme being undertaken. Once the NTP is improved consider using the pitch for some junior cricket demand.	ECB	Local	M	M	L	Enhance Provide
		Football		One disused youth 11v11 football pitch which is poor quality.	Explore opportunities to bring back into use to meet youth 11v11 shortfalls in the Area.	FF DFA		H	S	L	
14	Belle Vue Stadium (Consett AFC)	Football (3G)	Sports Club	One good quality medium pile 3G pitch that was installed in 2013. The pitch is floodlit and on the FA Register; it is managed by Consett AFC.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Maximise for competitive use. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA Club	Local	M	S	L	Protect
81	Blackhill Dixon Street	Football	Local Authority	One youth 11v11 pitch which is poor quality and unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
139	Bridgehill Highgate	Football	Local Authority	One unused poor quality adult pitch.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
389	Bournmoor Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
37	Bullion Lane Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that re not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
39	Burnmoor Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	The home venue of Burnmoor CC. The site has 16 grass wickets of standard quality. There are four MES of potential capacity on the site, which is insufficient to accommodate additional team demand.	Seek to improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance

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

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

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use and used. The pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Explore options for utilising the actual spare capacity on site, ensuring that this does not adversely affect quality.	FF DFA					
41	Burnside Working Men's Club Football Club	Football	Community Organisation	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use and used. The site has 0.5 MES of potential capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Maximise use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
374	Burnopfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 19 good quality grass wickets. The site has 31 MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
50	Catchgate Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
51	Chester le Street Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	The home venue of Chester le Street CC. The site has 14 grass wickets of standard quality. The site is significantly overplayed by 51 MES per season.	Improve pitch quality through maintenance improvements; this will increase site capacity and reduce overplay to 31 MES per season. Consider installing an NTP alongside the square to accommodate some junior and lower level senior demand. Seek to utilise a secondary venue to relocate some match demand.	ECB	Local	M	S	L	Enhance
364	Chester-le-Street C of E Junior School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use but is at capacity.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
52	Chester-le-Street FC (Chester Moor Park)	Football (3G)	Sports Club	One small size, medium pile 3G pitch which is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is of good quality having been installed in 2014. The pitch accommodates training and community activity from Chester le Street Town FC and Chester le Street Town Youth FC.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA	Local	L	M	M/H	Protect Provide
		Football		One good quality adult pitch that is the home venue of Chester le Street FC. The site does not have any actual spare capacity during the peak period. The Club has plans to redevelop the site establishing a new clubhouse facility and increased car parking. Potential investment for refurbishment has been included in the LFFP. There are also aspirations to establish a full size 3G pitch on adjacent land or in place of the match pitch. If the latter is the more favourable option, then the Club will seek to re-establish a stadia pitch on adjacent land.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Proceed with developments to ancillary provision. Explore the feasibility of establishing a full size 3G pitch on site given the presence of the small size 3G; and the status of adjacent land. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA					

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
349	Church Chare	Football	Local Authority	An unused poor quality adult pitch.	Retain for school use and improve quality as required.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
				One half size 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit, standard quality.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.						
368	Clarence Gardens (Blackfyne School off site fields)	Football	Local Authority	One youth 11v11 pitch that is at capacity; one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch that both have one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Site identified in LFFP for potential investment in grass pitch improvements and investment in changing room build.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Maximise use. Consider pitch and changing room schemes subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
58	Consett & District Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	The home venue of Consett CC. The site has 13 grass wickets of good quality with an NTP alongside the square. The site has 24 MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
59	Consett Leisure Centre/ Consett Academy	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult pitch that is at capacity from both school and community demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football (3G)		One good quality, long pile 3G pitch that is full size, floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is FA and WR compliant and was installed in 2015. 3G pitch used by the school during daytime hours under partnership arrangement with the Leisure Centre.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Provide key clubs with long term community use agreements to increase community use activity. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Work with Consett RFC to transfer midweek training demand away from grass pitches.	RFU FF DFA Club	Local	M	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
62	Consett RFC	Rugby union	Sports Club	Two good quality (M1/D3) senior pitches, that are both floodlit. Both pitches accommodate match and training demand from Consett RFC, although some club training demand is accommodated elsewhere on site. The pitches are overplayed by four MES combined. Six good quality changing rooms on site, although the Club reports concerns regarding the size of the clubhouse and car park to support future club growth. The site is leased by Consett & District RFC from DCC. The agreement has 127 years remaining.	Sustain pitches at good quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime, as a minimum. Seek to improve pitch maintenance to further enhance quality and increase site capacity. Continue to utilise the WR compliant 3G pitch at Consett Leisure Centre (adjacent). Seek to increase use of this pitch to reduce current levels of overplay. Explore the potential to increase the size of onsite car parking; and the size of the overall clubhouse facility.	RFU Club	Local	M	S	L	Enhance Provide
69	Craghead Millennium	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that has some potential spare capacity, but actual spare capacity is discounted due to the quality.	Seek to improve pitch quality through maintenance improvements; if this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
402	Craghead (Community Centre)	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance
70	Croft Community School (Annfield Plain)	Football	Sports Club	Main site pitches leased to Craghead Jnrs FC on FRMI arrangement. One pitch of each footballing format; all of standard quality. All display potential spare capacity except the adult pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime Continue to provide key club with long term tenure. Relocate some adult demand to alternative provision locally to remove overplay.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		-	Local Authority	Detached pitch managed by DCC and available to community teams. Annfield Plain cricket club has indicated interest in relocating to this site.	Continue to make the detached pitch available for community use and explore feasibility for Annfield Plain CC to relocate here.	ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
366	Crookhall Playing Fields (Consett)	Football	Local Authority	Four poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week. Grass pitches identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch quality improvements. One pitch may be lost under Consett FC plans for additional 3G pitch adjacent to their current stadia (as included in LFFP).	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Improve pitch quality subject to availability of funding. Plans for 3G pitch should consider nearby provision at Consett Leisure Centre/Academy.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
72	Crookgate (Burnopfield)	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch which is played to capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Enhance
77	Delves Lane	Football	Local Authority	A standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use and used. The pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
42	Dipton Bute Park	Football	Local Authority	One youth 9v9 pitch that is standard quality. The pitch is overplayed by one MES.	Improve quality in order to address overplay.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance
97	Eden Park Leadgate	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
-	Former Moorside Community Technology College (Consett)	Football	School	One youth 9v9 and three youth 11v11 disused pitches with space for additional provision.	Explore opportunities to bring back into use to meet shortfalls identified in the Area.	FF DFA	Local	H	S	L	Protect
367	Former Blackfyne School (Consett) main school site	Football	Local Authority	Two adult pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch. One adult and one 9v9 unavailable for community use due to drainage issues. LA currently investing in drainage works to bring pitches in to use. Site identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch quality improvements. The adult pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity and the youth 9v9 pitch has one. 2018 LA improvements to Consett Cricket Club have provided shared changing for community football teams. Blackfyne Jnrs FC interest in leasing pitches.	Complete drainage works and bring unavailable pitches in to community use. Consider further pitch improvements subject to availability of funding. Consider lease transfer to club. Sustain pitch quality by appropriate maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	M	M	L-M	Protect Enhance
116	Fyndoune Community College (Sacriston)	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches. One youth 11v11 is standard quality the rest are all poor quality. Used for community use but not currently by students. The youth 11v11 pitches are used to capacity with the youth 9v9 pitches having some capacity. All pitches have unsecured use.	Seek to improve pitch quality through increased maintenance. This will be additionally important as/when students return to the site. Work to provide community use agreements for community users.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		One poor quality, small size sand dressed AGP; that is floodlit and available for community use. The School reports that community use is minimal due to quality. At present no curricular activity takes place on the site, meaning that the AGP is not subject to any school demand.	Consider options for resurfacing the pitch to 3G (if there is no requirement for hockey); and implement a new maintenance programme. Make the new pitch available for community use. Cease making the current pitch available for community use as quality is notably poor.	EH FF DFA School		L	M	M	
120	Grange Villa Park	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
121	Great Lumley Community Centre	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
122	Great Lumley Worcester Close	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has no actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
126	Greenland Primary School	Football (3G)	School	One standard quality, small size, 3G pitch which is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch has a medium pile surface and was installed in 2012. Community use is ad-hoc.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, both standard quality. Both pitches are available for community use and are at capacity.	Improve pitch quality in line with the LFFP. Establish additional pitches on the site for which there is sufficient space. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA					
-	Hussledown Road (former Stanley School of Technology detached playing fields)	Football	Local Authority	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 football pitch located to the rear and adjacent to Greenland Primary School.	Considered the feasibility of bringing back into use if local demand exists and secured use can be established to meet shortfalls identified in the Area.	FF DFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
129	Hamsterley Pitch (Derwent Park)	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Site investment 2018 to improve car park, changing rooms and a new birdsmouth fence was installed all round to prevent cars encroachment.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
136	Hermitage Academy (Chester le Street)	Football	School	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch; all of standard quality. The youth and adult pitches are overplayed by a combined nine MES whilst the mini 5v5 has some spare capacity. The site is considered unsecure as there are no formal community use agreements in place.	Improve pitch quality to remove/reduce current levels of overplay. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Provide main users with long term community use agreements to secure tenure at the site.	FF DFA	Key	M	M	M	Enhance Protect Provide

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
		Hockey		One standard quality, sand dressed, full size AGP that was installed in 2014. The pitch is available for community use and floodlit; but is not utilised by community hockey clubs for midweek training demand. Durham City HC does access the pitch for some weekend match demand, with capacity at Durham University decreasing. The pitch is accessed by some football clubs for midweek training activity.	Resurface the pitch in the near future to improve overall quality. Improve the current maintenance regime to increase quality. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Provide Durham City HC with a community use agreement for the pitch to give the Club security of tenure. In conjunction with Durham City HC and Durham School, establish the site as one of Durham City HC's home venues. The two school sites could provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all club demand; and would provide some hockey activity in the North Analysis Area. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	EH School Club					
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is overplayed from curricular use. The pitch is available for community use but is currently unused by community clubs.	Retain for school use.	School					
314	High Handenhold Welfare Park	Football	Local Authority	A standard quality adult pitch that does not have any actual spare capacity during the peak period. Football Club lease surrendered to DCC in 2019.	Re-introduce maintenance regime to sustain pitch quality.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
156	Kimbleworth Cricket Club	Cricket	Local Authority	Eight grass wickets of standard quality. The site has 14 MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
165	Leadgate Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports club	12 good quality grass wickets with an NTP alongside. The site is overplayed by six MES per season. The Club aspires for practice nets of some form.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Utilise the NTP for some junior and lower level senior match demand to remove overplay.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
168	Lintz (Burnopfield)	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
169	Lintz Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports club	One good quality square consisting of nine grass wickets and an NTP. The site is overplayed by 16 MES per season. The Club is seeking either an additional grass wicket (for practice) or and NTP practice area.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Utilise the NTP for some junior and lower level senior match demand to remove overplay.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
174	Lumley Junior School	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
341	Medomsley Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	A square consisting of four standard quality grass wickets. The site has nine MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity. Club working with DCC to secure tenure under lease.	Assist club obtain suitable long term lease and to continue current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	Morrison Welfare (Annfield Plain)	Football		One grass adult football pitch that has ceased to be maintained.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
184	Nettlesworth Playing Field	Football	Local Authority	One unused standard quality adult pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF DFA	Reserve	L	L	L	Provide
188	New KYO Playing Fields	Football	Local Authority	Poor quality youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Football Club lease surrendered to DCC in 2018. Pitches currently unused.	Improve pitch quality and explore opportunities to bring pitches back into use to assist shortfalls elsewhere.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
391	Newker Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		One small size sand dressed AGP that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The pitch is poor quality.	Improve the current maintenance regime to enhance pitch quality. Consider making the pitch available for community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	School		L	S	L	
191	North Durham Academy (Stanley)	Football (3G)	School	One good quality, medium pile 3G pitch that is full size, floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is FA registered and was installed in 2013. The pitch is reportedly operating at 30-35% occupancy.	Maximise usage and ensuring pricing is benchmarked against other similar local facilities. Provide key clubs with long term community use agreements to increase community use activity. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment and to ensure re-certification	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult and one youth 11v11 pitches; the latter of which is unused. The adult pitches are at capacity. One MES of actual spare capacity is available on the youth pitch as community use agreements are in place.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.				L	S	
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that has some potential capacity. The pitch is available for community use but is currently unused by community clubs.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	RFU School		L	S	L	

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
193	Oakey Park (Stanley)	Football	Local Authority	Two standard quality adult pitches that have one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Site identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch improvements and investment to refurbish changing rooms.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Consider re-marking one of the pitches to youth 11v11 format to help address shortfalls elsewhere. Consider grass and changing improvements subject to availability of funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
197	Ouston Lane Football Pitch	Football	Sports Club	A poor quality youth 11v1 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 MES. Leased to Ouston Jnrs FC by DCC on FRMI arrangement.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
-	Oxhill	Football	Local Authority	A disused grass adult football pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
201	Park View School (North Lodge)	Football (3G)	School	One small size 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch has a medium pile surface and is standard quality. The pitch is utilised by local football clubs and Chester le Street RFC for midweek training demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. As a priority test the surface for FA certification to enable the pitch to accommodate match demand.	FF DFA School	Local	L	M	L	Enhance Protect
		Cricket		One standalone NTP that is of standard quality. The pitch is available for community use but is currently unused. It is subject to school demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	ECB					
		Football		One adult pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of which are standard quality. The youth pitches are currently unused by community clubs, but the adult pitch is utilised by one community team. Actual spare capacity on the site is discounted due to the unsecure nature of the site.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Consider providing main user of the site with formal community use agreements to secure long term tenure.	FF DFA					
-	Park Road North (Park View School detached playing field)	Football	School	Disused for several years and previously contained one adult and one youth 9v9 pitch.	Explore options to bring back into use. The LFFP recommends bringing back into use if a club user can be identified.	FF DFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance Provide
207	Pelton Community Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use but are unused.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
208	Pelton Fell (off Station Lane)	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has no actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
371	Perkinsville Recreation Ground (also known as Pelton & District Rec Ground)	Football	Local Authority	Two poor quality adult pitches which are unused. Site identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch improvements.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve. Consider pitch improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
212	Riverside Sports Pavilion (Chester le Street)	Football (3G)	Commercial	One standard quality, medium pile 3G pitch that is full size, floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is FA registered and was installed in 2012. Durham FA has aspirations to establish two additional full size 3G pitches on the site. Durham County FA, Lumley Juniors, Chester le Street Youth FC and Parkview Academy are partner organisations. Site included in LFFP with potential investment to refurbish changing rooms.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA	Hub	M	M	H	Protect Provide
		Football		Three adult pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of which are good quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by two MES per week; and the youth pitches have 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak time.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Relocate some adult demand from the site to reduce current shortfalls.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch, which is not floodlit. The site is the home venue of Chester le Street RFC; and has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity. The Club does not have security of tenure on the site, renting annually; and has issues with changing facilities available.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Explore options to improve changing room accessibility issues with the Club as appropriate.	RFU Club					
214	Roseberry Playing Fields	Football (3G)	Local Authority	One small size medium pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is FA certified to accommodate match demand and is good quality. The pitch was re-laid in 2017 with Chester le Street Hilda Park Youth FC becoming the partner Club.	Ensure certification is retained with re-testing as required. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Utilise the pitch for match demand where possible.	FF DFA	Key	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
		Football		Three adult pitches, one youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9; all of which are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitches is at capacity; whilst the adult and youth 9v9 pitches have two and 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period respectively. Site is subject to a partnership with Hilda Park Youth FC under a management agreement which is reviewed annually. Interest from Hilda Park FC to asset transfer site including 3G and grass pitches.	DCC to consider transfer of facilities as directed by local and national policy on community ownership. Identified in LFFP as priority site for potential investment in grass pitch improvements.	FF DFA					

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
		-		Adjacent former school land subject to development proposals within CDP.	In line with Sport England SOCG, should adjacent land be developed ensure appropriate site access is maintained.	SE					
384	Red Rose Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
218	Sacriston Welfare Ground	Cricket	Sports Club	A good quality square consisting of 12 grass wickets. The site is overplayed by 39 MES per season. The site is leased by Sacriston CC from DCC but the agreement does not include ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider establishing an NTP on the site alongside the square to accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Football	Local Authority	One good quality adult pitch that is available for community use and used. Despite having potential capacity for additional demand, the pitch is not available during the peak period. Changing is via arrangement with cricket club.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	FF DFA					
234	Shotley Bridge Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One good quality square consisting of 13 grass wickets with an NTP alongside. The site is overplayed by 20 MES per season. Some Shotley Bridge CC junior teams train and play at Medomsley CC under a verbal agreement between the clubs.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider establishing an NTP on the site alongside the square to accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand. Look to formalise usage arrangement at Medomsley CC in order to assist overplay at Shotley CC.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
241	South Moor Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that have one MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
266	St Patricks Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
390	St Benet's RCVA Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
272	Stanley Community Football Centre	Football (3G)	Commercial	Site operated by Stanley Events under a DCC Tenancy at Will pending agreement on a suitable lease between the parties. A small size medium pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. Not certified and is in need of carpet replacement. The pitch is used by the Gateshead Apollo Youth League and Beamish Youth FC for match and training demand.	Consider suitable lease arrangement. Replace carpet and sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Ensure certification is renewed with re-testing as required. Utilise the pitch for match demand where possible.	FF DFA	Local	H	S	M	Enhance Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁶	Cost ⁷	Aim
		Football		Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by one MES per week. Site included in LFFP for potential grass pitch improvements.	Seek to improve pitch quality in order to address overplay subject to available funding.	FF DFA					
277	Tanfield Lea Community Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
278	Tanfield Comprehensive School Specialist College of Science & Engineering	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available for community use and used. The pitches are overplayed by one MES per week.	Seek to improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Until this point, relocate some demand to alternative sites to reduce overplay.	FF DFA	Local	M	M	M	Protect Enhance
		-		School also has a detached site on other side of the main road which has historically accommodated three adult pitches. The site is now only used as a grass athletics track and no pitches are marked out.	Explore options with the school to bring the site back into use for football to help meet identified shortfalls in the area, particularly for youth 11v11 pitches.						
279	Tanfield Lea Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that is at capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality through maintenance improvements; if this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
280	Tantobie Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 13 standard quality grass wickets. The site has 48 MES of potential capacity and 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Pitch leased to club by DCC.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
281	Tantobie Football Pitch	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that is at capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality through maintenance improvements; if this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
335	Woodlea Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

6.4: Central Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES)	Future demand (2035) (MES)
Football (grass pitches)	Central	Spare capacity of 20.5 on adult pitches. Spare capacity of 3.5 on youth 11v11. At capacity on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 2.5 on mini 7v7. Spare capacity of 2.5 on mini 5v5.	Spare capacity of 19.5 on adult pitches. Spare capacity of 2.5 on youth 11v11. At capacity on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 2.5 on mini 7v7. Spare capacity of 2.5 on mini 5v5.
Football (3G AGPs)	Central	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5
Cricket	Central	Shortfall of 141	Shortfall of 151
Rugby union	Central	Shortfall of 0.25	Shortfall of 2.25
Hockey (sand & water AGPs)	County Durham	Insufficient supply for community hockey	Insufficient supply for community hockey
Rugby league	County Durham	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
3	Active Life at Coxhoe	Football (3G)	Community Organisation	One small size, standard quality 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is not FA certified so should not host affiliated match demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA Community Organisation	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Football		One poor quality adult pitch that is at capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
4	All Saints Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School (Lanchester)	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
378	Bearpark Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
12	Bearpark Recreation Ground	Cricket	Local Authority	DCC site licenced to-Langley Park & Bearpark CC, the site has a square consisting of seven, standard quality, grass wickets. The site is overplayed by 30 MES per season. Club has applied to asset transfer site on FRMI lease.	Consider asset transfer to club. Increase site capacity by improving the maintenance regime and, subsequently, the pitch quality. Consider installing an NTP on site alongside the square; and then accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand to take place on the pitch. Develop the ancillary facilities on the site to improve the quality.	ECB	Local	M	M	L	Enhance
15	Belmont Recreation Ground	Cricket	Local Authority	One square consisting of 10 good quality grass wickets and a poor quality NTP. The Club aspires for a new NTP to be put in place of the current poor quality one on site. The site has 35 MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity during the peak period. Football pitches are overmarked on outfield.	Continue with the current maintenance regime to sustain quality. Replace the NTP on site to provide training provision for the Club.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Football		Two adult pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch that are all poor quality. The site is known to have issues with drainage. There is 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity on adult pitches but none on the youth pitch. Site included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and changing room refurbishments.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Consider quality improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA					
16	Belmont Community School	Football	School	One poor quality adult pitch which is overplayed by 0,5 MES and two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are at capacity. The pitches are available for community use.	Improve pitch quality to ensure continued availability for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance

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

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

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
		Hockey		A small size, sand dressed AGP that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is poor quality. The pitch is subject to both community and curricular demand.	Improve pitch quality to ensure continued availability for community use.	School		M	S	L	
377	Belmont Cheveley Park Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
392	Belmont C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
27	Blue Coat Junior C of E (Aided) School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
30	Bowburn Welfare Park	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch; both of standard quality. Each pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity. Current planning application which may affect this site in the short term (DM/19/01838/FPA) for a new primary school on site of existing Bowburn Junior School (adjoining Bowburn Welfare Park) with new access road and landscaping and demolition of existing school building. Site included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and new changing facility.	There may be a need to relocate demand in the short term from this site dependent upon the outcome of the planning application. However, pitches should be reinstated and improved as required to accommodate maximised community use. The school site will also accommodate new pitches, which should also be made available for community use. Consider quality improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
358	Bow School	Cricket	School	Four good quality junior grass wickets, with an NTP alongside. The pitch is available for community use but is unused.	Explore opportunities to establish community use if a local club could gain secure access.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
357	Brandon Carr Avenue	Football	Local Authority	A disused poor quality adult pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
32	Brandon Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 20 good quality grass wickets. The site has 28 MES of potential capacity but none of this is available during the peak period. Brandon CC aspires for an indoor training facility on site with new changing rooms.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Seek to improve the current changing facilities before considering establishing a new indoor facility.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Football		Good quality youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches marked on a cricket outfield. Rented from the cricket club on an informal basis. Each pitch has 3.5 MES of potential capacity and one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Seek to formalise the agreement between user clubs and Brandon CC.						
33	Brandon Park (Brandon Top)	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
379	Brandon Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
34	Brandon United Football Club (Welfare Park)	Football	Sports Club	One poor quality adult pitch that is at capacity. The site is the home venue of Brandon United FC (Step 6).	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
36	Broompark	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
372	Burnhope Colliery Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Eight good quality grass wickets that have 29 MES of potential capacity. Despite this, there is no actual spare capacity during the peak period. Burnhope CC, based at the site, has ten years remaining on its lease agreement with DCC but this agreement excludes the ancillary facilities.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. When the lease agreement is renewed, include the supporting ancillary provision on site.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
38	Burnhope Primary School	Football	School	Three poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
47	Cassop Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
359	Colingwood College (Durham University)	Football (3G)	University	One small size, medium pile 3G pitch which is not available for community use. The pitch is solely available to Durham University students and is good quality.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA University	Local	L	S	L	Protect
13	Coxhoe Athletic FC (Beechfield Park)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is the home venue of Coxhoe Athletic FC (Step 7).	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
84	Durham City RFC	Rugby union	Sports Club/University	Two rugby union pitches, one junior and one senior; that are owned and maintained by Durham University (M2/D1). Durham City RFC has a short term lease agreement for the site; the length of which means that the pitches are considered secure but the Club is not thought to have security of tenure. The junior pitch accommodates all midweek training demand from Durham City RFC and is overplayed by 2.5 MES. The senior pitch has limitations of use and spare capacity is discounted. Durham City RFC owns the ancillary facilities on site; these are of a standard quality. It should be noted that Durham City RFC utilises land behind the stand on site for some mini demand. No pitches are formally marked on this land but the University reports that it occasionally marks the area for other pitch sports, e.g. lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, etc.	Continue with the current maintenance regime to sustain pitch quality. Seek to relocate some midweek training demand to the WR compliant 3G pitches at Durham University (Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle) to reduce overplay. Work with the Club and University to secure the Club's long term security of tenure on the site. Explore options for refurbishing ancillary facilities before quality declines to poor.	RFU Club University	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
85	Durham Community Business College	Football (3G)	School	One full size, medium pile 3G pitch that is poor quality. The pitch is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is FA approved with Deerness Valley FC the main user. The pitch was installed in 2006 and is due to be resurfaced, but no sinking fund is in place for the work. The surrounding boards are poor quality with damage to the access gates.	Resurface the pitch to improve pitch quality and ensure continued availability for community use. Establish a new maintenance regime to sustain an improved quality. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Provide key partner clubs with long term community use agreements for the pitch.	FF DFA School Club	Local	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
		Football		Two youth 11v11 pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of which are poor quality. Each pitch is at capacity from school demand. Identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch improvements.	Seek to improve pitch quality to increase capacity. Improvements to grass pitches, in conjunction with those to the 3G pitch would add to the site's overall value. Grass pitch improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA		L	S	L	
338	Durham City Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	12 good quality grass wickets that are maintained by the University. The site is overplayed by 12 MES per season. The site is leased by Durham City CC from Durham University with the agreement having nine years remaining.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider relocating some match demand from the site to utilise spare capacity at either Durham University site. Renew the lease agreement, providing the Club with long term security of tenure.	ECB	Local	M	M	L	Protect
401	Durham Free School (former site)	Football	Local Authority	Poor quality adult and mini 7v7 pitches that are currently unused. School is closed and demolished. Adjacent Gilesgate Primary school interest in pitches for community use.	Consider transfer of pitches to Primary school. Improve the pitch quality in line with the LFFP.	FF DFA	Key	M	S	M-H	Protect Enhance Provide
86	Durham Gilesgate Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay or transfer demand to another site with spare capacity. Links to site 401 Durham Free School.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L-M	Protect Enhance
87	Durham High School for Girls	Hockey	School	One small size, sand dressed AGP which is neither available for community use nor floodlit. The pitch is standard quality having been installed in 2018. The pitch is of a significant size 78x34m but is not large enough to host match activity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider making the pitch available for community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	School	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
88	Durham Johnston Comprehensive School	Football (3G)	School	One full size, medium pile 3G pitch that is standard quality. The pitch is available for community use but is not floodlit. The pitch is on the FA register. Site is included in LFFP for floodlighting subject to necessary planning approvals.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Explore options for installing floodlighting on the site to allow midweek community use of the pitch. Provide partner clubs with long term community use agreements. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA School	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
		Cricket		One standard quality NTP that is not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider making the pitch available for community use, with the outfield potentially accommodating growing All Stars Cricket demand. Provide users with a long term community use agreement if the pitch is made available.	ECB School					
		Football		An adult pitch and a youth 9v9 pitch; both are standard quality. The adult pitch is unused by community clubs; whilst the youth pitch is at capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that has some potential capacity. The pitch is not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider making the pitch available for community use, ensuring that this does not adversely affect quality.	RFU School					
90	Durham School	Cricket	School	Two cricket squares, both consisting of grass wickets. One square has 14 good quality, senior grass wickets; whilst the second has six, standard quality junior grass wickets. The pitches are available for community use but are not currently utilised by a community club.	Continue with the current maintenance regime to sustain and enhance the quality of provision on site. Continue to make the pitches available for community use, ensuring that quality is not compromised for school demand.	ECB School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
		Hockey		One full size, sand based AGP that is standard quality. The pitch is available for community use but is not floodlit, limiting its capacity. The pitch accommodates some match demand from Durham City HC, as well as school activity; but the latter is unable to utilise the pitch more due to the lack of floodlighting on site. The School aspires to install floodlighting to the pitch which will increase its capacity for community use.	As a priority, determine planning restrictions relating to the ability for the site to have floodlighting and consider alternatives as required such as portable floodlighting and focused floodlighting. If successful, ensure Durham City HC is provided with a secure community use agreement and ensure sinking fund is available to resurface the pitch in the medium term. Explore opportunities for changing rooms alongside the current AGP to encourage community use.	EH School Club		H	S-M	M-H	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
		Rugby union		Having been installed in 2004 the pitch will require resurfacing in the near future. There are also aspirations to establish dedicated changing provision for the pitch.	If floodlighting restrictions are deemed detrimental to the continued use of the site for hockey, seek to relocate demand to an alternative site.						
		Rugby union		Two junior and one senior rugby union pitch; all good quality (M2/D1). All pitches are available for community use but are at capacity from the School's rugby programme. The School has aspirations to convert the two junior pitches in to a single full size WR compliant 3G pitch. No planning applications have been submitted at this time.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not affect quality for school demand. Explore the feasibility of establishing a WR compliant 3G pitch on site, given the sites proximity to those at Durham University. This will require further assessment of any business plan. Should a WR compliant pitch be established on site, ensure that it is available for community use and that Durham City RFC become a partner club to enable the Club to relocate some midweek training demand.	RFU School Club		L	M	H	
91	Durham University Sports Centre (Graham Sports Centre at Maiden Castle)	Football (3G)	University	Three long pile 3G pitches, that are all full size, good quality and floodlit. Each pitch is available for community use but student demand from Durham University occupies much of this capacity. Each pitch is WR and FA compliant.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Consider providing partner clubs with long term community use agreements; with Durham City RFC being a prime candidate to relocate midweek training demand. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	RFU FF DFA University Club	Key	L	S	L	Protect
		Cricket		11 good quality grass wickets that are available for community use but are currently only accessed by University demand. The site has 45 MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity is considered as the site is deemed unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Consider providing clubs that are overplayed at current home venues with community use agreements allowing them to securely access the provision.	ECB					
		Football		Three good quality adult pitches that are at capacity; and a youth 9v9 pitch that has some potential capacity. Any actual spare capacity is discounted as the site is unsecure. The site is the used by Durham Women FC for training.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Provide main community users with long term community use agreements.	FF DFA					

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
		Hockey		Two good quality, water based, full size AGPs. Both pitches are floodlit and available for community use; although capacity is limited due to Durham University's significant club and inter-mural demand. Durham City HC accessing the site for some midweek training and weekend match demand; although capacity for both is limited which has led to the Club utilising provision at Durham School and Hermitage Academy (Chester le Street).	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. As Durham University College demand increases then community use of the site may decrease; therefore, Durham City HC should be provided with a formal community use agreement at an alternative site. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	EH					
		Rugby union		Two good quality (M2/D1) senior pitches that are available for community use but are not floodlit. The pitches are subject to Durham University demand; and as such have four MES of potential capacity. Any actual spare capacity is discounted due to a lack of community use agreements.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	RFU					
96	East Durham College (Houghall Campus)	Football	College	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9, three mini 5v5 pitches and three mini 7v7 pitches; all of good quality. All pitches are available for community use and used; but only the adult pitch is overplayed (by 1.5 MES). The mini pitches have a combine 3.5 MES of actual spare capacity whilst there is no actual spare capacity available on the youth pitch. A community use agreement is in place for the site.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Site included in LFFP for potential 3G pitch investment which requires further feasibility to be carried out.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	H	Protect Provide
		Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch that has some potential capacity. The pitch is available for community use but is currently not used by community clubs. Any actual spare capacity on the site is discounted due to the indeterminant availability.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Consider providing Durham City RFC with a long term community use agreement for the site to give security of tenure; and allow the Club to reduce overplay at the Durham City RFC site.	RFU Club					
393	Elemore Hall School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use but is at capacity from school demand.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
102	Esh Winning FC	Football	Sports Club	One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity. The site is the home venue of Esh Winning FC (Step 6).	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
103	Esh Winning Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		One small size sand dressed AGP that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The pitch is poor quality.	Retain for school use and enhance quality as required.						
104	Esh Winning Cricket Ground	Cricket	Local Authority	One square consisting of eight good quality grass wickets and an NTP alongside. The site is overplayed by five MES per season; and the Club reports that changing provision is small and poor quality. Esh Winning CC has a lease from DCC for land on which their clubhouse stands. However, the pitch is licenced annually which means the club does not have long term security of tenure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Encourage use of the NTP for some junior and lower level senior match demand. Refurbish/extend the current changing facilities. Consider the options for a longer term lease of the pitch for the Club.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use. The pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.						
111	Framwellgate Moor King George V Playing Fields	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
113	Framwellgate School	Football (3G)	School	One good quality, small size 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch was installed in 2018 but is not FA certified. Identified as a potential priority project for a full size 3G pitch as part of the LFFP.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. The 3G project should only be considered if floodlighting is not possible on the existing pitch at Durham Johnstone Comprehensive (unless it is considered as part of the Sniperley Area project).	FF DFA	Key	M	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
		Football		Three youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all standard quality. Pitches are well used by the community but no security of tenure. The youth 9v9 pitches are slightly overplayed. Site included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements.	Sustain/improve pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Look to formalise community use. Consider pitch improvements subject to availability of funding.						
128	Hamsteels Colliery Welfare (Quebec)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week.	Improve quality in order to address overplay.	FF FA	Local	M	S	L	Enhance
141	HMP Durham	Football (3G)	HMP	One small size 3G pitch that is neither available for community use nor floodlit.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	HMP FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
142	HMP Frankland	Football (3G)	HMP	One small size 3G pitch that is neither available for community use nor floodlit.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	HMP FF/DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
155	Kelloe Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
347	Kepier Lane (Gilesgate)	Football	School	One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both are standard quality. The youth 11v11 has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity; but despite the youth 9v9 pitch having potential capacity none is available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
160	Kitswell Road Playing Field (Lanchester)	Cricket	Local Authority	Eight standard quality grass wickets that are overplayed by 40 MES per season. Leased to club by DCC.	Increase pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime. Consider installing an NTP alongside the square and accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that is available and used by community clubs. The pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Leased to club by DCC.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
162	Langley Park Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch; the latter of which is at capacity. Any actual spare capacity on the mini pitch is discounted due to the unsecure nature of the site.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users of the site with long term community use agreements to secure tenure.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
163	Langley Park Sports & Social Club	Football	Community Organisation	One standard quality adult pitch that is at capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
164	Laurel Avenue (Durham)	Football	Local Authority	A disused poor quality adult pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
171	Lowes Barn Park	Football	Local Authority	A poor quality youth 11v11 still maintained as a pitch but is unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
340	Littletown Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Ten standard quality grass wickets that are overplayed by 39 MES per season. The Club reports that the quality has improved with new equipment having been bought but further work could be done. It aspires for practice net facilities.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Consider installing an NTP alongside the square and accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Provide
173	Ludworth Recreation Area	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
176	Meadowfield Leisure Centre	Football (3G)	Commercial	One standard quality, medium pile 3G pitch that is full size, floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is FA registered and hosts a leisure league throughout the week. The pitch was installed in 2012.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Provide key clubs with long term community use agreements. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		Two standard quality adult pitches that have 1.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and potential changing rooms investment to support external pitch use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider pitch and changing improvements subject to availability of funding.	FF DFA					
82	Meadowfield Dorlonco	Football	Local Authority	One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality and seek to maximise use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
383	New Brancepeth Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
186	New Brancepeth Pitch	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
274	New College Durham	Football	College	Two youth 11v11 pitches, one standard quality and one poor; neither is available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
394	Pittington Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
209	Quarrington Hill	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
375	Richmond Road Park (Newton Hall)	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
227	Sherburn Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week.	Improve quality in order to address overplay.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
228	Sherburn Leisure Centre	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult pitch that does not have any availability during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
232	Shincliffe (Durham City RFC)	Rugby union	Sports Club	Two good quality (M2/D1) senior rugby union pitches that are owned by Durham City RFC but are maintained by Durham University. The pitches accommodate demand from Durham City RFC and have a total of 1.25 MES of actual spare capacity. The site does not have any ancillary provision on site.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider installing floodlights on the site to enable midweek training demand to take place. Should Durham City RFC lose access to the University owned site; then ancillary facilities may be required on site so that the Club can wholly relocate to the site.	RFU Club	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
238	Soccerarena (New Ferens Park)	Football (3G)	Commercial	One standard quality, medium pile 3G pitch that is full size, floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is FA registered and acts as a central venue for the RFYL. The pitch was installed in 2012.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Provide key clubs with long term community use agreements. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
244	St Bede's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College (Lanchester)	Football	School	Three poor quality adult pitches that are at capacity from curricular demand and not available for community use.	Explore potential to improve quality and develop as a key site with community use agreements for users.	FF DFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Hockey		One small size, sand dressed AGP that is available for community use but is not floodlit. The pitch is good quality. The pitch is subject to curricular use but is currently unused by community clubs.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	School		L	L	L	
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) junior pitch that has some potential capacity. The pitch is available for community use but is currently unused by community clubs.	Retain for school use and enhance as required.	RFU		L	S	L	
250	St Leonards Catholic School Football Pitch	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
348	St Leonards Catholic School detached pitches	Football	School	Three unused adult pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of standard quality. This site is incorporated within Sniperley Park site allocation for 1,700 dwellings and associated complementary uses (local centre etc) as part of an urban extension to Durham.	In line with Sport England SOCG a new primary school will accommodate pitches to meet requirement for new school places and playing fields to replace those lost in planning site allocation. See Part 7: Housing Growth Scenarios for further information relating to Sniperley Park.	FF DFA ECB SE	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
388	St Margaret's C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
287	The Chorister School (Church Street Head Pitches)	Cricket	School	One NTP that is standard quality but unavailable for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider making the pitch available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular activity.	ECB School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		Two mini 7v7 pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of standard quality. The pitches are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union		Two junior size. Standard quality (M1/D1) rugby union pitches that are neither available for community use nor floodlit. The pitches are at capacity from educational demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider making the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely affect quality for curricular activity.	RFU School					
294	The Racecourse (Durham University)	Cricket	University	Eight good quality grass wickets that are available for community use but are currently only utilised by Durham University demand. The site has 33 MES of potential capacity, but no actual spare capacity as the site is considered unsecure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance programme. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Consider providing clubs that are overplayed at current home venues with community use agreements allowing them to securely access the provision.	ECB	Key	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		Two good quality adult pitches that are at capacity from university demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union		One good quality (M2/D1) senior pitch that is available for community use but is not floodlit. The pitch is owned and maintained by Durham University; and is exclusively utilised by Durham University demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	RFU					
309	Ushaw Moor Park	Cricket	Sports club	DCC site leased to Ushaw Moor CC. 11 standard quality grass wickets that are overplayed by 15 MES per season.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Consider installing an NTP alongside the square and accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Provide
		Football		A standard quality adult pitch that has some spare capacity during the peak period. The site does reportedly have drainage issues	Seek to resolve any drainage issues on the site, firstly by improving the current maintenance regime; and then by installing a formal drainage system. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	FF DFA					
319	West Rainton	Football	Local Authority	Two standard quality adult pitches one of which is unused.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make both pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁸	Cost ⁹	Aim
327	Witton Gilbert	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch and one unused mini 7v7 pitch, both are good quality. The adult pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity and the mini pitch has one MES.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Consider remarking the mini 7v7 pitch for an alternative format should space allow.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

6.5: East Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES)	Future demand (2035) (MES)
Football (grass pitches)	East	Spare capacity of 17.5 on adult pitches. Spare capacity of 2 on youth 11v11. Spare capacity of 5.5 on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 3 on mini 7v7. At capacity on mini 5v5.	Spare capacity of 16.5 on adult pitches. Spare capacity of 0.5 on youth 11v11. Spare capacity of 5.5 on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 3 on mini 7v7. At capacity on mini 5v5.
Football (3G AGPs)	East	Shortfall of 2	Shortfall of 2
Cricket	East	Shortfall of 79	Shortfall of 87
Rugby union	East	Shortfall of 9	Shortfall of 13.25
Hockey (sand & water AGPs)	County Durham	Insufficient supply for community hockey	Insufficient supply for community hockey
Rugby league	County Durham	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
2	Acre Rigg Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
376	Atlee Avenue, Blackhall	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
26	Blackhall Welfare Ground	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One good quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
66	Cotsford Junior School	Football	School	One mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of standard quality but are unavailable for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
74	Dawdon Park	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One good quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual capacity; and a unused standard quality youth 11v11 pitch.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider remarking the youth pitch for an alternative format to address local shortfalls.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	Dene Community School of Technology	Football	School	One poor quality adult football/senior rugby union pitch that is no longer maintained or used by the School. The area does not drain well and has been subject to some unofficial use, damaging the ground.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider rationalisation to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
149	East Durham College (Peterlee Campus)	Football (3G)	College	One long pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is standard quality despite being approximately 10 years old and is subject to a thorough maintenance programme. The pitch is on the FA register; and is also WR compliant (this expires in 2020). Hartlepool United Academy are the main users of the site. There are no community rugby union clubs accessing the provision.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. When quality declines consider resurfacing the pitch given its age. Continue to make the pitch available for community use, maximising this activity by providing clubs with long term community use agreements. Work with Horden & Peterlee RFC to relocate midweek training demand to the site to reduce overplay on grass pitches. As/when certifications are coming to end have the pitch re-tested to maintain certification. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA RFU College Clubs	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide

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.

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Football		Three good quality adult pitches that are available for community use and have three MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
92	Easington Academy	Football	School	Two adult pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch; all of poor quality. The poor quality and low carrying capacity mean that all pitches are at capacity from school demand with no community demand taking place on the site.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use in line with the community use agreement that is in place.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
94	Easington Colliery Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
95	Easington Welfare Park	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	Two adult pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of good quality. There is no actual spare capacity on the adult pitches, but the youth pitch has one MES available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
98	Eden Park (Peterlee)	Rugby union	Sports Club	The home venue of Horden & Peterlee RFC, the site consists of two standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches that are both floodlit. The site is overplayed by 10 MES per week. The Club plans to establish a third pitch on site in place of a disused youth 9v9 football pitch. Ancillary facilities on site are considered to be good quality, although the car parking needs to increase in size. The Club leases the site from Peterlee Town Council, the agreement has 30 years remaining. One disused youth good quality youth 9v9 football pitch which is to be converted to a rugby union pitch to accommodate demand from Horden & Peterlee RFC. This will reduce current levels of overplay to eight MES per week if the new pitch is of the same quality as the current provision.	Enhance pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime; and consider installing a formal drainage system to further increase site capacity. Proceed with establishing a third senior pitch on the site. Explore options for increasing the number of car parking spaces available on the site. Ensure that a new lease agreement is sought before the current agreement lapses. Consider relocating all or some of the Club's midweek training demand to the WR compliant 3G pitch at East Durham College (Peterlee Campus) which is currently unused by community rugby union clubs.	RFU Club Town Council	Local	M	M	M	Enhance Provide
132	Hazelwell Centre (Haswell)	Football (3G)	Community Organisation	One small size, medium pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch and a good quality youth 9v9 pitch. The adult pitch has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity but the youth pitch is at capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
134	Helford Road Playing Fields	Football (3G)	Town Council	One small size, medium pile 3G pitch that is both floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is standard quality and Peterlee Helford United Youth FC are the key club.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA Town Council	Key	L	L	M	Protect Provide
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one MES and a youth 9v9 pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users with long term community use agreements to secure tenure.	FF DFA					
		Rugby league		There are currently two senior rugby league pitches on the site, both of standard quality. The pitches are rented by Peterlee Pumas ARLFC on an annual basis from Peterlee Town Council; which is also responsible for ongoing site maintenance. There are issues of unofficial use of the site with dog fouling and informal football use both issues. Changing facilities on site are good quality and the Club has a clubhouse facility on site. Car parking is considered adequate. One of the pitches is currently unused, with the Club preferring to concentrate match and training demand on one pitch. As a result, this pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that Peterlee Pumas ARLFC utilise both pitches on site, distributing training and match demand evenly, thus eliminating overplay onsite. Provide Peterlee Pumas ARLFC with a long-term lease agreement providing security of tenure; but consider retaining site maintenance as a Town Council responsibility as the Club does not have sufficient funds or volunteer base to sustain current pitch quality. Explore options for establishing a more complete clubhouse facility on site that could be used by partner clubs to generate a secondary income.	Town Council RFL					
137	Hesleden Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
143	Horden Welfare Park	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare	One standard quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity. The site is the home venue of Horden Community Welfare FC (Step 7)	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum ground requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
145	Howletch Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
172	Lowhills Road Playing Fields (Peterlee)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	Five standard quality adult pitches; and a youth 9v9 pitch. The adult pitches have two MES of actual spare capacity and the youth 9v9 pitch has 0.5. Identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and new build changing rooms.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users of the site with long term community use agreements to secure tenure. Consider pitch and changing improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
361	Lord Byron's Walk Playing Field	Rugby union	Local Authority	One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch which is not available for community use. The pitch is rented annually by Seaham RFC from DCC. The Club aspires to obtain a long term lease agreement for the site; which has space on site for three senior pitches and a floodlit training area.	Secure a long term lease agreement for Seaham RFC; with a view to the site becoming the Club's home venue. Should a lease agreement be obtained then consider establishing a floodlit training area; and supporting ancillary facilities on the site. Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime, this should also improve the drainage of the site. If not, then consider installing a formal drainage system.	RFU Club	Local	M	M	M	Enhance Provide
183	Murton Welfare Recreational Grounds	Cricket	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	13 poor quality grass wickets the site is overplayed by 52 MES per season. Murton CC, the resident club has aspirations for a NTP alongside the existing square and fixed bay nets.	Enhance the current maintenance regime to improve pitch quality. Install an NTP alongside the square and accommodate some junior and lower level senior match demand on it to reduce overplay.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide
		Football		An adult pitch, a youth 11v11 and a mini 7v7 all of standard quality. The mini and youth pitches have one and 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity but the adult pitch has no capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users of the site with long term community use agreements to secure tenure.	FF DFA					
187	New Drive Playing Field (Seaham)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	Three adult pitches, a youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of standard quality. Accumulatively there is 4.5 MES of actual spare capacity on the site. Seaham RFC was originally based at the site but reportedly had issues with Seaham Harbour CC on the adjacent site regarding ancillary facilities. Site identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch improvements.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users of the site with long term community use agreements to secure tenure. Encourage use of the site by establishing ancillary provision. Consider pitch improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	M	M	Protect Provide

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
203	Parkside Neighbourhood Park (Seaham)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
220	Seaham Harbour Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 14 standard quality grass wickets; the pitch has 14 MES of potential capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
221	Seaham High School	Football	School	Two youth 11v11 pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of standard quality. The pitches are not currently available for community use as the School has recently relocated to the site and wants the pitches to become fully established before letting them out. They will become available for community use as a community use agreement has been agreed for the School's development.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the pitches become available in the future.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
222	Seaham Leisure Centre	Football	Commercial	Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by two MES per week. Site included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Consider pitch improvements subject to available funding. Provide main users of the site with long term community use agreements to secure tenure.	FF DFA	Local	M	L	L	Enhance Protect
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is currently unused by community clubs. The site previously accommodated demand from Seaham RFC but the Club relocated to Seaham Town Park as it had the potential to provide the Club with a secondary income.	Should Seaham RFC be unable to secure a long term lease agreement for Lord Byron's Walk Playing Field then seek to improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime; and provide the Club with a long term community use agreement for the pitch. If an agreement for Lord Byron's Walk Playing Field is obtained, then consider reallocating the pitch for an alternative sporting format to address local shortfalls.	RFU Town Council Club					
223	Seaham Town Park	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 14 standard quality grass wickets with an NTP alongside. The site is the home venue of Seaham Park CC and is overplayed by two MES per season.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Utilise the NTP for some junior and lower level senior match demand to remove overplay.	ECB	Hub	M	S	L	Enhance Protect Provide

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Football		One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is the home venue of Seaham Red Star FC (Step 5).	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum league requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union	Town Council	Two mini rugby union pitches, both of which are poor quality (M0/D0). Owned by Seaham Town Council; and rented annually by Seaham RFC, the pitches are overplayed by one MES per week. The Club is reportedly seeking a long term lease agreement for the site, which will include both the pitches and the clubhouse facility. The clubhouse will be shared with Seaham Park CC which currently leases the cricket square and clubhouse.	Secure a long term lease agreement for the site to provide the Club with security of tenure. Enhance pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime; this will eliminate current shortfalls.	RFU Club Town Council					
224	Seaview Primary School	Football (3G)	School	One small size, short pile 3G pitch that is not available for community use but is floodlit. The pitch is standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider making the pitch available for community use.	FF DFA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use but is unused.	Retain for school use.	School					
386	Seascope Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
		Hockey		One small size sand dressed AGP that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The pitch is standard quality.							
235	Shotton Colliery Community Park	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both are good quality and have capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Maximise use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
236	Shotton Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
239	South Hetton Miners Welfare Recreation Ground	Cricket	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One square consisting of 16 standard quality grass wickets with an NTP alongside. The site is the home venue of South Hetton CC and has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide South Hetton CC with a long term lease agreement for the site. Utilise the NTP on site for training demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
		Football		One good quality adult pitch that does not have any capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users of the site with community use agreements to secure tenure.	FF DFA					
240	South Hetton Primary School	Football	Education	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
243	St Bedes RC Comprehensive School (Peterlee)	Football	School	One adult pitch and two youth 11v11 pitches; all of which are standard quality. None of the pitches are available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The pitch is only subject to curricular demand and has 0.5 MES of potential capacity.							
255	St. Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School (Seaham)	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
261	St. Josephs Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 5v5 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
276	Sunderland Road Playing Fields (Peterlee)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. Also, a disused standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is no longer maintained as a pitch. Site identified in LFFP for pitch quality improvements.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide main users of the site with community use agreements to secure tenure. Consider pitch improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
284	The Academy of Shotton Hall	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches and three poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available for community use but are unused. The youth pitches are at capacity from school demand.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch that is currently unused by community clubs. The pitch does accommodate some curricular demand; and has some potential spare capacity.							
286	The Chemical Works Field (Seaham)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One unused mini 7v7 pitch that is standard quality.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁰	Cost ¹¹	Aim
289	The Greenhills Centre (Wheatley Hill)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
292	The Old Fire Station Pitch (Wheatley Hill)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One unused standard quality youth 9v9 pitch.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
293	The Pit Wheel Site	Football	Local Authority	One unused poor quality youth 9v9 pitch.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
395	The Ribbon Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
397	Thornley Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
313	Welfare Park (Thornley)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
315	Wellfield School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is available for community use but unused. The pitch is at capacity from school demand.	Retain for school use.	School FA FF	Key	L	L	L	Protect Provide
		Football (3G)		Full size 3G pitch already funded and scheme due to commence shortly.	Ensure user agreements are in place and that use is maximised for competitive football use.			H	S	H	
325	Wingate Junior School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
326	Wingate Welfare Park	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that two MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Maximise use.	FF DFA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
336	Yohden Primary School	Football	School	Two poor quality mini 7v7 pitches that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

6.6: South Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES)	Future demand (2035) (MES)
Football (grass pitches)	South	Spare capacity of 23.5 on adult pitches. At capacity on youth 11v11. Spare capacity of 0.5 on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 2 on mini 7v7. Spare capacity of 1 on mini 5v5.	Spare capacity of 22 on adult pitches. Shortfall of 2 on youth 11v11. Spare capacity of 0.5 on youth 9v9. Spare capacity of 2 on mini 7v7. Spare capacity of 1 on mini 5v5.
Football (3G AGPs)	South	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1
Cricket	South	Shortfall of 47	Shortfall of 75
Rugby union	South	Shortfall of 5	Shortfall of 5.75
Hockey (sand & water AGPs)	County Durham	Insufficient supply for community hockey	Insufficient supply for community hockey
Rugby league	County Durham	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
-	Binchester Recreation Ground	Football	Local authority	A disused grass adult football pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
19	Bishop Auckland Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 10 good quality grass wickets that are overplayed by three MES per season. The Club aspires for access to an indoor winter training venue.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Explore options to relocate some demand to a secondary venue; alternatively install an NTP alongside the grass wickets and accommodate some junior demand on it to reduce overplay.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
20	Bishop Auckland FC (Heritage Park)	Football	Sports Club	The home venue of Bishop Auckland FC (Step 5). The site has a good quality adult pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak time.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum league requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
21	Bishop Auckland Rugby Football Club	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three senior pitches that are all overplayed; accommodating match and training demand from Bishop Auckland RUFC. One of the pitches is poor quality (M1/D0) and the other two are standard (M1/D1). One of the standard quality pitches is floodlit and accommodates all midweek training demand. The Club leases the site from DCC; with the agreement having at least 30 years remaining. The Club reports that it owns some adjacent land which has been earmarked as a potential training area. Ancillary provision is of mixed quality, with three good quality changing rooms and three poor. The access road to the site requires work and car parking is insufficient. The clubhouse is standard quality.	Enhance the current maintenance regime to improve pitch quality and capacity. Establish a floodlit training area on site to remove midweek training demand from the one floodlit pitch. Improve the three poor quality changing rooms on site to bring them up to a quality of the three good quality changing rooms. Seek to address parking issues on the site. Ensure that the Club is not undertaking any contact training sessions at King James I Academy.	RFU Club	Local	L	L	L	Enhance
303	Bishop Auckland Town Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch that does not have any actual spare capacity.	Relocate demand from the site; and retain it as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

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

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

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
22	Bishop Barrington Sports Centre (School)	Football	School/ Commercial	Two youth 11v11 pitches and a youth 9v9 pitch; all of poor quality. The 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 1.5 MES per week and there is insufficient capacity on the 11v11 pitches for additional demand.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
24	Bishop Middleham Leisure Park	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
35	Spennymoor Town FC (Brewery Field)	Football	Sports Club	Home venue of Spennymoor Town FC (Step 2). The good quality adult pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum league requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
44	Butterwick Road Playing Fields (Fishburn)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One youth 9v9 pitch and one adult pitch; both of standard quality. Each has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Maximise use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
45	Byers Green Football Pitch	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One youth 9v9 pitch of standard quality, that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
46	Byers Green Primary School	Hockey	School	One small size sand dressed AGP that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The pitch is poor quality.	Improve the current maintenance regime to enhance pitch quality. Consider making the pitch available for community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	School	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
53	Chilton Academy	Football	School	Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches that are available for community use and are overplayed by 0.5 MES.	Improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
56	Cockton Hill Recreation Ground (Bishop Auckland)	Football	Local Authority	Two poor quality adult pitches that are known to have drainage issues. The site has some potential capacity but none during the peak time. Identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and potential investment to refurbish changing rooms.	Seek to improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Consider pitch and changing improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	M	L	Enhance

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
-	Coundon Gate	Football	Local Authority	One disused poor quality adult pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
68	Coundon Grange Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One disused poor quality adult pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
71	Crook Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 10 good quality grass wickets that are overplayed by four MES per season.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Explore options to relocate some demand to a secondary venue; alternatively install an NTP alongside the grass wickets and accommodate some junior demand on it to reduce overplay.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
369	Crook Farrers Arms	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
125	Crook Greenhead Playing Field	Football	Local Authority	A disused adult pitch that is not maintained following complaints by local residents.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
205	Crook Peases West Stadium	Football	Commercial	One unused adult pitch that is poor quality. The pitch is unavailable for community use until the Trust that operates the site invests money to improve the quality of the pitch.	Once funds are sourced to improve pitch quality; undertake required work and bring the site back in to use.	FF DFA	Local	L	M	M	Enhance
387	Crook Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is available for community use and used. Any actual spare capacity is discounted due to the unsecure nature of the site. The school has had a new pitch laid (youth 11 v11) on a piece of redundant land and available for use next season.	Work to establish secured community use on both pitches now available at the school.	School	Local	M	L	L	Protect

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
179	Crook Town FC (Millfield)	Football	Sports Club	The home venue of Crook Town FC (Step 6). The site has one good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum league requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	Daisy Fields (Spennymoor)	Football	Local Authority	A large site that has not been used for several years. There is space to accommodate at least four adult pitches. Spennymoor Town Youth FC has expressed aspiration to relocate to the site. Included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and new changing room investment. LFFP indicates potential 3G investment either at this site or Whitworth Academy.	Carry out a feasibility to explore the investment and management options for bringing back into use for Spennymoor Town Youth FC or for general community use to alleviate shortfalls in other areas. Consider grass and changing rooms subject to available funding. Further investigation is required to determine which site option is preferred for 3G and is subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local/Key	M	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
75	Dean Bank Park (Ferryhill)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One adult pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches, all standard quality; and three good quality mini 7v7 pitches. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES; whilst the youth pitch has one MES of actual spare capacity and the mini pitches 1.5. Identified in LFFP for potential grass pitch improvements.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Relocate some demand off the adult pitch to reduce current levels of overplay. Consider grass improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	Deborah Wood (West Auckland)	Football	Local Authority	Two poor quality, disused adult pitches. Any actual spare capacity on the site is discounted due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches. The site is known for having poor drainage.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. If this does not alleviate drainage issues then consider installing a formal drainage system.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
370	Eldon Lane Football Pitch	Football	Local Authority	A poor quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
101	Escomb Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One good quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
108	Ferryhill Business Enterprise College	Football	School	One adult pitch; two youth 11v11 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches; all of standard quality. The pitches are available for community use and used; with the youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Any actual spare capacity on the site is discounted due to a lack of a community use agreement.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Establish a community use agreement to provide main users of the site with secure tenure.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
110	Fishburn Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is currently unused.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
124	Greenfield Community College (Newton Aycliffe)	Football (3G)	School	One small size, medium pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is good quality having been resurfaced in 2016, with repair work completed in 2019.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		Two standard quality adult pitches and a youth 11v11 pitch; all of which are available for community use. There is a community use agreement in place; with both pitch types having 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
127	Hackworth Park (Shildon)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is known to have drainage issues. 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity is discounted from the site because of this.	Seek to relocate the current demand from the site and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
131	Hartside Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
135	Henknowle Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	A disused adult pitch not maintained following complaints by local residents. The site also lacks changing facilities.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
138	High Whitworth Pitches (Spennymoor)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use and has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
381	Horndale Infant School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
-	Horndale Playing Fields	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare	Three disused grass adult pitches that are no longer marked/maintained. The site also previously had changing facilities. Newton Aycliffe Youth FC expressed an interest in potentially accessing the site. Identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and investment in new build changing rooms.	Carry out a feasibility to explore the investment and management options for bringing back into use for Newton Aycliffe Youth FC. Consider grass improvements and changing rooms subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local/Key	M	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
147	Hunwick Recreation Ground	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 12 good quality grass wickets. Although the site has some spare capacity this is not during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to provide Hunwick CC with a long-term lease agreement for the site.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football	Local Authority	Two adult pitches; a youth 11v11 pitch and a youth 9v9; all of poor quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is at capacity, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is currently unused. The adult pitches and 9v9 are used by football club but do not have any capacity during the peak period. The site is known to have drainage issues. Site is subject to long term lease interest from Bishop Auckland Girls FC. Included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements.	Consider transfer of pitches to football club. Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Should maintenance improvements not address drainage issues; then consider installing a formal drainage system. Consider grass improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	M	M	M	Enhance
-	INEOS (School Lane, Newton Aycliffe)	Football		A grass adult pitch of standard quality that has not been marked/maintained since 2015.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider rationalisation to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
157	King George V Playing Field (Ferryhill)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
158	King James I Academy	Football (3G)	School	One good quality, full size, medium pile 3G pitch that is both floodlit and available for community use. Established in 2013, the pitch was funded by the School. Bishop Auckland Juniors FC is the main users and the pitch is FA approved. The pitch is also occasionally accessed by Bishop Auckland RFC on an ad-hoc basis, but the pitch is not WR compliant.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Continue to re-test the pitch to ensure that competitive football activity can continue to take place on the pitch. Continue to make the pitch available for community use; and provide key users with long term community use agreements.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	M	Enhance Protect
		Football		One good quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity; a standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by one MES and a poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is overplayed by two MES. There is a community use agreement in place securing access to the site.	Sustain the quality of the adult pitch; but seek to improve the quality of the youth pitches by enhancing the current maintenance regime and installing secure fencing around the pitches to deter unofficial use which is currently an issue.	FF DFA					
159	Kirk Merrington Football Pitch	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare	Two poor quality adult pitches that have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Enhance pitch quality by improving the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
382	Kirk Merrington Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
		Hockey		One small size sand dressed AGP that is neither floodlit nor available for community use. The pitch is standard quality.							
167	Leeholme Recreation Ground	Cricket	Local Authority	The home venue of Coundon CC. The site has nine standard quality grass wickets that have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide Coundon CC with a long-term lease agreement for the site.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
175	Mainsforth Sports Complex	Cricket	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	The home venue of Mainsforth CC. The site has 11 good quality grass wickets that have insufficient capacity to accommodate additional demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
177	Middlestone Moor Community Centre	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
181	Moore Lane Park	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	An unused poor quality adult pitch.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
190	Newton Aycliffe Sports Club	Cricket	Sports Club	There are nine grass wickets and an NTP on the square which is overplayed by 13 MES per season.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Accommodate some demand on the NTP to reduce overplay.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
		Football		The home venue of Newton Aycliffe FC (Step 5). The site has one standard quality adult pitch which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum league requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D2) senior rugby union pitch that is not floodlit. The pitch has 1.5 MES of potential capacity but no actual spare capacity during the peak period. The site is the home venue of Newton Aycliffe RFC which is part of the overarching sports club. The Club currently trains in residual light from the football pitches' floodlights.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide the Club with a dedicated floodlit training area. Should club participation increase then a second pitch may be required.	RFU Club					
362	North Park Primary (Spennymoor)	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available for community use and used.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim	
150	Oakleaf Sports Complex (Newton Aycliffe)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	<p>The home venue of Newton Aycliffe Youth FC, the Club aspires for a long term lease of the site, but the Town Council's constitution means that this is not possible.</p> <p>The site consists of two adult pitches (one poor, one standard); two youth 9v9 pitches (one poor, one standard); a poor quality mini 7v7 pitch; and a standard quality mini 5v5 pitch. There is also good quality, standalone changing rooms on site; and a separate clubhouse facility/leisure centre.</p> <p>The adult pitches are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week; whilst the mini 7v7 and youth 9v9 pitches each have 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.</p> <p>Identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements.</p>	<p>Seek to improve site maintenance to improve pitch quality, particularly those pitches that are poor quality.</p> <p>Assist Newton Aycliffe Youth FC with securing a long-term lease of the site to give security of tenure.</p> <p>As the Club's participation levels grow assist the Club with seeking out additional pitches to accommodate demand.</p> <p>Consider grass pitch improvements subject to available funding.</p>	FF DFA	Key	M	L	L	Enhance Provide	
202	Parkside Academy (Willington)	Football (3G)	School	<p>One full size 3G pitch that was initially funded by the Football Foundation in 2009.</p> <p>The pitch is currently poor quality, available for community use and floodlit. Willington Youth FC is the main partner club.</p> <p>Site identified for LFFP investment in new changing facility.</p>	<p>The pitch is being resurfaced in 2019; and will then be tested for FA certification.</p> <p>Continue to make the pitch available for community use, providing partner clubs with long term community use agreements.</p> <p>Consider new changing facility subject to available funding.</p>	FF DFA School	Key	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide	
		Football		<p>One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 1.5 MES and a poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is at capacity.</p> <p>Both pitches are available for community use but only the 11v11 pitch is used. There is not a community use agreement in place.</p>	<p>Enhance the quality by improving the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Continue to make the pitch available for community use; and provide key users with long term community use agreements.</p>							FF DFA
		Football		<p>Pitches to the south of the school buildings appear to have been unused for many years. Previously contained an adult and three youth pitches.</p>	<p>Known issue with lack of suitable community pitches in this locality and reintroduction of these pitches might be an option to explore.</p>							
216	Rosedale Recreation Ground (Willington)	Football	Local Authority	<p>One standard quality adult pitch that does not have any actual spare capacity.</p>	<p>Explore potential of transferring demand to another site and cease maintaining this site for formal pitch use.</p>	FF DFA	Reserve	M	M	L	Protect	

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
225	Sedgefield Community Sports College	Football (3G)	School	One standard quality, full size, medium pile 3G pitch that is both floodlit and available for community use. Established in 2008, the pitch was funded by the Football Foundation. Sedgefield Youth FC is the main user but the pitch is not FA approved. The pitch is also occasionally accessed by Sedgefield RFC for training demand but is not WR compliant.	Enhance the quality by improving the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Continue to make the pitch available for community use; and provide key users with long term community use agreements. Have the pitch tested to obtain FA certification and secure this status with future re-testing.	EH FF DFA RFU School	Key	M	M	M	Enhance Protect Provide
		Football		One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, three youth 11v1 pitches and an unused youth 9v9 pitch; all of poor quality. The youth and mini pitches are at capacity; but the adult pitch is overplayed by two MES per week. All pitches are secure with a community use agreement in place.	Enhance the current maintenance regime to improve pitch quality. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.						
		Hockey		One small size, sand dressed AGP that is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is poor quality and does not accommodate any community hockey demand, but some curricular hockey activity does take place. Community football clubs access the provision for midweek training; and the pitch is also utilised for tennis courts in the summer term.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Consider resurfacing the pitch to improve quality. Continue to make the pitch available for community use, ensuring that community use is secured through formal long term agreements. Ensure that a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.						
342	Sedgefield Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	12 standard quality grass wickets that are overplayed by 12 MES per season. Changing provision on site can be an issue when summer and winter seasons overlap as Sedgefield RFC utilise the provision during the winter months.	Improve pitch quality to eliminate current levels of overplay. Explore options for a secondary venue if pitch improvements are not possible.	ECB	Local	M	M	M	Enhance Provide

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
		Rugby union	Local Authority	One poor quality (M0/D1), senior rugby union pitch which is the home venue of Sedgfield RFC. The pitch is owned by DCC but is leased by the Club. The lease has 17 years remaining; although this does not include access to changing/ancillary provision, which the Club rents from Sedgfield CC annually. The Club is responsible for pitch maintenance. Rugby club has aspiration to grow but impeded by lack of second pitch on site due to land restrictions (conservation area).	Increase pitch quality by improving the maintenance regime. Explore the possibility of securing a lease agreement for access to the ancillary facilities. Extend and improve the ancillary provision so that rugby union and cricket clubs can access facilities simultaneously when seasons cross over. Consider alternative sites for club relocation to accommodate two pitches.	RFU Clubs					
229	Shildon AFC (Dean Street)	Football	Sports Club	The home venue of Shildon AFC (Step 5); the site has one good quality adult pitch and one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
153	Shildon Jubilee Fields (Shildon Stadium)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is subject to minimal community use.	Relocate demand from the site; and retain it as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
230	Shildon Railway Sports & Social Club	Cricket	Community Organisation	The home venue of Shildon Railway CC, the site has one square consisting of 14 standard quality grass wickets. There are 40 MES of potential capacity on the site and 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
231	Shildon Sunnydale Leisure Centre	Football (3G)	Commercial	One small size, medium pile 3G pitch that is of standard quality. The pitch is floodlit, available for community use and FA certified to host competitive match demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure certification is retained with retesting as required. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
		Football		Four standard quality adult pitches with some actual spare capacity during the peak period. Site identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use but consider remarking the pitches to address shortfalls elsewhere within the Area. Consider grass pitch improvements subject to availability of funding.	FF DFA					
		Rugby league		One standard quality, senior rugby league pitch that is overplayed by one MES per week. The site is the home venue of Durham Tigers ARLFC; with the Club's senior men's team using the site for both match and training demand. The Club rents the site on an annual basis, but only has access to changing rooms on a match day. Changing rooms are not secure and a lack of a clubhouse on site makes sustainability an issue. The pitch is subject to notable damage and unofficial use; with posts having been damaged or dismantled.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide Durham Tigers ARLFC with a long term use agreement; either a licence or a lease. Improve site security with CCTV and/or a new surrounding fence. Explore the options of providing the Club with a dedicated training area to remove midweek training demand off the match pitch; eliminating overplay. Consider providing Durham Tigers ARLFC with a clubhouse facility on site with self-contained changing rooms that the Club can access for all sessions.	RFL	Local	M	M	M	Protect Provide
298	Shildon Thornhill Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
237	Simpasture Park (Newton Aycliffe)	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One poor quality adult pitch which is subject to minimal levels of community use.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
344	Spennymoor Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of eight standard quality grass wickets. The site has ten MES of potential capacity; but none of this is available during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
398	St Francis C of E Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
246	St John's School (Bishop Auckland)	Football (3G)	School	Located on the school building site - one full size, medium pile, 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is good quality having been established in 2015. The pitch is FA registered with Bishop Auckland St Mary's Youth FC the partner club.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment. Continue to make the pitch available for community use; and provide key users with long term community use agreements. Sustain the pitches presence on the FA register by undertaking FA testing when required.	FF DFA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Football		Fields containing five adult pitches, two mini 5v5, two mini 7v7, two youth 9v9 and a youth 11v11 pitch (located to the west of Bishop Auckland College). All pitches have some potential spare capacity for additional demand, but actual spare capacity is discounted from the site due to a lack of community use agreement. Bishop Auckland St Mary's FC has a use agreement for the pitches, but this is not considered secure.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Secure a formal community use agreement for Bishop Auckland St Mary's Youth FC to give the Club security of tenure.	FF DFA					
18	Bishop Auckland College	Football	College	Two standard quality adult pitches with some spare capacity at peak time. Drainage system installed 2016 which has improved pitch quality but maintenance has not been sustained. Bishop Auckland St Mary's FC also has a use agreement for the pitches, but this is not considered secure.	Work to increase maintenance in order to sustain/improve quality. Secure a formal community use agreement for Bishop Auckland St Mary's Youth FC to give the Club security of tenure.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
259	St. Johns Church of England Aided Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
352	St Helen Auckland Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality adult pitch which is unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
273	Stephenson Way Academy & Nursery	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
275	Sugar Hill Primary School	Football	School	One youth 11v11 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches; all poor quality. None of the pitches are available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
351	Sunniside	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
380	Stanley Crook Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
285	The Charlie Wayman Football Fields (Ferryhill)	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One poor quality adult pitch that does not have any actual spare capacity during the peak period due to the low carrying capacity of the site. Also contains a lapsed adult football pitch. Site identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and investment for changing room improvements.	Consider improvements to pitch quality and explore options to bring second pitch back into use. If feasible, explore feasibility to refurbish ancillary provision on the site to encourage community use. This is subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	M	L	Enhance
290	The Meadows School	Football	School	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch; both of which are poor quality, but neither is available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
295	The Shildon Scout Memorial Field Trust	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve quality in order to address overplay.	FF DFA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
301	Toronto Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	Disused poor quality adult pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
302	Tow Law Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
363	Tow Law Millennium Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
152	Tow Law FC (Ironworks Road Ground)	Football	Sports Club	The home venue of Tow Law Town FC (Step 6). The site consists of a good quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site remains compliant with minimum league requirements if/when the Club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
304	Trimdon Community College/Blue Meadow Primary	Cricket	School/Community Organisation	One standalone, standard quality, NTP that is available for community use but unused.	Retain the pitch for school demand; sustaining quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider utilising the pitch as a venue for All Starts Cricket, freeing up capacity at primary club venues.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Protect
		Football		Two adult pitches, two youth 11v11 pitches and a mini 5v5; all of standard quality. All pitches are currently unused by community clubs but are subject to school demand.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
		Hockey		One small size sand dressed AGP that is floodlit and available for community use. The pitch is poor quality.	Improve the current maintenance regime to enhance pitch quality. Continue making the pitch available for community use. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	School Community Organisation					
305	Trimdon Station Foundry Recreation Ground	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One good quality, unused adult pitch.	Retain as a reserve site.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
307	Tudhoe Community Centre	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
308	Tudhoe Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	The home of Tudhoe CC. The site has one square consisting of ten, standard quality, grass wickets. The site is overplayed by nine MES per season. The Club aspires for an NTP and fixed bay nets to accommodate training demand.	Improve pitch quality to eliminate current levels of overplay. Install an NTP on the site alongside the grass square and use it to host some junior cricket demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Provide
354	Tudhoe Grange Upper School (former).	Football	Local Authority	Four standard quality pitches consisting of one adult pitch, two youth 11v11 pitches and a youth 9v9. The adult pitch is at capacity whilst the youth pitches do not have any actual spare capacity available during the peak period, despite displaying potential capacity for additional demand. The site currently accommodates mini and youth demand from Spennymoor Town Youth FC. The Club aspires to relocate to Daisy Fields which could result in this site becoming unused. Part of the site is included in CDP. Site included in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and potential investment in new build changing rooms.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Should Spennymoor Town Youth FC relocate to Daisy Fields, continue to make the site available for community use. Consider providing a key club a long term lease agreement for the site. In line with Sport England SOCG the part of site included in CDP can only be developed subject to an up to date PPS identifying a surplus of playing pitches in catchment or re-provision in suitable location in accordance with Policy. Consider grass pitch and changing improvements subject to available funding.	FF DFA SE	Key	M	M	L	Protect Provide

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
-	Tudhoe Grange Lower School (former)	Football	Local Authority	Former school site that included one youth 11v11 pitch and one King St Primary detached 7v7 pitch. A housing allocation is contained in the CDP.	In line with Sport England SOCG, maintain access to King St pitch. The part of site which includes a former school field can only be developed subject to an up to date PPS identifying the pitch as being surplus or re-provision in a suitable location in accordance with SE playing field policy.	FF DFA SE	Local	M	M	L	Protect Provide
310	Vane Road Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
311	Victoria Lane Academy (Coundon)	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
316	West Auckland Town AFC (Darlington Road)	Football	Sports Club	The home venue of West Auckland Town FC (Step 5). The site has one standard quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when the club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
-	West Cornforth Community Centre	Football		One disused poor quality, grass adult football pitch.	Potential low value and not considered sustainable to be brought back into use. Consider decommissioning to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub and Key sites).	FF SE	Reserve	M	M	M	Provide
318	West Cornforth Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	S	L	Protect
322	Whitworth Park Academy (Spennymoor)	Football	School	Three youth 11v11 pitches which have 2.5 MES of actual spare capacity; and a youth 9v9 pitch which has one MES of actual spare capacity. All pitches are standard quality and there is a community use agreement in place. LFFP indicates potential 3G investment either at this site or Daisy Fields.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use. Further investigation is required to determine which site option is preferred for 3G and is subject to available funding.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
323	Willington A.F.C (Hall Lane)	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period. The home venue of Willington FC and Durham City FC (both Step 6).	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when either club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹²	Cost ¹³	Aim
345	Willington Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 11 standard quality grass wickets. The site is overplayed by 26 MES per season.	Improve pitch quality to eliminate current levels of overplay. Explore options for a secondary venue if pitch improvements are not possible. Alternatively, install an NTP alongside the current grass provision and utilise it for some junior and lower level senior match demand.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Enhance Provide
324	Windlestone School	Football (3G)	School	One small size, short pile 3G pitch that is neither available for community use nor floodlit. The pitch is standard quality.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
		Football		One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is not available for community use.							
329	Witton Park Recreation Ground	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch which does not have any actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
332	Woodham Academy	Football	School	Two adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week; a youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed by two MES per week; two youth 9v9 pitches and a mini 5v5 pitch. The School reports issues with unofficial use of the field/pitches detached from the main school site. Site identified in LFFP for grass pitch improvements and investment in new 3G build on the footprint of a former redgra pitch. The School also has plans to sell part of its site that currently contains one grass adult and one mini 5v5 pitch on it.	Consider grass pitch improvements subject to available funding. Install new fencing around the detached field/pitches to prevent unofficial use. Investigate the feasibility of provision of a 3G pitch on the site to fully determine how this will be funded, if reliant on the sale/loss of playing field land the following would be required to meet Sport England Playing Field Policy: whilst provision of a 3G pitch would be acceptable (in principle) under Exception E5 ¹⁴ , the disposal of playing field for development would need to comply with exceptions E1 ¹⁵ or E4 ¹⁶ in terms of mitigation.	FF DFA SE	Local	M	L	H	Enhance Provide

¹⁴ E5 - The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

¹⁵ E1 - A robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

¹⁶ E4 - The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field.

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

6.7: West Area

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture (MES)	Future demand (2035) (MES)
Football (grass pitches)	South	Spare capacity of 4 on adult pitches. Shortfall of 1.5 on youth 11v11. Shortfall of 1 on youth 9v9. At capacity on mini 7v7. At capacity on mini 5v5.	Spare capacity of 4 on adult pitches. Shortfall of 1.5 on youth 11v11. Shortfall of 1 on youth 9v9. At capacity on mini 7v7. At capacity on mini 5v5.
Football (3G AGPs)	South	Sufficient provision	Sufficient provision
Cricket	South	Spare capacity of 39	Spare capacity of 39
Rugby union	South	Shortfall of 7.5	Shortfall of 8.25
Hockey (sand & water AGPs)	County Durham	Insufficient supply for community hockey	Insufficient supply for community hockey
Rugby league	County Durham	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2.5

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
7	Barnard Castle Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 13, good quality, grass wickets. The site has nine MES of potential capacity; but this is insufficient to accommodate additional senior demand during the peak period. The Club leases the site, but this agreement excludes ancillary provision.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ratify the Club's lease agreement for the site to incorporate supporting ancillary provision.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
8	Barnard Castle Football Club	Football	Sports Club	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Improve pitch quality in order to address overplay.	FF DFA	Local	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
360	Barnard Castle Rugby Club (offsite)	Rugby union	Sports Club	Two poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitches that are overplayed by a combined 7.5 MES per week. One of the pitches is partly floodlit and accommodates all of the Club's midweek training demand; this pitch alone, is overplayed by five MES per week. The site is leased by Barnard Castle RFC from Barnard Castle Town Council, with the agreement having 19 years remaining. The Club is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the pitches but is unable to improve pitch quality sufficiently, at present, to obtain and sustain pitches of standard quality due to drainage issues. The Club has plans to relocate the full club (pitches & clubhouse) to Teesdale School and The Hub, with a purpose built clubhouse facility and two standard quality senior pitches.	Should the Club successfully relocate to Teesdale School/The Hub, then consider reallocating the pitches for an alternative sporting format. Until then, qualitatively seek to improve pitch quality by increasing the current maintenance regime. Provide the Club with a dedicated floodlit training area to remove midweek training from the match pitch.	RFU Club Town Council	Local	M	M	L	Enhance Provide
	Barnard Castle Rugby Club (clubhouse)	Rugby union	Sports Club	The clubhouse facility of Barnard Castle RFC is away from the Club's match pitches; and is owned by the Club. The facility is considered poor quality and is currently uninsurable due to significant electrical work being required. Car parking is available on site but is located away from match pitches meaning participants must walk between the two sites. The Club has plans to relocate the full clubs (pitches & clubhouse) to Teesdale School and The Hub, with a purpose built clubhouse facility and two standard quality senior pitches.	Work with the Club to identify the most cost effective, efficient way of improving the clubhouse facility. Determine the value in continually modifying the provision if the Club is seeking to relocate to Teesdale School/The Hub.	RFU Club	Local	H	S	M	Enhance

¹⁷ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁸ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
10	Barnard Castle School (Senior School)	Cricket	School	Two squares on site both of good quality. One consists of seven junior grass wickets grass; whilst the other has eight grass wickets alongside an NTP. The pitches are available for community use but are unused by community clubs, occasionally hosting County representative matches. Each square has minimal spare capacity for additional demand. The School has plans to refurbish some disused fixed bay nets to provide practice lanes where players can warm up.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact on quality. Encourage the School to refurbish the disused nets on site; and to make them available for community use.	ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Provide
		Football		Two good quality adult pitches that are marked as rugby union pitches in the first term. The pitches are available for community use but are unused. The is not a community use agreement in place for the site and the presence of boards on the site raises safeguarding issues.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact on quality.	FF DFA					
		Hockey		One full size, sand dressed AGP that is good quality despite being beyond the recommended lifespan. The site accommodates curricular and extra-curricular demand from Barnard Castle School; as well as some training and match demand from Barnard Castle Junior HC. The Club rents the pitch on an	Continue with the current maintenance regime to sustain pitch quality. Consider resurfacing the pitch as and when the quality decreases. Continue to make the pitch available for community use; providing Barnard Castle Junior HC with a formal, long term community use agreement. Ensure sinking funds are in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	EH School Club					
		Rugby union		Four senior pitches and a junior pitch; all of good quality (M2/D1). All pitches are available for community use but are currently unused by community clubs. The junior pitch is at capacity from school demand; whilst the senior pitches have a combined three MES of potential capacity. However, any actual spare capacity is discounted due to the pitches being unsecure. One of the senior pitches changes to an adult football pitch for the second school term. The School has aspirations to establish a WR compliant 3G pitch on site in place of an existing senior rugby/adult football pitch.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use provided that this does not adversely impact on quality. Consider formalising a link between the School and Barnard Castle RFC, allowing the Club to access provision for some demand. If a WR compliant pitch is installed on site, secure a formal, long term community use agreement for Barnard Castle RFC, enabling the Club to utilise the provision for both match and training demand.	RFU School Club					

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
339	Barningham Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of six standard quality grass wickets, which is overplayed by one MES.	Enhance pitch quality to remove overplay. If this is not feasible then consider utilising a secondary venue for some match demand.	ECB	Local	S	S	L	Enhance Protect
28	Stanhope Bondisle Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
43	Butterknowle Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
54	Cockfield Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
64	Copley Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
105	Etherley Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of ten standard quality grass wickets. The site has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
115	Frosterley Community School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
117	Gainford and Langton Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
118	Gainford C of E Primary School	Football	School	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch and one mini 7v7; all standard quality. All pitches are available for community use but only the adult pitch is currently used. Any actual spare capacity on site is not considered due to the unsecure nature of the site.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Secure a community use agreement for main users of the site.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
350	Gainford Road	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of five standard quality grass wickets. There is spare capacity on the site, but this is considered insufficient to accommodate additional senior demand. The site is leased by King James CC from the Local Town Council.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
365	GlaxoSmithKline pitches (Barnard Castle)	Football	Private	Two good quality adult pitches that are available for community use and used; however, there is no community use agreement in place meaning that any actual spare capacity is not considered.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Consider providing local clubs with formal community use agreements to make us of the potential capacity on the site.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect

**COUNTY DURHAM
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
123	Green Lane Church of England School (Barnard Castle)	Football	School	One pitch of each football format, all are poor quality and available for community use. The adult pitch is at capacity, the youth pitches are overplayed by an accumulative three MES and the mini pitches have potential capacity for additional demand, but this is discounted due to low carrying capacity. There is a community use agreement in place for the site.	Improve pitch quality by enhancing the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Enhance
140	HMP Deerbolt	Football (3G)	HMP	One small size 3G pitch that is neither available for community use or floodlit.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	HMP FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
373	Lands Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of six standard quality grass wickets, which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity. The Club reports a lack of mains utilities as an issue for club development; as is the overall quality of the clubhouse provision. The Club aspires for an NTP and/or fixed bay nets.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Support the Club to address issues regarding utilities and ancillary provision. Consider providing the Club with either an NTP alongside the grass square or fixed bay nets so that pre-season training demand is not displaced outside of the County.	ECB	Local	L	S	M	Enhance Protect Provide
178	Middleton-In-Teesdale Primary School	Cricket	School	One square consisting of nine good quality grass wickets. The site is rented by Middleton in Teesdale CC on an annual basis.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School					
204	Pauline Charlton Sports Pavilion (Cockfield)	Football	Sports Club	The home venue of West Auckland Tunns FC (Step 7). The site has one good quality adult pitch with one MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Ensure that the site continues to meet minimum ground requirements if/when either club progresses through the Football Pyramid.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
337	Raby Castle	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 12 good quality grass wickets with an NTP alongside. The pitch has potential for 40 MES of additional demand but none of this is available during the peak period. Raby Castle CC currently leases the site, but this agreement is in the final year.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Provide Raby Castle CC with a long term lease agreement for the site to secure tenure for the Club.	ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
210	Ramshaw Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
211	Randolph Social Welfare Ground, Evenwood	Cricket	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One square consisting of ten good quality grass wickets. The pitch has some potential capacity but this is not sufficient to accommodate additional senior demand. The pavilion on the site is not considered fit for purpose by Evenwood CC, with the Club noting that the facility is of a particularly poor quality.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Refurbish ancillary facilities on the site to enhance quality.	ECB	Local	L	M	M	Enhance Protect
		Football		One standard quality adult pitch that has one MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA					
385	Rookhope Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
245	St Johns Chapel Football Pitch	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
400	St John's Chapel Primary School	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Reserve	L	L	L	Protect
270	Staindrop Academy	Cricket	School	One standard quality, standalone NTP that is available for community use but is unused.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
		Football		One adult pitch and two youth 11v11 pitches; all of standard quality. All pitches are available for community use but only the adult pitch is used. Actual spare capacity on the site is discounted as no community use agreement is in place.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitches available for community use.	FF DFA					
		Rugby union		One standard quality (M1/D1) rugby union pitch that is available for community use but is currently unused. The pitch is subject to curricular demand and has one MES of potential capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	RFU School					
355	Staindrop Football Pitch	Football	Town/Parish/Welfare Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is currently unused.	Retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
282	Teesdale Leisure Centre	Football (3G)	Commercial	One small size, short pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit. The pitch is standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime. Continue to make the pitch available for community use. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.	FF DFA School	Local	L	S	L	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
283	Teesdale School	Football	School	<p>One poor quality adult pitch and two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches; all of which are available for community use but are unused.</p> <p>The School has plans to convert two existing, poor quality, youth 11v11 pitches to senior rugby union pitches; subsequently leasing these to Barnard Castle RFC. The pitches are available for community use but are currently unused, with the School rarely using the provision given its distance from the School buildings. The School also has aspiration to convert an adult football pitch, located within an unofficial athletics track, to a full size 3G pitch (this could be both FA and World Rugby compliant). However, this project is not identified within the LFFP so is unlikely to be funded in the short term by FF.</p>	Further feasibility required by the School to establish how this would be funded. If the development proceeds in the future, long term community use agreements should be established for both the rugby union pitches (Barnard Castle RFC) and the 3G pitch.	FF DFA RFU	Local	L	L	H	Protect Enhance Provide
300	Toft Hill Primary School	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for school use.	School	Local	L	L	L	Protect
312	Wearhead Recreation Area	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	One poor quality adult pitch that is used by community clubs.	Seek to improve pitch quality as required and maximise use. If this is not possible, consider relocating demand and retain the pitch as strategic reserve.	FF DFA	Local/ Reserve	L	S	L	Protect
346	Witton Le Wear CC	Cricket	Sports Club	One square consisting of 11 standard quality grass wickets, which has 0.5 MES of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	ECB	Local	L	S	L	Protect
330	Wolsingham Recreation Area	Football	Town/Parish/ Welfare Council	<p>One adult pitch of standard quality which doesn't have any capacity during the peak period.</p> <p>Durham Dales HC has aspiration to establish a hockey suitable AGP locally and highlighted the site as a potential venue; however, given the presence of a grass pitch that is used then this site should not be considered.</p>	Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.	FF DFA	Local	L	S	L	Protect
331	Wolsingham School	Football (3G)	School	<p>One small size, medium pile 3G pitch that is available for community use and floodlit.</p> <p>The pitch is good quality having been established in 2016, but subject to minimal community use.</p> <p>Used by Durham Dales HC. Not suitable for competitive hockey in terms of surface type or size. Means the Club does not affiliate the majority of its members; nor does it offer competitive hockey activity.</p>	<p>Sustain pitch quality by continuing with the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>Continue to make the pitch available for community use.</p> <p>Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.</p> <p>Explore options for establishing a hockey suitable AGP that Durham Dales HC could relocate to.</p> <p>Work with the School to increase community use of the pitch.</p>	FF DFA EH School	Local	H	S	H	Protect

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
		Cricket		One poor quality NTP that is available for community use. The pitch is utilised by Wolsingham CC 3 rd XI but quality should be a notable concern. The pitch is not used by the School due to this.	Remove all demand from the pitch given the notably poor quality. Consider replacing the pitch to retain cricket activity at the School; and if this happens then provide Wolsingham CC with a long term community use agreement for the site to strengthen links between the two organisations.	ECB		M	S	L	Enhance
		Football (previously hockey)		One adult pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches that are all standard quality and used by community clubs. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 MES whilst any actual spare capacity on the youth pitches is discounted due to a lack of a community use agreement. There is also a poor quality youth 11v11 pitch at the School; which is adjacent to the rugby union pitch. It is available for community use but is unused. Part of the main school site is in the CDP and includes a playing field formerly marked as an undersized hockey pitch.	Sustain the quality of the standard quality pitches. Improve the youth 11v11 pitch and then relocate some youth demand away from the adult pitch to remove overplay. Provide the main users of the site with long term community use agreements. In line with Sport England SOCG the land which includes the former pitch can only be developed subject to an up to date PPS identifying a surplus of pitches in the catchment or re-provision in a suitable location in accordance with Policy.	FF DFA		L	S	L	Enhance
		Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D0) senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. The pitch is subject to some curricular demand.	Improve the current maintenance regime to increase pitch quality. Continue to make the pitch available for community use.	RFU School					

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

- 7.1 The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2035 (in line with the County Durham Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England New Development Playing Pitch Calculator (NDC) adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates (TGRs) in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.
- 7.2 All new housing developments create a demand for playing pitch provision. However, experience from using the Playing Pitch Calculator suggests that it usually requires developments of around 600 dwellings to generate sufficient demand to equate to a new playing pitch (most usually for football or cricket). Elsewhere in the Strategy the direction of travel is to move away from single pitch sites to multi-pitch hubs. This is because multi-pitch sites are cheaper (in relative terms) to maintain and make provision for ancillary facilities such as car parking and changing. It makes sense therefore that new playing pitches should only be provided as part of new developments where the scale of new development generates at least two playing pitches. Such development is likely to be above the 1,200 dwelling level.
- 7.3 Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, contributions should be used to enhance existing provision in the locality through, for example, improving quality or providing new or improved ancillary provision. The Action Plan in this document, as well as consultation with appropriate NGBs, should be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.
- 7.4 The scenarios below are run as an example of how the NDC will show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from future housing growth. New housing in County Durham is planned up to the year 2035 with 24,852 new houses to be built within this period, based on an annual requirement of 1,308 houses. In terms of proposed housing allocations, there are 23 sites spread across various settlements and the NDC should be used on a site by site basis to help determine developer contributions for each size of development.
- 7.5 The scenarios show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.
- 7.6 The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3 per dwelling. The indicative figures will be applied to three exclusive scenarios as follows:
- ◀ **Scenario One** – per annum demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth based on the Government standard methodology for local housing need in County Durham (1,308 dwellings).
 - ◀ **Scenario Two** – accumulative demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth based on the Government standard methodology for local housing need based on 1,308 dwellings per annum over the next 15 years i.e. 2020 to 2035 (19,620 dwellings).
 - ◀ **Scenario Three** - additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from a specific development - Sniperley Park (1,700 dwellings).

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- 7.7 Please note that each scenario takes into consideration training demand for the individual sports which will give an exact requirement for provision required by housing growth.

Scenario One

- 7.8 The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,308 dwellings is 3,008 people. This level of population increase equates to the need for 2.66 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.10 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 14.81 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.
- 7.9 Training demand equates to 4.97 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.23 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.20 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week ¹⁹	Training demand ²⁰
Adult football	0.73	4.97 hours
Youth football	0.92	
Mini soccer	0.84	
Rugby union	0.16	0.19 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.01	0.01 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.07	0.20 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.03	0.03 hours
Cricket	14.81 (per season)	N/A

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²¹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²²
Adult football	1 (0.73)	£64,527	£13,615
Youth football	1 (0.92)	£61,161	£12,844
Mini soccer	1 (0.84)	£18,736	£3,935
Rugby union	0 (0.16)	£20,095	£4,300
Rugby league	0 (0.01)	£559	£124
Cricket	0 (0.32)	£84,953	£17,161
Sand based AGPs	0 (0.15)	£127,140	£5,159
3G	0 (0.13)	£115,162	£4,788

¹⁹ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²⁰ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²¹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²² Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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- 7.11 Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide 3.76 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £568,690.
- 7.12 The tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. That being said, it must be noted that not all developments will require new on site provision, with the capacity of existing sites in the locality needing to be assessed to understand if they can accommodate increased usage. The PPS should be used as a guide to inform this.
- 7.13 Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority will result in substantial demand generated across the local authority and in each analysis area. For developments not requiring on site provision, contributions should be focused on improving existing sites. The preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

Scenario Two

- 7.14 The estimated population derived from housing growth for the total plan period of 19,620 (based on 1,308 dwellings per annum over 15 years) is 45,126 people. This level of population increase equates to the need for 39.77 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 1.37 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 222.16 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.
- 7.15 Training demand equates to 74.51 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 3.45 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 3.68 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week ²³	Training demand ²⁴
Adult football	10.88	74.51 hours
Youth football	13.75	
Mini soccer	12.63	
Rugby union	2.42	2.78 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.09	0.09 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.98	2.95 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.39	0.50 hours
Cricket	222.16 (per season)	N/A

²³ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²⁴ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

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

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁵	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ²⁶
Adult football	11 (10.88)	£968,036	£204,256
Youth football	14 (13.75)	£917,538	£192,683
Mini soccer	13 (12.63)	£281,073	£59,025
Rugby union	2 (2.42)	£301,463	£64,513
Rugby league	0 (0.09)	£8,385	£1,853
Cricket	5 (4.85)	£1,274,467	£257,442
Sand based AGPs	0 (0.25)	£179,696	£5,571
3G	2 (1.96)	£1,727,662	£71,824

- 7.17 Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide 56.39 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £8,531,479.
- 7.18 The tables above show that through housing growth, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. That being said, it must be noted that not all developments will require new on site provision, with the capacity of existing sites in the locality needing to be assessed to understand if they can accommodate increased usage. The PPS should be used as a guide to inform this.
- 7.19 Experience shows that only significantly large housing sites are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority will result in substantial demand generated across the local authority and in each analysis area. For developments not requiring on site provision, contributions should be focused on improving existing sites. The preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

Scenario Three

- 7.20 The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 1,700 dwellings (at Sniperley Park) is 3,910 people. This level of population increase equates to the need for 3.44 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.12 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 19.25 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.
- 7.21 Training demand equates to 6.46 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 0.30 hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby on a floodlit grass pitch.

²⁵ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

²⁶ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week ²⁷	Training demand ²⁸
Adult football	0.94	6.46 hours
Youth football	1.19	
Mini soccer	1.09	
Rugby union	0.21	0.24 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.01	0.01 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.09	0.26 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.03	0.04 hours
Cricket	19.25 (per season)	N/A

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

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches		
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost ²⁹	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) ³⁰
Adult football	1 (0.94)	£83,877	£17,698
Youth football	1 (1.19)	£79,501	£16,695
Mini soccer	1 (1.09)	£24,354	£5,114
Rugby union	0 (0.21)	£26,121	£5,59
Rugby league	0 (0.01)	£726	£161
Cricket	0 (0.42)	£110,428	£22,306
Sand based AGPs	0 (0.02)	£15,570	£483
3G	0 (0.17)	£149,695	£6,223

- 7.23 Further to the above, the NDC also estimates that there will be a need to provide 4.89 changing rooms to support new pitch provision which is identified in the table above. The total capital cost to deliver this level of provision is £739,221.
- 7.24 Sniperley Park site allocation is for 1,700 dwellings and associated complementary uses (local centre etc) as part of an urban extension to Durham. The size of the development is such that it identifies a need for one adult, one youth and one mini football pitch to be established to meet the demand. Given that a new school site is also planned for the site, it is recommended that new playing pitch provision is located and managed through the school site.
- 7.25 The site also incorporates an existing playing pitch site (Site 348: Durham Road, Framwellgate Moor) which contains three unused adult pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches; all of standard quality. The intention is that these pitches will be taken out of the supply and will be mitigated within a new school at the site.

²⁷ As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

²⁸ Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

²⁹ Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

³⁰ Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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- 7.26 As indicated earlier, due to current shortfalls in playing pitch provision, there is a need to protect any existing playing field land (or to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality). The position remains that there is an adequate supply of grass football pitches in the Central Area. However, the position for other grass pitch sports in the Central Area is that there are current shortfalls for cricket, rugby union and rugby league. This is most significant in cricket and is likely to require new provision to address. In addition, there is a shortfall of five full size, floodlit 3G pitches in the Central Area as a result of the changing trends/demands for football and to address a shortfall of suitable training surfaces.
- 7.27 Given the direction of the PPS (and the LFFP) is to provide more 3G pitches to service football, there is an opportunity to consider provision of a 3G pitch as an alternative to grass football pitches and combine the contributions for football. Therefore, it is recommended to explore the potential of mitigating the loss of grass football pitches with a combination of 3G pitch provision and potential contributions to improving the quality (and therefore capacity) of cricket and pitches in the Central Area. This option should be discussed in further detail with Sport England and the relevant NGBs.

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

Delivery

- 8.1 The PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across the Durham County Council area. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future playing pitches needs of County Durham can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.
- 8.2 Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful implementation and the benefits to be gained depend upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a mutually bought into strategic approach. It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, supports engagement with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed. This is to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.
- 8.3 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
- 8.4 To help ensure that 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 to which people and agencies regularly turn to for information in respect of how current demand should be met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. To ensure that this is achieved, the Steering Group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.
- 8.5 The process of PPS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhance partnership work across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthened relationships and understanding between stakeholders, 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 its influence should be applied, and strategy delivered enhanced.

Monitoring and updating

- 8.6 It is important that there is regular annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council 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 be a key component of monitoring its delivery and be an on-going role of the steering group.
- 8.7 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, Sport England and the NGBs will consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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- 8.8 The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. A review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development and, taking into account the time to develop the PPS, will ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.
- 8.9 A review should not be regarded as a particular resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:
- ◀ How 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 or reduce 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.
- 8.10 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 outdoor sports 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 that the PPS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives.
 - ◀ Maintains links between relevant parties with an interest in local outdoor sports provision;
 - ◀ Reviews the need to update the PPS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based. Further to review the group should either:
 - ◀ Provide a short annual progress and update paper;
 - ◀ Provide a partial review focussing on particular sport, pitch type and/or sub area; or
 - ◀ Lead a full review and update of the PPS document (including the supply and demand information and assessment details).
- 8.11 Alongside regular Steering Group meetings, a good way to keep the PPS up to date and maintain relationships is to hold annual sport specific meetings with pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These could be part of a process of updating key supply and demand information plus, if necessary, amending assessment work, tracking progress in respect of implementing action plan recommendations and highlighting new issues and opportunities.
- 8.12 Meetings could be timed to coincide with annual NGB affiliation processes. This would help to signal 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 should also feed into these meetings.
- 8.13 NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussions with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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- 8.14 The Steering Group should regularly review and refresh the Action Plan, taking account of any changes in pitch quality (and hence changes in pitch capacity) and demand as well as new provision that has been created or any new negotiations for community use of education sites in the future.
- 8.15 It is important that the Council maintains the data contained within the accompanying PPS database. This will enable it to refresh and update the work on a regular basis. The accompanying database is intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental work encompassing, for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

Checklists

- 8.16 In order for this Strategy to be signed off by the steering group, a Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy, is signed off.

Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy	Tick ✓	
	Yes	Requires Attention
Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan	✓	
1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?	✓	
2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information?	✓	
3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?	✓	
4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?	✓	
5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?	✓	
6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?	✓	
7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?	✓	
8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?	✓	
9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?	✓	
10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?	✓	
11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?	✓	
12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?	✓	
13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?	✓	
14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?	✓	

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15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?	✓	
16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?	✓	
17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?	✓	
18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?	✓	
Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy	✓	
1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?		
2. Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?	✓	
3. Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?	✓	
4. Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?	✓	
5. Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area?	✓	
6. Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?	✓	

- 8.17 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:

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?		

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6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		
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8.18 For more information, see: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX ONE: 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. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams may change throughout 2018/19 so refer to the website for the latest information: http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.

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Awarding body	Description
Rugby Football League https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities	Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities legacy funding. Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcoming environments 2. More players 3. Community engagement 4. Innovation fund
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

Protecting Playing Fields

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

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

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

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

The programme is being delivered via five funding rounds (with up to £2 million being awarded to projects in each round). Its focus is on protecting and improving playing fields and developing community sport. It will fund capital projects that create, develop and improve playing fields for sporting and community use and offer long-term protection of the site for sport. Projects are likely to involve the construction of new pitches or improvement of existing ones that need levelling or drainage works.

Sport England's Community Asset Fund³¹ programme will be delivered via funding rounds and replaced its previous Inspired Facilities Fund. The Community Asset Fund opened in late January 2017 with an annual budget of £15 million, anticipating funding applications to range anywhere from £1000 to £150,000.

³¹ <https://www.sportengland.org/media/11425/community-asset-fund-guide-january-2017.pdf>

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A key difference of the new programme is that it not only aims to support improvement of facilities within traditional sports clubs and recreational or sporting environments, but seeks to explore new ways to invest in communities where improvement of facilities can offer wider benefit for not just sporting groups but other physical activities and local organisations which use or could use the site. The change in approach reflects the Towards an Active Nation Strategy and a contribution to delivering the five outcomes: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

The four main aims of the Community Asset Fund programme are:

- ◀ Improve and protect existing sports facilities that support the needs of local communities
- ◀ Invest in new and different places that meet the needs of local communities, which include our target audiences
- ◀ Ensure our capital investment reaches organisations who have not accessed our funding before
- ◀ Create a more resilient, sustainable, less grant dependent sport sector

Strategic Facilities Fund

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will direct capital investment into a number of key local authority projects that are identified through a strategic needs assessment and that have maximum impact on growing and sustaining community sport participation. These projects will be promoted as best practice in the delivery of quality and affordable facilities, whilst demonstrating long-term operational efficiencies. The fund will support projects that bring together multiple partners, including input from the public and private sectors and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). The fund is also designed to encourage applicants and their partners to invest further capital and revenue funding to ensure sustainability. Sport England has allocated a budget of circa £30m of Lottery funding to award through this fund (2013-17).

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

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The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

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

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

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

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

APPENDIX TWO: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX THREE: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

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

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

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

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

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

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

COUNTY DURHAM PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Football Facility Plans

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

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

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

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

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ ***More Play*** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
 - ◀ *Kids*
 - ◀ *Communities*
 - ◀ *Casual*
- ◀ ***Great Teams*** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Pathway*
 - ◀ *Support*
 - ◀ *Elite Teams*
 - ◀ *England Teams*
- ◀ ***Inspired Fans*** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Fan focus*
 - ◀ *New audiences*
 - ◀ *Global stage*
 - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ ***Good Governance and Social Responsibility*** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - ◀ *Integrity*
 - ◀ *Community programmes*
 - ◀ *Our environments*

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- ◀ *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - ◀ *People*
 - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
 - ◀ *Insight*
 - ◀ *Operations*

ECB Inspiring Generations

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

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

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

There will also be a structured pathway for women and girls in both softball and hardball cricket.

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

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

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

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

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The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rugby League World Cup 'Inspired by 2021' Legacy Programme

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The core objectives are as follows:

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

Club participation

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

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

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

England Hockey Strategy

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

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

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

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The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

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

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

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