



# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2020

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CCC	Canterbury City Council
DCMS	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIH	Federation of International Hockey
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facility Plan
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MES	Match equivalent sessions
MUGA	Multi use games area
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Canterbury District. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitches and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2040 (in line with the emerging Local Plan).

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.

A PPS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport 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.

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.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for the Canterbury District, which should be realised over the Local Plan period. 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.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve outdoor sport provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document will provide clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

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## COVID-19

Since the production of the Assessment Report and Strategy & Action Plan documents there has been global pandemic from the spreading of COVID – 19 (Coronavirus). This led to England entering an unprecedented state of Lockdown on the 23rd March 2020. Lockdown requires the general public to remain at home and only leave their households for food, health reasons or work (only if work cannot be carried out at home). In addition, if people are to go outside they are to remain two metres apart. This understandably has led to all sporting activities including all those covered in the Playing Pitch Strategy documents to cease until further notice.

It should be noted that both the Assessment Report and Strategy & Action Plan were created before the pandemic and the state of lockdown occurred. The documents use the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance from Stage A to Stage D and therefore the supply and demand analysis for each of the sports and the strategic recommendations made are accurate based on information collated in 2019.

It is currently unknown what the future impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown will have on participation and the quality of provision for each sport referenced in the documents. Therefore, it is acknowledged that as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy Stage E process, the review of the documents should ensure that any recommendations made are still accurate based on future levels of supply and demand.

As part of Stage E, 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. Given current circumstances an annual meeting, which could coincide with the annual NGB affiliation process, would be beneficial to understand what impact, if any, COVID-19 and the Lockdown has had within Canterbury District.

For more information regarding the Stage E process please see Part 7: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date or see <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

## Monitoring and updating

It is important to ensure there is regular annual monitoring and review of the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the Steering Group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS; and the information on which it is based, to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

The PPS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time spent developing the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. Part 7 of this Report contains a suggested process for undertaking the update and monitoring. The Steering Group will need to agree the process prior to the adoption of this strategy.

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## Scope

The Council has set out that the PPS should cover the nine sports covered by the existing PPS (including grass and artificial surfaces):

- ◀ Football
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Rugby union
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Netball
- ◀ Golf
- ◀ Other relevant sports i.e. rounders, American football, lacrosse and coastal sports

It should be noted that for the non-pitch sports, (i.e. tennis, bowls and netball etc) included within the scope of this study, the supply and demand principles of Sport England Guidance: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the NPPF.

## Study area

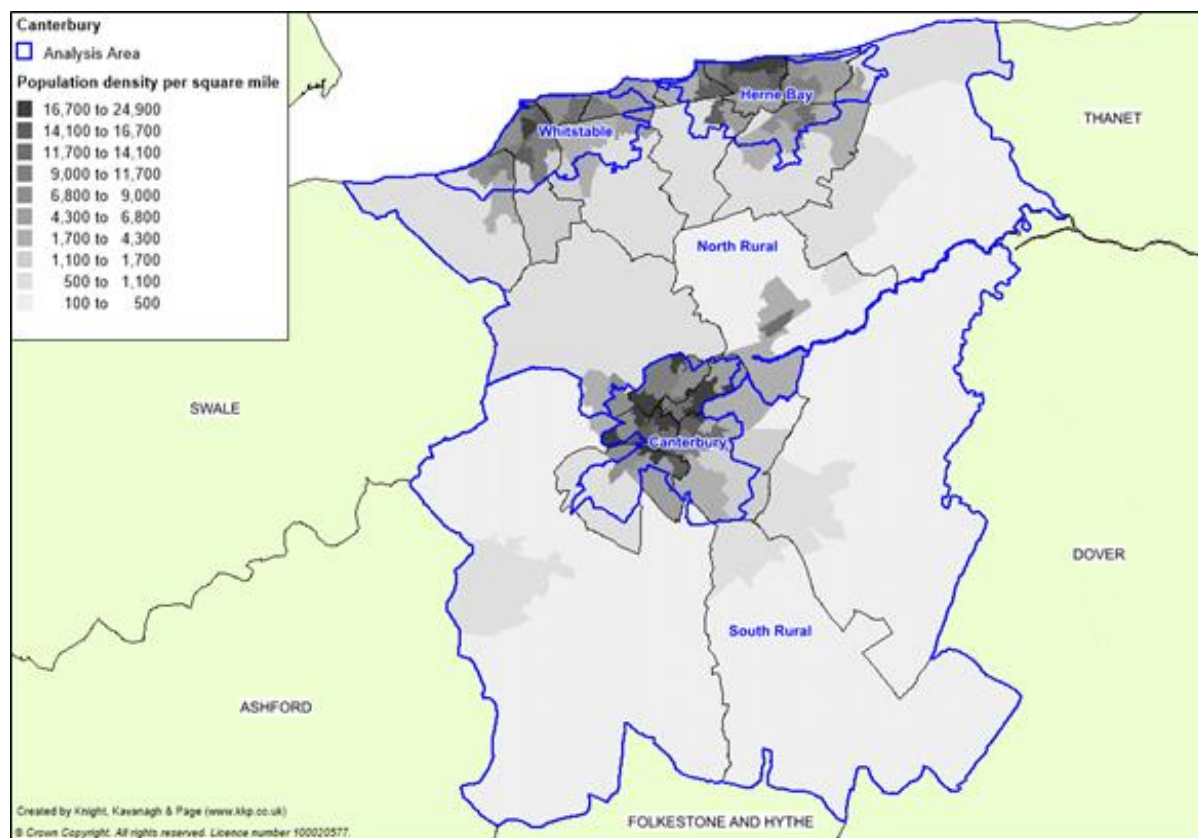
The study area for the PPS will be the whole of Canterbury City Council's administrative area. Further to this, five analysis areas (based upon ward boundaries) have been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. The analysis areas are as follows:

- ◀ Canterbury City
- ◀ Herne Bay
- ◀ Rural North
- ◀ Rural South
- ◀ Whitstable

A map of the analysis areas can be seen overleaf in Figure 1.1.

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



## Context

The rationale for undertaking this study is to identify current levels of provision within Canterbury 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 outdoor sports facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents up until the 2040 Local Plan period.

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 on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicted 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.

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 is capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

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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 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.

Paragraph 97 discusses 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.

Paragraphs 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.

## 1.2: Local context

### ***Canterbury City Council Corporate Plan 2016-2020 (currently being reviewed)***

The stated aims and objectives of CCC’s Corporate Plan are:

Theme	Description
<b>People</b>	Residents enjoy a good quality of life and those in need are supported
Aims	Working to achieve enough high-quality housing to meet everyone’s needs. Contributing to the good health of local people. Focusing community support on those in most need of it. Acting with others to protect communities from flooding, crime and anti-social behaviour. Inspiring people through a wide range of cultural activities and opportunities.
<b>Places</b>	Make the most of the unique built and natural environment
Aims	Making the city, towns and villages places to be proud of. Keeping the district clean. Protecting and enhancing open spaces, heritage and wildlife.
<b>Prosperity</b>	The district has a resilient, diverse economy which supports job growth
Aims	Supporting Business Growth. Enabling infrastructure improvements to regenerate urban spaces and deliver economic growth.

### ***Canterbury District Local Plan (adopted July 2017)***

This plan sets out the vision for the area from 2011-2031. It provides certainty for local people, developers and others about planning decisions for the area. It aims to:

- ✦ Create well-designed new communities, with good access to jobs and services
- ✦ Make sure there is enough housing, and different types of housing, to meet the needs of local people and support new job creation.
- ✦ Protect sensitive landscape and wildlife areas, and other key environmental assets such as the World Heritage Site, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Conservation Areas.
- ✦ Make certain that new infrastructure, such as transport, schools and health facilities, are provided in parallel with development.
- ✦ Protect and strengthen town and village centres.
- ✦ Support the growth of the universities and colleges.
- ✦ Support development of new and improved cultural and leisure facilities.



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The Council has evidence which indicates that there is a need to grow and broaden the economy and provide housing to meet local needs and to support the local economy.

### *Vision and Strategy*

The Council's vision for the district is that *"through focused, well-planned and environmentally sustainable growth, by 2030 the Canterbury District will be defined by a dynamic strong economy and distinctive cultural and visitor experience from which our communities will prosper. As a council we will provide leadership for our community and shape our district through working in partnership to deliver our vision. We are ambitious and will do the best for our people and will be prepared to take the difficult decisions which may be needed when choices have to be made. We will support the growth needed to deliver our ambition of having a strong dynamic economy and a skilled well-paid workforce supported by the quality of life and housing of the appropriate scale and quality."*

### *Plan objectives*

- ◀ To strengthen and broaden the local economy.
- ◀ To provide sufficient housing to meet local housing need and support economic growth.
- ◀ To protect the built and natural environment.
- ◀ To develop sustainable communities and seek to ensure that adequate community facilities are provided.

### ***Open Space Strategy 2014-2020 (currently being reviewed)***

The Open Space Strategy is a supporting document of the Local Plan. It sets out how Canterbury will protect and enhance open space in the district. Its vision is *'To develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces which meet the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury district'*. The aim is to *'Aspire to protect and enhance the existing quality of public open space and promote its usage'*.

### ***Canterbury District Green Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2031***

The Green Infrastructure Strategy sits alongside and supports the delivery of both CCC's adopted Local Plan 2017 and Corporate Plan, both of which recognise the importance of environmental sustainability and the protection of Canterbury district's outstanding natural assets. It brings together the objectives and actions of several CCC strategies, policy documents and evidence reports, including the Transport Strategy, the Riverside Strategy, the Open Spaces Strategy and the Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal plus others.

### ***Canterbury District Transport Strategy 2014-31 (adopted July 2017)***

This is a joint document of CCC and Kent County Council (KCC) and has been prepared to provide the transport policy framework for the Canterbury District to the year 2031. The main stated objectives are to:

- ◀ Provide a detailed policy framework for the district which is consistent with National and Regional transport policies including KCC's transport plan "Growth without Gridlock in Kent and Medway (GwG)".
- ◀ Support Adopted CCC's Local Plan taking account of committed/proposed levels of development.
- ◀ Identify the transport improvements and solutions that are required to support and accommodate the predicted increase in travel demand.

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- ◀ Provide a funding and delivery mechanism for the identified transport improvements and actions.

## ***Strategic Programme for commissioning and support 2017-2020***

The aspiration for CCC, as identified in this document, is that it will ensure best value by targeting investments in internal and external services, to respond to and deliver the corporate plan. To achieve this, the Council will work with the diverse cultural, sports and voluntary sectors to complement and enhance the local economy and vibrant communities. These communities will feel empowered to identify and provide services in response to local social and economic need, helping to support people, places and prosperity within the district.”

## ***Active Partnership***

Active Partnerships are locally based strategic organisations which recognise that activity levels are affected by a complex system of influences and that no single organisation or programme creates sustainable change at scale. By adopting a collaborative whole system approach, they seek to make active lifestyles the social norm for everyone and address the levels of inactivity in society.

The Active Partnership for Canterbury is *Kent Sport*. It is an integrated team of Kent County Council and Sport England funded staff, working together for the county. Kent Sport is part of a nationwide network of 43 active partnerships which work collaboratively with local partners and networks across the county, to create the conditions for an active nation using the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives.

Kent Sport has produced *A Strategic Framework for Sport and Physical Activity in Kent and Medway 2017-2021*. Its vision is ‘More people, More active, More often’ and the Aim is to make Kent more active by 2021. Its priorities are:

- ◀ Increasing participation.
- ◀ Supporting inactive people to become active.
- ◀ Link to social agendas (health, education etc.)
- ◀ Opportunities for children and young people to be active.
- ◀ Addressing inequalities in engagement with sport by targeting certain groups (women, lower socio-economic population, black and ethnic minorities, disabled and older people).
- ◀ Improving facilities.
- ◀ Supporting the voluntary sector and volunteering.
- ◀ Supporting talented performers.
- ◀ Maximising the benefit of major events.

## ***Kent CC and Medway - Health and Social Care Sustainability and Transformation Plan***

The Health and Social Care Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) includes four themes; Care Transformation, Productivity, Enablers and System Leadership. Under the Care Transformation theme there are four key areas including prevention which in turn includes four priorities:

- ◀ Obesity and physical activity.
- ◀ Smoking cessation and prevention.
- ◀ Workplace health.
- ◀ Reduce alcohol-related harms in the population.

## ***Kent Health & Wellbeing Board - Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy***

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This strategy has been extended until 2021 to take account of the creation of the Kent and Medway Health and Wellbeing Board in partnership with Medway Council and the work of the STP. This strategy aims to confront that challenge, to improve the areas in which - despite generally good levels of health - Kent lags behind the country as a whole, and to tackle the significant differences in people's health and wellbeing across the county.

## Vision

*Improve health and wellbeing outcomes, deliver better coordinated quality care, improve the public's experience of integrated health and social care services and ensure that the individual is involved and at the heart of everything we do.*

Figure 1.2: Joint health and wellbeing strategy outcomes



Canterbury and Coastal Health and Wellbeing Board is hosted by CCC. It meets on a monthly basis to plan how best to meet the health needs of the local population and overcome health inequalities (for example, life expectancy differences for people across the Canterbury and Coastal area). Its mission is to secure the highest quality, most cost effective and compassionate care as close to home for patients as possible.

## Active Life

Active Life is a not-for-profit charitable trust which operates leisure centres on behalf of CCC. It merged with Fusion Lifestyle in April 2019, which is also a registered charity. Active Life has become a subsidiary of Fusion but will retain its identity and a local board to operate Kingsmead Leisure Centre, Canterbury, Herons Leisure Centre and Bay Sports Arena, Herne Bay and Whitstable Swimming Pool and Whitstable Sports Centre, Whitstable.

Active Life has agreed 50-year leases for the CCC's three main leisure centres and will work with Fusion to deliver an investment package of c.£11.5m into Kingsmead Leisure Centre, Herons Leisure Centre and Whitstable Swimming Pool.

Please refer to Appendix One: Sporting Context for the sport by sport NGB context.

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## Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for all main pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. MES stands for match equivalent sessions and has been used as the comparable unit for natural grass pitches. Converting both the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use) into the same unit of demand enables a comparison to be undertaken.

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

Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for each sport. For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season. How much play a cricket pitch can accommodate is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Only one match is generally played per pitch per day. However, play is rotated across the wickets to reduce wear and allow for repair. Each wicket is able to accommodate a certain amount of play per season as opposed to a week.

The PPS guidance does not advocate the conversion of MES to pitches as there is not always a case for providing pitches to meet the demand/shortfalls expressed. For example, improving the quality of pitches can also increase the capacity of existing pitches to accommodate such demand. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

For artificial surfaces (AGPs/3G pitches), how much play can be accommodated is primarily determined by availability, rather than how much play it can accommodate before its quality is adversely affected as with natural grass pitches. Therefore, whole pitches are used as the comparable unit. Similarly, for the other non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, netball bowls etc) where it is not as easy to determine carry capacity, whole facilities are used as the comparable unit.

Table 1.5: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2020)		Future demand (2040)
		Pitch type	Current capacity total in MES <sup>1</sup>	Future capacity total in MES
Football (grass pitches)	Canterbury City	Adult	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 1	Shortfall of 1.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
	Herne Bay	Adult	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 3.5
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 2.5	Shortfall of 2.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 1	Spare capacity of 1
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	Shortfall of 1
	North Rural	Adult	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 1.5	Shortfall of 3
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 4	Shortfall of 5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 0.5	At capacity
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity

<sup>1</sup> MES – match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket)

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Sport	Analysis area	Current demand (2020)		Future demand (2040)
	South Rural	Adult	Spare capacity of 1	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Youth 9v9	Spare capacity of 0.5	Spare capacity of 0.5
		Mini 7v7	Spare capacity of 3.5	Spare capacity of 3.5
		Mini 5v5	Spare capacity of 3	Spare capacity of 3
	Whitstable	Adult	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 11v11	At capacity	At capacity
		Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 1
		Mini 7v7	At capacity	Shortfall of 0.5
		Mini 5v5	At capacity	At capacity
Football (3G pitches) <sup>2</sup>	Canterbury City	Full size, floodlit 3G pitches	At capacity	At capacity
	Herne Bay	Full size, floodlit 3G pitches	At capacity	Shortfall of one full size 3G pitch for team training
	Rural North	Full size, floodlit 3G pitches	At capacity	At capacity
	Rural South	Full size, floodlit 3G pitches	At capacity	At capacity
	Whitstable	Full size, floodlit 3G pitches	At capacity	At capacity
Cricket	Canterbury City	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Herne Bay	Senior	Spare capacity of 16	Spare capacity of 16
	Rural North	Senior	Spare capacity of 38	Spare capacity of 19
	Rural South	Senior	Shortfall of 28	Shortfall of 92
	Whitstable	Senior	Shortfall of 8	Shortfall of 38
Rugby union	Canterbury City	Senior	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 0.5
	Herne Bay	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Rural North	Senior	Shortfall of 0.5	Shortfall of 2
	Rural South	Senior	At capacity	At capacity
	Whitstable	Senior	Shortfall of 3.5	Shortfall of 3.5
Hockey	Canterbury District	Full size, floodlit sand AGPs	Adequate provision for community hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey
Tennis	Canterbury District	Courts	Adequate provision	Adequate provision
Bowls	Canterbury District	Greens	Adequate provision	Adequate provision
Athletics	Canterbury District	Tracks	Adequate provision	Adequate provision
Netball	Canterbury District	Courts	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.

<sup>2</sup> Based on accommodating 38 teams on one full size pitch



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Further to the above, other relevant sports covered i.e. rounders, American football, lacrosse and coastal sports are all considered to have adequate current/future provision.

The existing position for all pitch sports is either; demand is currently being met (with some spare capacity), or there is a current or future shortfall. There are current shortfalls of pitches for football (grass and 3G), rugby union and cricket.

Please note that where spare capacity is expressed this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision. Spare capacity represents the amount of additional play that a pitch/es could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play does not equate to surplus provision, for example, some sites may be managed to regularly operate slightly below they're carrying capacity to ensure that they can cater for additional activity such as friendly matches and training activity.

However, these shortfalls are not always a result of a lack of pitches, it also links to pitch quality and, in some instances, improving quality will also improve the carrying capacity of pitches to accommodate more match equivalent sessions.

For grass football pitches, current shortfalls are identified in all but Rural South Analysis Area, and it is anticipated that these shortfalls will be exacerbated in the future, with shortfalls appearing on some pitch configurations where pitches are currently played to capacity. There are no current or future shortfalls in the Rural South Analysis Area or for mini pitches across the District.

As there are identified shortfalls on grass pitches, there is a need to protect both playing pitch provision currently in use and pitches that are no longer in use. This could offer the opportunity to bring out-of-use pitches back into service to meet current and/or future needs.

For 3G pitches servicing football training demand, there is a future shortfall expressed in Herne Bay Analysis Area. However, when considering the overall Canterbury District need, there could be an argument to suggest that there is a need for an additional full size 3G pitch, albeit further feasibility would be required to fully determine this.

Notwithstanding the above, with resources to improve the quality of grass pitches often limited, increasing the use of existing 3G pitches for matches could also help to reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

For rugby union and cricket, both current and future shortfalls can be attributed to specific club sites and are predominately driven by the quality of pitches. Albeit for cricket there are clubs such as Harbledown CC, Canterbury CC and St Lawrence & Highland Court CC which are also semi-permanent bases for other clubs due to a lack of supply available in the area, and therefore addressing quality issues alone may not provide sufficient supply to meet future demand.

For netball, there is an identified need for additional access to outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.

For all remaining sports, the current stock of facilities is meeting demand and is expected to do so in the future, although there is a requirement to increase quality at specific sites across each sport.

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Although there are identified shortfalls of MES, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete future need, where there is significant housing growth (of at least 600 dwellings where onsite provision might be required), or where sites fall out of use and require mitigation.

In terms of further calculating future need based on housing growth within the Local Plan period please refer to Part 6: Housing Growth Scenario.

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for outdoor sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040 (in line with the Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated (match equivalent sessions), rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) updates the likely demand generated and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. Using it together with the outcomes of the PPS, it can be used to scenario test requirements on an allocation by allocation basis.

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## PART 2: AIMS

The following Aims have been established to enable delivery of the Strategy against Sport England planning objectives. Further information on the needs of the District is available in Canterbury District Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report.

### AIM 1

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

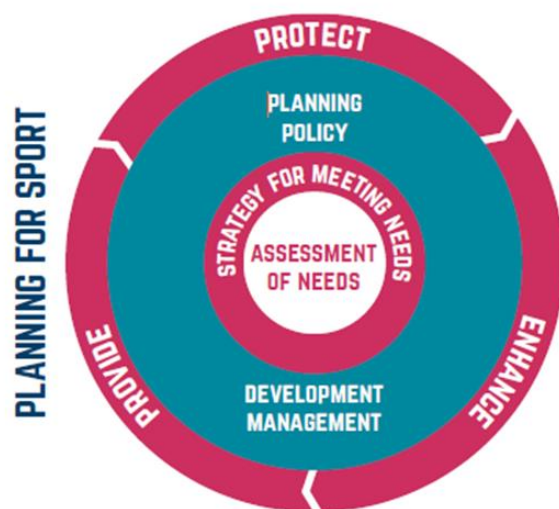
### AIM 2

To **enhance** outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites, where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

### AIM 3

To **provide** new outdoor sports facilities where feasible and where it is needed to meet current and future needs.

Figure 2.1: Sport England themes<sup>3</sup>



To assist in the delivery of the aims, the following objectives have been set:

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

<sup>3</sup> Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)



# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## PART 3: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via a 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 outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### **AIM 1**

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

#### **Sub aims:**

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

**Aim a – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that outdoor sports facilities are appropriately protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor-quality sites should also be protected from development or replaced as there is a requirement for playing field land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

NPPF paragraph 97 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.

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures (except for changing rooms/pavilions), unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed, or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

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Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed through quality improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete future need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors, the adopted Local Plan and associated documents.

Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing fields and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy<sup>4</sup>. The Policy has five exceptions.

Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:

- ◀ all or any part of a playing field, or
- ◀ land which has been used as playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- ◀ land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.

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

Policy Exception E1:

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

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

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

Any disused/lapsed sites are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to the need to bring the site back into use or mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified within the Assessment.

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<sup>4</sup>[https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport?section=playing\\_fields\\_policy](https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport?section=playing_fields_policy)

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It may be considered appropriate in the future to rationalise some existing outdoor sport sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment and focus resources towards creating bigger, better quality sites (hub sites). Such sites could then be re-purposed to meet other recreational needs or, if appropriate and agreed upon, lost for development. However, no suitable sites for this have been identified as part of the PPS, meaning the situation should be re-visited as part of the ongoing monitoring and reviewing of the project.

### **Aim b – Secure tenure and access to sites, where appropriate, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

A number of education sites are being used in Canterbury for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and further work should be carried out to ensure an appropriate community use agreement is in place (including access to changing provision where required).

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

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council could support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.

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 where possible. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>5</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

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

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

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Table 3.1: Potential criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

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

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

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

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

### **Community asset transfer**

Sport England provides Community Assets Guidance on its website and within this a Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit which is a bespoke, interactive web based tool that provides a step by step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process should this be an option for the Council to consider:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/community-assets-and-rights>

### **Aim c - Maximise community use of education facilities where there is a need to do so.**

In order to maximise community use of education facilities it is recommended to establish a coherent, structured relationship with schools. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. Pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access but also physical access and resistance from schools/colleges/universities to open up provision due to staffing, site security or to protect the quality of facilities for school use.

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A number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the school/college/university and the local clubs. Notably, all full sized AGP and 3G pitch provision is in operation at education sites and play a critical role for hockey and football but more significantly as floodlit facilities for midweek team training. The Council and other key partners could work with schools, colleges and universities to develop an understanding of the issues that restrict or affect community access so that consideration can be given to what, if any, support is appropriate to address any underlying problems.

Sport England has produced guidance, online resources and toolkits to help open up and retain school sites for community use and can be found at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/community-use-agreements>

The highest priority sites for securing formal community access arrangements should be those education sites which already have community use but do not have secured community use arrangements. These already provide an important role in meeting community needs but this must be secured to ensure continued use into the future. Where appropriate, it will be important for formal and long-term agreements that secure community use to be signed. The following education sites are already used, to some extent, for community use but have no secure community usage in the Canterbury district:

- ◀ Barham C of E Primary School
- ◀ Blean Primary School
- ◀ Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (sports centre)
- ◀ Herne Bay High School
- ◀ Herne CE Junior School
- ◀ Junior King's School
- ◀ Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School
- ◀ Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys
- ◀ Spires Academy
- ◀ St Edmunds School
- ◀ Sturry C of E Primary School
- ◀ Swalecliffe Community Primary School
- ◀ The Archbishop's School
- ◀ The Whitstable School
- ◀ University of Kent

A strategic approach could be taken to identify the priority schools to focus on in regard to both the PPS and the Indoor Leisure Facilities Strategy, so that outdoor sport is not considered in isolation to indoor sport (and vice versa).

As a starting point, it is recommended that a working group, led by a partner from the education sector but supported by a range of other sectors and members from the PPS steering group, is established to implement the strategic direction in relation to the increased/better use of school facilities. Broadly speaking, its role should be to:

- ◀ Better understand current community use, practices and issues by 'auditing' schools.
- ◀ Identify specific key issues through engagement with individual schools.
- ◀ Identify strategic solutions that can apply to multiple schools.
- ◀ Ensure community use agreements are upheld.
- ◀ Identify and pilot a school/club formal community use agreement with a view to rolling out the model across the area.
- ◀ Ensure that funding to improve the quality of the facilities is identified and secured.
- ◀ Secure a management arrangement for community access, which does not necessarily rely on existing school staff structures.
- ◀ Ensure that pitch provision at schools is sufficient in quality and quantity to be able to deliver its curriculum; once this has been achieved, provision could contribute to overcoming deficiencies in the area.
- ◀ Ensure that any new schools provide the right facilities and that they are community accessible.
- ◀ Use examples of best practice from other local authorities as a guide.

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Examples of best practice from elsewhere include Gloucester, Suffolk and Luton. Following completion of the Gloucester PPS, the Council invited all schools to a workshop to discuss community access and what benefits it can bring to both the community and the schools themselves. This improved the relationship between the schools and the Council and led to an increase in the number of schools offering community available provision and in turn reduced identified shortfalls across the City.

In 2010, Suffolk County Council developed a pilot project with a group of schools to fulfil its health and wellbeing aims. A four stage pilot was planned, working with 12 schools. The four stages involved:

- ◀ Identifying the current state of community use on school sites by carrying out a community use audit and analysis
- ◀ Developing a support strategy and recommendations for improving the community use of school services
- ◀ Implementing improvements through a 'Community Use Support Framework'
- ◀ Dissemination of learning from the pilot area across the whole county and beyond

For schools that form part of multi-academy trusts, these should be addressed on a collective basis, with securing community access a co-ordinated approach with other engagement that takes place between the schools and relevant stakeholders e.g. sports development initiatives. Consideration should be given to a centralised booking system for community use of such schools to minimise administration and make access easier for the users.

In many instances, grass pitches are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works and improved maintenance will be required before community use 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.

Funding quality improvements or new facilities may enable community access to be secured. NGBs and Sport England, can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence i.e. at academies. 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** outdoor sports provision and ancillary facilities through improving quality and management of sites.

### **Sub aims:**

- d. Improve the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities, where appropriate
- 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.
- h. Improve resilience to the potential impacts of climate change

### ***Aim d – Improve the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities, where appropriate***

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The action plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality site and/or sites that are overplayed.

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into pitch quality is challenging and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted earlier, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

### ***Addressing quality issues***

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

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

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database as 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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For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to outdoor sports facilities and ancillary facilities separately as being of ‘Good’, ‘Standard’ or ‘Poor’ quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

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

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

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surfaces and poor drainage. For rugby, pitches will have inadequate natural drainage. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms with no showers, no running water and/or old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage that is not to say that no improvement is needed, it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

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

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs ‘Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, and Rugby Union’ document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/outdoor-surfaces>

## **Addressing overplay**

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket).

The FA, the RFU, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

*Table 3.2: Capacity of pitches*

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		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

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Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
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
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Full size sand AGP	4 per day	4 per day	-

For all remaining non-pitch sports (e.g. bowls, tennis/netball etc) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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

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

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets, this should be undertaken in situ of quality improvements to a cricket square to improve the quality which in turn will increase carrying capacity.

For rugby union, additional sports lighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. However, this is on the basis that there are enough pitches on a site to make this feasible. Alternatively, access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch will help the transfer of midweek training demand and competitive match play which in turn will reduce the pressure on grass pitches.

### **Addressing maintenance**

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

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

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In addition, PIP also aims to focus on developing an improved maintenance programmes with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority maintained sites.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme, which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England Wales.

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 Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA).

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

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the District, although these are generally centred at either parish council or privately managed sites.

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.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 5: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

### **Aim f – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, working with the Council where appropriate, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved outdoor sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement.

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. The Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the Steering Group.

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 health and wellbeing, for example. 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.

Locally, it is important for local authorities to be able to pull together evidence which can be used to influence public health partners to help unlock potential funding for sport. Public Health England's national physical activity framework, Everybody Active, Every Day, identifies 4 areas for local and national action, based on international evidence of what works and co-produced with over 1,000 local and national stakeholders and be found using the following link:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/374914/Framework\\_13.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374914/Framework_13.pdf)

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Please refer to Appendix One for further funding information which includes details of the current opportunities and likely funding requirements. For actions requiring investment, the action plan also seeks to identify potential funding streams on a site by site basis.

### **Aim g – Secure developer contributions**

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

For playing pitches, the Council could use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. See Part 6: Housing Growth Scenario for an example.

This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle).

The PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

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

To support the implementation of this recommendation, KKP has prepared a step by step developer's contributions toolkit for playing pitches (provided separately to the Council). This toolkit is one potential way to calculate developer contributions. The Council will need to consider its approach to developer contributions more generally through the development of the new Local Plan and other supporting strategies. The toolkit could be used as the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate playing fields and subsequent maintenance. Section 106/CIL 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 measures could be considered to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more or create a new dwelling.

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- ◀ 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 specifies, 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 outdoor sport 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 sport facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

### **Aim h – Improve resilience to the potential impacts of climate change**

During the strategic horizon 2020-40 there is a need to reduce emissions from heating and cooling built sports facilities by over 75% to reach the UK Government net zero target.

Built sports facilities, for example, are high consumers of energy for space heating and cooling and there much work required in this area to change the way these buildings operate. The provision of new sports facilities will require new designs with lower embodied carbon and focussing much more on passive heating and renewable energy provision.

The hotter and drier climate that is projected for our area within the 2020-40 period is already having an impact on existing provision. There is an aspiration therefore, on making sports facilities more resilient to the effects of climate change. From an outdoor sports perspective, there is an expectation of increasing shading for courts and there are opportunities for hybrid indoor/outdoor facilities with canopies or other such designs like outdoor squash courts.

Travelling to access leisure facilities is also a growing climate change issue. Emissions from transport represents about a third of the District's energy emissions and needs dramatic reduction through a range of routes including reducing the need to travel and making active travel and public transport much more attractive compared to the car. Users of outdoor sports facilities should be encouraged to access provision through active travel modes.

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## AIM 3

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

### Sub aims:

- i. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock.

### Aim i - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock

The Council and partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls through better utilisation of the existing stock of facilities. For most sports, current and future demand for provision identified in Canterbury District can be overcome via 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 those with spare capacity.
- ◀ The re-designation/re-configuration of playing pitches.
- ◀ Securing long term community use at unsecure sites including those currently unavailable to the community.
- ◀ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.
- ◀ Increasing usage of AGPs or other floodlit facilities.

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long-term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate a senior pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited. The site-by-site action planning will seek to provide further clarification on where re-designation is suitable.

*Table 3.3: 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 and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G pitches.	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.



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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the strategy is 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. 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	Except for grounds identified as poor quality, ECB predicts further growth in cricket demand for pitch use over the next few years.	Pitches that are already identified in the PPS as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities.
	All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older so junior numbers are increasing within clubs. Dynamos Cricket is the latest launch by the ECB, building on the existing All Stars programme for 5-8-year-olds. Participants will continue to develop their skills and be introduced to a countdown style of cricket match.	Greater usage of outfielders to accommodate demand from All Stars Cricket. Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches. An increase stock of NTPs likely to be required to accommodate demand.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national ECB priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Increased requirement for peak time access to pitches. Need to ensure access to good quality facilities including, segregated changing and toilet provision.
Rugby union	Locally, the RFU want to ensure access to pitches satisfies existing demand and predicted growth. It is also an aim to protect and improve pitch quality, as well as ancillary facilities.	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 and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.
Hockey	Current playing level is likely to increase and new AGPs at Herne Bay Sports Hub are likely to be used as a platform for attracting new participants.	Ensure continued school access to hockey provision and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.

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Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
	High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018 Legacy)	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.
	New 2019 launched England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s).	Ensure off peak availability to accommodate additional future demand.
Bowls	No significant net increase in memberships as identified by clubs.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens.
Tennis	The LTA has a key priority for the strategic development and growth of tennis at both a club and wider community level such as local parks.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as digital access systems.
Netball	Membership of clubs is expected to increase.	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.
Golf	Declining membership expected to 'level off'. Non-traditional formats of play are becoming increasingly popular.	Clubs should tailor their offer towards non-traditional formats of play to attract new users.
Athletics	Membership is expected to increase at recreational events i.e. parkrun.	Need to accommodate recreational demand with toilet facilities.



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## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The recommendations below are strategic and rely on multiple groups and organisations, not just the council, all working together. Key Partners and their roles in fulfilling the action plan are identified in Part 5.

### Football – grass pitches

#### **Summary**

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 146 grass football pitches within Canterbury District across 51 sites. Of these, 127 are available, at some level, for community use (albeit not necessarily being used).
- ◀ The remaining pitches unavailable for community use are located at education sites, where pitch availability is often driven by school policy.
- ◀ Most pitches in Canterbury District are adult size when compared to other pitch types; and accommodate youth 11v11 teams.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, 21 pitches are assessed as good quality, 86 as standard quality and 20 are deemed to be poor quality.
- ◀ Changing facilities are generally viewed as being adequate by clubs with half of responding clubs rating provision as good or standard quality. However, 15% of clubs deem changing accommodation to be poor or non-existent at current home venues.
- ◀ A total of 232 teams were identified as playing or training within Canterbury District during the 2019/20 season, seven of which, are senior women's teams.
- ◀ Future demand expressed between population growth and participation growth equates to the need to accommodate nine match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a total of 19.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity (peak time capacity) across Canterbury District. The highest proportion of this (9.5 match equivalent sessions per week) is on adult pitches.
- ◀ In Canterbury District, there are 22 community use pitches currently overplayed across 10 sites.
- ◀ Overall, there is spare capacity to accommodate current levels of demand on adult and mini pitches, however, there are shortfalls on youth pitches. When future demand is considered capacity is retained on mini pitches but a shortfall on adult pitches is generated.
- ◀ Canterbury City FC is working with Canterbury City Council to return to the District following several years being displaced outside of the area.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Alleviating overplay/improving pitch quality*

In total, there are 22 community available pitches in Canterbury District that are overplayed. Improving quality of these pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will therefore increase capacity and consequently reduce current and future shortfalls.

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To illustrate the overleaf highlights that current levels of overplay would be alleviated on 18 out of 22 overplayed pitches if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

As a reminder the capacity ratings are as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

The only pitches that would remain overplayed are the adult and youth 9v9 pitches at Herne Bay High School. To alleviate this, play should be encouraged to transfer to alternative provision with actual spare capacity or to a 3G pitch facility. The 3G pitch at Herne Bay Sports Hub, within Herne Bay Analysis Area, is FIFA approved. Therefore, demand could be transferred to this site if there is sufficient availability.

Table 4.1: Levels of overplay if quality improved to good

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality <sup>6</sup>	Current Capacity rating <sup>7</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>8</sup>
6	Blean Primary School	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
8	Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (sports centre)	Youth 9v9	1	Standard	1	1
16	Herne Bay High School	Adult	2	Standard	2.5	0.5
16	Herne Bay High School	Youth 9v9	2	Standard	2.5	0.5
38	Seaview Caravan Park	Adult	2	Standard	2	
40	Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Adult	2	Standard	1	1
41	Spires Academy	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
41	Spires Academy	Youth 11v11	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
41	Spires Academy	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
44	St Edmunds School	Adult	3	Standard	0.5	2.5
44	St Edmunds School	Youth 9v9	1	Standard	1	1
51	Sturry FC	Adult	1	Poor	0.5	1.5
60	The Cherry Orchard Playing Field	Adult	3	Standard	0.5	2.5
64	The Whitstable School	Youth 9v9	1	Poor	0.5	1.5

<sup>6</sup> Assessed through non-technical assessment but also takes account of PIP assessments.

<sup>7</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>8</sup> Match equivalent sessions

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Notwithstanding the above, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches, but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use of the grass pitches.

It should also be noted that of the sites listed above, only Sturry FC and The Cherry Orchard Playing Field have secure tenure. Therefore, pitch quality improvements at the remaining sites would only generate actual spare capacity if usage agreements can be agreed at each site.

### *Providing security of tenure*

Currently, 54.5 match equivalent sessions take place at sites considered as unsecure. If these sites were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated and exist on all pitch types as the demand would have to relocate to other sites, thus increasing overplay or resulting in more exported demand.

*Table 4.2: Summary of supply and demand without unsecure sites<sup>9</sup>*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
	Current capacity total	Play at unsecured sites	Future capacity total without unsecured sites
Adult	2.5	24	21.5
Youth 11v11	1	3	4
Youth 9v9	7.5	19.5	27
Mini 7v7	6	10	4
Mini 5v5	3.5	5.5	2

The majority of unsecure usage takes places at education sites. Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. For such agreements, it is important to ensure that provision is accessible at peak time and affordable.

### *Accommodating youth 11v11 demand*

Most pitches in Canterbury District are adult size when compared to other pitch types and many adult pitches double up as youth 11v11 pitches. In total, 45 youth 11v11 teams currently use adult pitches for home matches; 21 of which are U13 or U14 age groups; which is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the FA Youth Review.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres.

The table below looks to highlight the number of dedicated youth 11v11 pitches needed within each analysis area to adequately accommodate current levels of demand (based on teams playing on a home v away basis). As can be seen below, it is identified that there is a need to access a further eight youth 11v11 pitches to adequately accommodate all youth 11v11 demand.

<sup>9</sup> Please refer to the accompanying Assessment Report for further explanation of the figures.

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Table 4.3: Youth 11v11 pitch requirement (U13 – U16)

Analysis area	Number of youth 11v11 teams	Teams playing at peak time (Sunday AM)	Current youth 11v11 pitch supply	Pitch shortfall
Canterbury City	5	2	5	-
Herne Bay	17	10	0	5
North Rural	28	13	6	1
South Rural	7	6	2	1
Whitstable	4	2	0	1
<b>Canterbury District</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>

Creating eight youth 11v11 pitches to accommodate demand is unrealistic, and therefore consideration should be given to accommodating match play through either increased access to 3G pitches for match play and/or reconfiguration of sites which are currently utilised for youth 11v11 match play.

The following sites are identified as having matches played on incorrect pitch sizes and therefore in the first instance can be considered for reconfiguration:

- ◀ Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys
- ◀ St Edmunds School
- ◀ University of Kent
- ◀ Herne Bay High School
- ◀ The Cherry Orchard Playing Field
- ◀ Thanington Recreation Ground
- ◀ Tyler Hill Memorial Hall
- ◀ Radfall Recreation Ground
- ◀ Stodmarsh Playing Fields
- ◀ Victoria Recreation Ground
- ◀ Moat Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ The Altira Park Stadium
- ◀ Hersden Recreation Ground
- ◀ Seaview Caravan Park
- ◀ Whitstable Town FC

### Canterbury City FC

The impact of Canterbury City FC not playing within its home authority is affecting the long term planning for the football club. As a result of playing outside of the District, there is pressure on other local authority sites and the knock on impact stretches across three areas. For example, Canterbury City FC currently groundshare with Faversham Town FC (Swale) restricting the opportunity for other clubs and teams in Swale to use the site. Teams such as Faversham Strike Force FC, has to groundshare with Rochester United FC (Medway).

There is a recognised need to identify a site in Canterbury District which meets the needs of the football club. As such, the City Council is committed to supporting Canterbury City FC (or another club as appropriate) in finding appropriate site to accommodate the playing of league football in the City.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect football pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided) and consider whether pitches that are no longer in use may offer potential for meeting current and future needs.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as good quality, pursue transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.

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- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand as well as expressed exported, unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites not currently available for community use that could be moving forward.
- ◀ Work to provide security of tenure for clubs using educational sites through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore reconfiguration of adult pitches to accommodate youth 11v11 teams where possible.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- ◀ The Club will work to identify a suitable site/venue to accommodate Canterbury City FC and its needs within the District, in partnership with the City Council and other relevant stakeholders. Generally, the Council will work with a club to assist in developing a site based on a business plan and support from the FA.

### Cricket pitches

#### Summary

- ◀ There are 26 senior grass cricket pitches in Canterbury District, all of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ Pitches at both Junior King's School and Kings School (Birley's Playing Fields) are or have junior size wickets with appropriate size outfield.
- ◀ There were formerly cricket squares maintained at Patricbourne Road Recreation Ground and Chartham Sports Club. Both of these squares had football pitches marked on the outfield and it now appears that football has become the primary sport at each of these sites.
- ◀ In addition to grass provision, there are 11 non-turf pitches (NTPs) in Canterbury District; nine, of which, are available for community use. The two NTPs not available for community use are located on an education sites (St Edmunds School and The Kent College Junior School).
- ◀ Most grass squares available for community use are good quality (15 squares or 58%); seven squares (27%) are standard quality; and four squares (15%) are poor quality.
- ◀ Two clubs in Canterbury District report that clubhouse facilities are poor quality. Vandalism can be an issue at some sites.
- ◀ All but one grass cricket pitches used by clubs in Canterbury District are currently considered to be secured for at least the next three years. Harbledown CC's lease agreement is lapsed with the Club seeking to secure a new agreement with Rough Common Village Hall Committee.
- ◀ Half of responding clubs report a requirement for additional training facilities.
- ◀ Demand for cricket is high with 15 clubs generating a total of 74 teams. There is a total of 34 senior and 40 junior teams; two of which, are women's teams.
- ◀ Future population growth forecasts the likely creation of one senior men's team and a junior boys' team in the Whitstable Analysis Area; and three senior men's teams and a junior boys' team in the Rural South Analysis Area.
- ◀ Canterbury, Chestfield Herne Bay and Whitstable cricket clubs all report aspirations to establish additional senior men's teams. Whilst Canterbury CC and St Lawrence and Highland Court CC aspire to establish ladies' teams. Four clubs also have ambitions to create new junior squads. Reported club growth is considered to realistically capture targeted growth of women and girls' teams across the District. Chestfield CC has also developed an additional girls' team.
- ◀ More than half of senior teams in the District play matches on Saturdays (18 teams), with 47% of teams playing on Sundays (16 teams). There is some midweek senior match play however, this is generally ad-hoc. For junior cricket, peak time demand is midweek (63%).
- ◀ There are five sites that have spare capacity at peak time, equating to 56 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity (or eight teams).

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- ◀ There are 38 match equivalent sessions of overplay on cricket pitches in Canterbury District located across six sites.
- ◀ The overall existing supply of outdoor cricket facilities is sufficient to cater for current levels of demand. However, when future demand is considered there is a predicted overall shortfall.
- ◀ Two areas display a current and future shortfall, South Rural and Whitstable analysis areas.
- ◀ Canterbury is reasonably well provisioned regarding indoor facilities but there are limited facilities in the coastal areas of Canterbury.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating future demand*

Through delivery of its new strategy, Inspiring Generations, the ECB and county board programmes of activity are targeting growth in women's cricket, club and school's activity targeting growth in girls' cricket and there is increased engagement of young people.

All Stars Cricket, the ECB national programme for 5-8 year olds, is engaging large numbers of children and has already been delivered over the past 3-4 years, with increasing numbers of participants year on year, alongside Chance to Shine cricket delivery in primary schools. Increasing numbers of those children are continuing to play cricket as they get older so junior numbers are increasing within clubs.

The new Dynamos Cricket programme for 8-11 year olds was due to launch in 2020 but has been delayed until 2021 due to Covid-19. It will build on the significant growth of the All Stars Cricket programme for 5-8 year olds established in 2017 and will develop the pathway to retain juniors progressing from All Stars Cricket into Dynamos Cricket.

Where All Stars Cricket seeks to engage children in cricket activity and learning the skills, Dynamos Cricket seeks to engage children in learning how to play, introducing a modified soft ball format as competitive progression with a view to eventual transition through to hardball cricket. The programme will be strongly linked to The Hundred, a new short format competition also now launching in 2021.

Shorter formats of cricket, and additional formats including softball cricket, are also driving up demand for pitches. Pitches that are already identified as being at capacity will not be able to accommodate additional playing demand generated and it is predicted there will be demand for additional cricket playing facilities.

As shown below, when accounting for future demand expected through population growth and club growth aspirations, spare capacity in the North Rural Analysis Area is expected to fall to 19 match equivalent sessions per season whilst shortfalls in the South Rural and Whitstable analysis areas are likely to be exacerbated to 92 and 38 match equivalent sessions per season respectively.



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Table 4.4: Capacity of cricket pitches at peak time (Saturday)<sup>10</sup>

Analysis area	Demand (match sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Canterbury City	-	-	-	-	-
Herne Bay	16	-	16	-	16
North Rural	40	2	38	19	19
South Rural	-	28	28	64	92
Whitstable	-	8	8	30	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>95</b>

Whilst many grass cricket squares in Canterbury District are already serviced by NTPs, no senior or junior leagues servicing the Area presently permit the use of NTPs for match play. Junior cricket demand currently accounts for 65 match equivalent sessions per season in the South Rural Analysis Area and 53 match equivalent sessions per season in the Whitstable Analysis Area.

### Addressing overplay

The capacity of a cricket square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

Six sites are identified as being overplayed; Littlebourne Recreation Ground, The Belmont Ground, Radfall Recreation Ground, Street End Cricket Club, Kenfield Cricket Ground and Charlton Park.

Both Kenfield Cricket Ground and Charlton Park are assessed as poor quality and therefore all play on these sites is considered to be overplay. At both sites, improving square quality to standard or good would alleviate overplay.

Overplay at the remaining sites is all deemed to be minimal as no site is overplayed by 10 or more match equivalent sessions. Quality improvements at Littlebourne Recreation Ground, Radfall Recreation Ground, Street End Cricket Club and The Belmont Ground from standard quality to good quality would alleviate overplay at each site.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect cricket pitch provision (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided) and consider whether pitches that are no longer in use may offer potential for meeting current and future needs.
- ◀ Protect cricket pitch provision from development that may prejudice the use of a cricket square such as residential development in close proximity to a cricket outfield (ball strike issues).
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand in targeted growth areas linking to the ECB Inspiring Generations Strategy and an increase in shorter formats of cricket.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as poor/standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.

<sup>10</sup> Please refer to the accompanying Assessment Report for further explanation of the figures.

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- ◀ Work to ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by aiming ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ◀ Seek to work with clubs which have identified the need for additional training facilities.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where it is appropriate and there is a demand to do so.
- ◀ Further explore opportunities to bring back into use Burton Downs Recreation Ground in partnership with Herne Bay CC and Herne CC.
- ◀ Explore the feasibility of increasing the provision and utilisation of NTPs across Canterbury District to alleviate overplay.

### Rugby union

#### *Summary*

- ◀ There are 29 rugby union pitches provided across 12 sites, 22 of which, are senior size. Two pitches are unavailable for community use, both located at education sites (St Anselms RC School and Kent College). Rugby union pitches at these sites are unavailable in order to preserve quality for school use.
- ◀ There is a full size, WR compliant 3G pitch located at the University of Kent (albeit this expired February 2020); and a second pitch now compliant until August 2021 at Simon Langton School.
- ◀ Both rugby union clubs in Canterbury District have secure access to pitches and supporting ancillary provision.
- ◀ Canterbury RFC is working cooperatively with Canterbury FC on a plan to establish a potential new venue for both clubs.
- ◀ Of the community available pitches in the District, 17 are assessed as good quality, four are standard quality and six are poor quality. Two of the poor quality pitches are located at Whitstable Rugby Club; with the remaining poor quality pitches all located at education managed sites.
- ◀ Two community rugby union clubs play within the District, consisting of nine senior teams, one of which is a women's teams; nine junior boys' teams; and 12 mini squads.
- ◀ Canterbury RFC aspires to establish two junior girls' teams that would naturally feed into the senior women's team currently in existence. It should be noted however, that the Club is conscious that pitch capacity at present during the peak period is limited and will inhibit any potential development of these teams.
- ◀ Despite there being 22 match equivalent sessions of potential demand there is no actual spare capacity available during the peak period.
- ◀ Four pitches in Canterbury District are overplayed. One of these is floodlit and accommodates midweek training demand. Overplay totals 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Overall in Canterbury District there is a shortfall of rugby union pitches available for community use on secure, long term agreements. The current shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week increases to six match equivalent sessions when future demand is considered.



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## **Scenarios**

### *Improving pitch quality at secure sites*

Only Canterbury RFC and Whitstable Rugby Club have secure tenure in Canterbury District. At Whitstable Rugby Club, the floodlit pitch on site is overplayed by 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the second pitch is overplayed by 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week. Both pitches are currently assessed as poor (M0/D1) quality. Improving pitch quality to good (M2/Q3) quality would reduce overplay on the floodlit pitch to 0.75 match equivalent sessions per week whilst the second pitch would have spare capacity equating to 1.25 match equivalent sessions per week. If floodlights could also be provided on the second pitch or on a separate piece of land to form a training area, demand could be distributed across the site and alleviate overplay.

Quality improvements are not required at Canterbury RFC as all pitches on site are good quality and there is no identified overplay.

### *Transferring demand*

An alternative to using grass pitches for matches and training is utilisation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, with two currently provided within Canterbury located at University of Kent and Simon Langton School. However, accreditation for the WR compliant pitch at University of Kent expired in February 2020 and the pitch at Simon Langton School is compliant until August 2021.

It should be noted that Canterbury RFC is working with Canterbury City FC to establish a new venue for both clubs which could potentially include a 3G pitch albeit there is currently no planning permission or site identified for this.

If Canterbury RFC was to relocate to a new site, Whitstable RFC could then potentially utilise Simon Langton School for training as well as junior and mini match demand. In this instance, overplay at Whitstable Rugby Club would be alleviated, although grass pitch improvements through enhanced maintenance would still be recommended. Alternatively, Whitstable RFC could explore the feasibility of relocating training demand to the WR compliant 3G pitch at University of Kent, which is deemed to have approximately six hours of spare capacity per week. As mentioned previously, this is subject to University of Kent and Simon Langton School regaining WR certification.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect all rugby pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at Whitstable Rugby Club to reduce overplay, primarily through improved maintenance and the installation of an effective drainage system where appropriate.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitch at University of Kent is retested to gain WR accreditation.
- ◀ Consider the feasibility of Canterbury RFC's ambition to create a new home site for the Club, including the installation of a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch on site.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to further utilise the World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch at University of Kent or Simon Langton School to reduce identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Retain supply of rugby pitches at school sites for curricular and extra-curricular purposes and encourage secure community availability should demand exist in the future.

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## Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

### Summary

- ◀ There are 11 full size hockey suitable AGPs within Canterbury District; all of which are available for community use. All but one of these pitches is floodlit, the exception being at Kings School Recreation Centre (Blores).
- ◀ Seven of the full size AGPs in the District are good quality; with three standard and one poor quality pitch.
- ◀ In addition to the full size AGPs, there are six small size pitches across Canterbury District.
- ◀ The drainage systems at Kent College and University of Kent have both been compromised, despite this both pitches are standard quality.
- ◀ Both hockey clubs in Canterbury District have access to supporting ancillary provision. Herne Bay HC<sup>11</sup> will relocate its off field activities away from Herne Bay Hockey and Lawn Tennis Club once the new pavilion is built at Herne Bay Sports Hub.
- ◀ There are two clubs within Canterbury District, Canterbury HC and Herne Bay HC both access provision within the District. Community clubs provide 37 teams, including 11 junior teams.
- ◀ Part of Canterbury HC's membership is imported from outside of the District.
- ◀ Population growth highlights an additional senior men's team in both the Herne Bay and South Rural analysis areas, which is where Herne Bay HC and Canterbury HC are based.
- ◀ One full size floodlit hockey AGP is able to accommodate up to four hockey matches at peak time (Saturday). Given this, it is considered that there is sufficient capacity within Canterbury District to accommodate both current and future demand.

### Scenarios

#### *Meeting current and future demand*

Based on a floodlit, full size hockey suitable AGP being able to accommodate four matches per Saturday and Sunday i.e. eight hockey teams, four pitches are required to accommodate current demand in Canterbury District during the peak period (Saturday). As a priority, AGPs at University of Kent, Polo Farm Sports Club (x3) and Herne Bay Sports Hub (x2) must be protected as they are heavily utilised for hockey demand.

Further there is also a need to protect provision at Kent College (Canterbury) which is used for adhoc hockey club use (albeit from clubs outside of Canterbury District). Further to this, there is also a need to sustain quality and in the instance of Kent College and University of Kent, seek to address drainage/quality issues identified.

AGPs at the two Kings School sites (Birley's Playing Fields and Recreation Centre) are also highly likely to be retained by the schools to continue to deliver and accommodate school hockey fixtures and skills based initiatives. It is unlikely, due to having unsecure tenure and offering limited community use that hockey clubs view these as offering more than overspill and adhoc opportunity.

Given there is not a significant amount of future demand expressed by either club in terms of actual teams, there will be a need for community clubs, England Hockey and local schools to work collaboratively to increase hockey participation amongst juniors; with a view that this will then equate to increased senior participation in the future.

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<sup>11</sup> Please note that since the Assessment Report, Herne Bay HC has now fully relocated to Herne Bay Sports Hub.

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## *Herne Bay High School*

The only AGP which is unlikely to be required for future community club hockey use is at Herne Bay High School. The lack of community demand (due to the development of hockey suitable AGPs at Herne Bay Sports Hub) has resulted in the further deterioration of this AGP despite it only being five years old and as such there is no current demand from community hockey for its use albeit it continues to be used for some midweek football training.

Although there may be an option to explore resurfacing Herne Bay High School to a 3G pitch, there remains a continued need to ensure that the school has access to hockey provision for curricular and extra-curricular use. Any discussion/feasibility work should be carried out in partnership with England Hockey and all relevant partners.

Due to the countrywide impact on hockey of converting hockey suitable AGPs to 3G surfaces, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and the applicants will need to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing sports lighting to be changed and in some instances noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

Providers proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance:

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

## *Previous provision*

There are the remnants of an old, full size sand based AGP at Herne Bay Hockey & Lawn Tennis Club (Beacon Road). The pitch was once the home venue of Herne Bay HC but has not been used since 2011 and the pitch is significantly overgrown and in a state of disrepair (now used as car parking). The Club is now using the two new pitches and clubhouse at Herne Bay Sports Hub.

Although tennis courts remain at the site, the tennis club will also use new tennis courts and the clubhouse at the Sports Hub. It is therefore not yet known what the impact of this will be on the Herne Bay Hockey and Lawn Tennis Club site. Although the AGP is not required to meet existing community hockey demand in the area, there remains a need to ensure that school hockey participation continues to service both curricular and extra-curricular activities.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Ensure that AGPs at University of Kent, Polo Farm Sports Club (x3) and Herne Bay Sports Hub (x2) are protected (and quality sustained/improved) for the continuation of hockey in the District (unless appropriate replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Explore options to rectify drainage issues at Kent College and University of Kent.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place for long-term replacement/refurbishment and sustainability.
- ◀ Community clubs, England Hockey and local schools should work collaboratively to increase hockey participation amongst juniors; with a view that this will then equate to increased senior participation in the future.

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- ◀ Ensure that future demand from the new England Hockey initiative, Hockey Heroes (aimed at growing participation for under 10s) can be accommodated.
- ◀ If an opportunity arises to explore resurfacing of Herne Bay High School, there remains a continued need to ensure that the school has access to hockey provision for curricular and extra-curricular use. Any discussion/feasibility work should be carried out in partnership with England Hockey and all relevant partners.

### 3G pitches

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are five full size 3G pitches in Canterbury District, each of which is fully floodlit and available for community use. There are a further two small size 3G pitches, both of which, are available for community use.
- ◀ The spread of full size 3G pitch provision in Canterbury District is not evenly distributed across analysis areas, with the Canterbury City Analysis Area not having a full size 3G pitch; and two being located in the North Rural Analysis Area.
- ◀ Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls, Canterbury City FC and Canterbury RFC all report aspirations for new 3G provision.
- ◀ University of Kent 3G pitch is beyond the recommended ten-year lifespan but remains standard quality.
- ◀ The 3G at The Whitstable School is in the final year of its recommended lifespan and is considered poor quality. It is understood that a sinking fund is not in place for future resurfacing/refurbishment.
- ◀ All full size 3G pitches are available for lettings throughout the peak period; and each is used well by community clubs.
- ◀ Canterbury RFC is the only community club of any sport that is considered to have security of tenure on a 3G pitch. The Club and Simon Langton School undertook a joint venture to establish a WR compliant 3G pitch at the School site; as such the Club has secured use.
- ◀ There are 11 teams which play competitive club football on 3G pitches in Canterbury District, representing just 5% of teams playing matches. Pitches at The Whitstable School and Herne Bay Sports Hub are both used for match play despite the former not being on the FA register.
- ◀ Present use of 3G pitches for rugby union mainly extends to Canterbury RFC and University of Kent training on 3G pitches at Simon Langton School and University of Kent respectively.
- ◀ It is considered that there are 232 football teams which require access to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface in Canterbury District.
- ◀ When applied on an analysis area level, this equates to the need for four full size 3G pitches to service this level of training demand with no shortfall expressed. However, there is likely to be a future need for one pitch in Herne Bay.
- ◀ Although there isn't a current shortfall, capacity at sites throughout the District could be better used to accommodate increased levels of demand than at present.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Accommodating football training demand*

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, when breaking down the 232 teams in Canterbury by analysis area, the current stock of five 3G pitches is sufficient to meet demand. However, when considering future demand, there is only a requirement for an additional full-size, floodlit 3G pitch in the Herne Bay Analysis Area.

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Table 4.5: Demand by analysis area

Analysis area	Current number of teams	Current requirement <sup>12</sup>	Current number of available 3G pitches	Current shortfall	Future number of teams <sup>13</sup>	Future shortfall
Canterbury City	22	0	0	0	23	0
Herne Bay	66	1	1	0	71	1
North Rural	93	2	2	0	101	0
South Rural	35	1	1	0	38	0
Whitstable	16	0	1	0	17	0

### Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA. To further the use of 3G pitches for matches, the FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches be transferred. The following table therefore calculates the number of teams currently using council facilities in Canterbury for each pitch type at peak time.

Table 4.6: Number of teams currently using council pitches (peak time)

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	18
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	8
Youth	9v9	Sunday PM	4
Mini	7v7	Sunday PM	9
Mini	5v5	Sunday PM	10
<b>Total</b>			<b>49</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size, floodlit 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

Table 4.7: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	18	9	32	288	4.5
11v11	8	4	32	128	2
9v9	4	2	10	20	0.3125
7v7	9	4.5	8	36	0.5625
5v5	10	5	4	20	0.3125

The number of 3G pitches required needs totalling together and equates to the demand for eight full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 7.67). As the number required is more than the number of full size 3G pitches required for training, it would be unfeasible to create the additional provision due to sustainability issues (as mid-week usage could be limited).

An alternative approach is to transfer all mini demand (not just that played on council pitches) to 3G pitches; the FA has an ambition to transfer 50% of mini play on to 3G pitches

<sup>12</sup> 3G requirement rounded down where applicable

<sup>13</sup> Based on increased demand forecasted from population growth

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nationally. Thus, a programme of play has been created to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this, given that peak time for both mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 football is Sunday PM.

*Table 4.8: Full size 3G pitch programming for mini demand*

Time	Pitch markings	Total games/teams
12:00 – 13:00	4 x 5v5	4/8
13:00 – 14:00	4 x 5v5	4/8
14:00 – 15:00	2 x 7v7	2/4
15:00 – 16:00	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the preceding Assessment Report and the above programming and separate start times for mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 matches, the overall need is for seven full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 6.75). This is calculated based on 30 mini 5v5 teams requiring two full-size 3G pitches (rounded up from 1.875) and 39 mini 7v7 teams requiring five full-size 3G pitches (rounded up from 4.875) currently playing within Canterbury district.

As the number of 3G pitches required to accommodate all mini demand exceeds the number required for midweek training demand (a future need of six full-size 3G pitches in Canterbury district), the transfer of all mini match play demand to 3G pitches is not considered to be feasible.

### *Summary of need*

In conclusion, there is a sufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current demand, based on the FA training model for football in Canterbury District by analysis area. However, there is little midweek spare capacity to accommodate additional training demand and this is predominately between 5pm-7pm which is not usually a preferred timeslot.

When accounting for anticipated future demand by analysis area, there is a likely shortfall of one full size 3G pitch in Herne Bay Analysis Area. Although please note this is where a new 3G pitch was provided in 2019. However, there is an opportunity to explore the future feasibility/sustainability of converting the AGP at Herne Bay High School to a 3G surface as it is identified as having no existing hockey use.

When considering the overall Canterbury District need, there could be an argument to suggest that there is a need for an additional full size 3G pitch (particularly given the limited midweek spare capacity available). There are also two, floodlit, small size 3G pitches; plus at least four full size sand based AGPs accommodate some football training demand (if indeed clubs would transfer to use 3G dependent upon cost).

Furthermore, there is competition for access to 3G pitches from other sports for both training and match play, particularly rugby union, which may exacerbate the forecasted requirement for full size 3G pitches to service football demand.

Therefore, further feasibility and business planning is required to fully determine the sustainability of additional provision.

Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls reports aspirations for a full size 3G pitch, which would then be floodlit and available for community use. The School has sufficient land available on its site without the pitch replacing existing grass pitch provision. However, there is no clear need identified within the PPS for this, at least in the short term and further feasibility would be required to demonstrate the sustainability.



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## *Improving quality*

The only poor quality 3G pitch is located at The Whitstable School. The pitch is ten years old and is heavily used by local community clubs for midweek training. It is reported that a sinking fund is not in place for resurfacing or refurbishment, which may mean that neither of these will occur in the near future. However, this is an important site accommodating significant midweek training so a solution to improving its quality is required in the short term to ensure it can continue to be used.

## *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby has produced a 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. There are two World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Canterbury District at Simon Langton School and University of Kent, however, accreditation at University of Kent expired in February 2020 and the pitch at Simon Langton School is compliant until August 2021.

Proposals appertaining to Canterbury City FC and Canterbury RFC require further feasibility to demonstrate the sustainability of incorporating full size 3G pitches given the assessment of need from a football training perspective only demonstrates the need for provision of one full size 3G pitch in the District with most demand likely coming from Herne Bay Analysis Area in the future.

## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the current stock of 3G pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ If an opportunity arises to explore resurfacing of Herne Bay High School to a 3G surface, there remains a continued need to ensure that the school has access to hockey provision for curricular and extra-curricular use. Any discussion/feasibility work should be carried out in partnership with England Hockey and all relevant partners.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Consider the feasibility of Canterbury RFC's ambition to create a new home site for the Club.
- ◀ Encourage renewed World Rugby compliant certification at University of Kent.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place as part of the planning permission.
- ◀ Work with The Whitstable School to explore funding options to refurbish its 3G pitch.
- ◀ Encourage providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible, and ensure that pitches remain suitable to accommodate such demand through appropriate certification when it is required.

## **Tennis**

### **Summary**

- ◀ There is a total of 137 outdoor tennis courts identified in Canterbury District located across 28 sites including sports clubs, parks and schools.
- ◀ Of the courts, 102 are categorised as being available for community use across 23 sites representing 74% of the supply.
- ◀ In addition to the above figures, please note that two courts at Polo Farm Sports Club and two courts at Kent College Junior School are grass surface (all unavailable for community use).

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- ◀ There is also a beach tennis court provided at The Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (sports centre) which is the largest urban beach area in the UK.
- ◀ Of provision that is available for community use year round (grass courts excluded), 54 courts (53%) are assessed as good quality, 38 (37%) are deemed standard and ten are rated as poor (10%).
- ◀ The courts assessed as poor quality are at Spires Academy, The Street Recreation Ground, Victoria Recreation Ground and War Memorial Park, Herne Bay. Issues identified with these courts include poor grip underfoot, worn line markings, loose gravel and holes or rips in the surface.
- ◀ Most tennis courts available for community use, year round, are located at education sites (70 courts or 69%), that is sites that are managed and/or maintained by educational institutions. There are 23 courts (22%) located at local authority sites and nine courts (9%) located at club sites.
- ◀ All clubs in Canterbury District are considered to have security of tenure with clubs either having long term lease agreements in place or owning sites freehold.
- ◀ Appeti Tennis Centre and Polo Farm Tennis both operate as training centres and/or pay and play venues as opposed to traditional club structures. Westbeach TC and Barham TC are unaffiliated to the LTA.
- ◀ Overall, the current level of provision appears to be able to accommodate current and future levels of demand.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Informal tennis*

The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities to grow the use of park tennis courts by removing key barriers to participation. The three products are ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access and can be used individually or in combination. The products are used to provide a remote booking and access system.

Sustainability of courts longer-term is important and some local authorities are introducing a household membership scheme that allows residents to buy “season tickets” to allow them to pay and play throughout the year for a yearly fee (e.g. £40 per year).

The LTA advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable, with provision of accompanying changing facilities and sports lighting preferred. Sites such as St Anne's Tennis Courts, West Beach Tennis Courts and War Memorial Park, Herne Bay may be considered suitable, although floodlights would be required at each site, as well as potential changing rooms improvements.

#### *Meeting current and future club demand*

Five of the other six sites accommodating club demand are considered to have capacity to accommodate additional members. The exception being Canterbury TC's membership outstripping the capacity on the outdoor courts at Polo Farm Sports Club, which are specifically for use by the Club. There is potential that prospective tennis court replacement on the site will increase site capacity to 820, which would be sufficient to accommodate current levels of demand; however, it is not clear whether Canterbury TC or Polo Farm Tennis will have primary use of these new courts. This should be clarified, with both organisations working cooperatively to ensure that participants are able to access courts for a sufficient amount of time.

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## **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain and protect the existing stock of tennis club facilities via appropriate maintenance and management support.
- ◀ Encourage club venues to consider how access and use can be improved at clubs to enable more informal play.
- ◀ For non-club venues look to sustain and protect tennis courts that can continue to provide informal access and use.
- ◀ Work to improve the quality of non-club tennis courts and as required, increasing provision of ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Consider the creation of non tennis club 'hub sites' which can better attract, grow and support recreational tennis in the area. This would involve working with the LTA on target sites that could improve the customer journey to court.
- ◀ Support Polo Farm Sports Club to provide additional courts on site, including two domed courts, in order to increase site capacity.

## **Bowls**

### **Summary**

- ◀ There are seven flat green bowling greens in Canterbury District provided across five sites.
- ◀ The quality of the greens within Canterbury District is generally considered to be good; the exception being the green at Barham Bowling Club which is of poor quality. Barham BC, the resident club at the site, consider the green to have issues with drainage, unofficial use and the evenness of the green.
- ◀ Chislet Colliery Welfare BC reports it has a poor clubhouse at Hersden Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Canterbury BC is the only club in the Area that currently owns its home venue freehold. The other three responding clubs each lease respective home venues from various parties but only Chislet Colliery Welfare BC is considered to have security of tenure.
- ◀ There are currently five active bowling clubs operating within Canterbury District, with all sites accessed by at least one club.
- ◀ Latent demand for bowls in Canterbury District is higher than four of five other local authorities in East Kent.
- ◀ Although two greens are operating above the recommended playing capacity, bowling clubs generally accept that additional members can be accommodated should demand increase.
- ◀ Investment, primarily, should be focussed on sustaining and improving the existing green quality and improving the associated ancillary facilities as required. As a priority, security of tenure should be addressed for both Whitstable BC and Barham BC.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Creating sustainability*

Although two sites are operating above the recommended playing capacity, bowling clubs generally accept that additional members can be accommodated should demand increase. It is therefore considered that the current provision for bowls is sufficient for current and future demand. Therefore, focus should be on increasing participation and improving or maintaining the current stock of bowling greens in the District.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect the existing quantity of greens (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).

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- ◀ As a priority, security of tenure should be addressed for both Whitstable BC and Barham BC.
- ◀ Sustain good quality greens and explore improvements on greens assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Ensure green quality does not begin to deteriorate at Canterbury Bowling Club and Whitstable Bowling Club due to significant demand.
- ◀ Explore funding options to make improvements to the clubhouse at Hersden Recreation Ground.

### **Athletics**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There is one formal athletics track in Canterbury District, located at Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (Sports Centre). The track is an eight lane, 400m synthetic track, with floodlights and field event provision. The track is standard quality having been resurfaced in 2011.
- ◀ The track is available for community use and is used by Invicta East Kent Athletic Club as well as by members of the public. The track hosts competitive events and training for the Club throughout the year; with the Club having security of tenure.
- ◀ There is currently only one track and field club based in Canterbury District, namely Invicta East Kent Athletic Club. Established in 1969 the Club has 380 members including both senior and junior members.
- ◀ There are a number of running clubs operating in Canterbury District and surrounding local authorities which will accommodate some demand from Canterbury District. Canterbury Harriers, for example, host regular sessions in Kings School (Birley's Playing Fields).
- ◀ Demand for athletics in Canterbury District is currently satisfied by provision in the District. The establishment of alternative running formats will further enhance participation within the Area.
- ◀ Focus should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the wider running market and the creation of additional Parkrun events in Canterbury District could provide a further boost to the sport.

#### **Scenarios**

##### *Creating sustainability*

The level of participation in the District suggests that there is a need for only one full size, 400m track; therefore, the facility at Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (Sports Centre) should be protected with athletics clubs provided with formal, long term community use agreements to provide security of tenure.

The School should also be encouraged to complete UK Athletics TrackMark accreditation scheme, providing the operator with a report and a better understanding of the track's condition.

The creation of Parkrun events in Canterbury City and Whitstable provide a further boost to the sport. Focus should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the wider running market, including driving participation in running events taking place within Canterbury District as well as the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups. This should include further promotion of the Council's parks as key sites to utilise for such events/groups.

#### **Recommendations**

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- ◀ Protect the track at Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (Sports Centre) to cater for the District's athletics demand and work with the provider to secure community use.
- ◀ Encourage Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (Sports Centre) to complete UKA's TrackMark accreditation scheme.
- ◀ Support the running events taking place as well as exploring the implementation of initiatives not currently serviced to increase participation in recreational running.
- ◀ Ensure that any new developments consider the need for running and opportunities to link with/to existing running routes.

## Netball

### Summary

- ◀ In total, there are 20 outdoor netball courts located across seven sites in Canterbury District. All outdoor netball courts are located at education sites and although they are available for community use in some form albeit unused.
- ◀ Generally, schools are not used for community use. This can be due to variety of reasons, such as a lack of local demand for court usage, lack of floodlighting, high staff costs to enable community usage or a preference to preserve court quality for curricular use.
- ◀ Most courts are assessed as standard quality 12 (or 60%), seven are assessed as good quality (35%) and the remaining one (5%) is poor.
- ◀ There is one affiliated netball league in the Area, Canterbury & District Netball League. The league is mainly comprised of single team clubs although two clubs, Canterbury Academy of Netball and Pilgrims Netball Club do follow a traditional club structure with coaches and junior sections.
- ◀ There are junior teams in the District, however, a lack of a youth league means that participants in these teams are at a disadvantage when compared with those in neighbouring local authorities.
- ◀ An unofficial Back to Netball session takes place at St Lawrence Ground but is not recognised by England Netball as it does not fit within the framework.
- ◀ Latent demand to play netball in Canterbury District stands at 547 adults wishing to participate but do not do so currently. Work from England Netball and the District's two largest clubs would suggest that addressing latent demand will take a collaborative effort.
- ◀ Pilgrims Netball Club reports demand for access to additional outdoor courts for summer. Although this isn't quantified, this is likely to require a minimum four court facility.
- ◀ Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball is required in Canterbury District.

### Scenarios

#### *Creating sustainability*

Given the level of latent demand identified in Canterbury District and identified demand for access to additional outdoor courts for summer, there is a need to secure access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.

A local youth league in Canterbury District could be established to provide junior participants with the opportunity to continue playing netball outside of school time. This could, potentially, come via East Kent Youth League which operates in the wider area and hosts matches on central venue basis.

### Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing netball provision (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).

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- ◀ Seek to secure and protect netball provision at Kings School (Birley's Playing Fields) as a key outdoor netball venue in Canterbury through community use agreements.
- ◀ England Netball, the Council and Active Kent to work with schools to secure access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.
- ◀ Continue to work with England Netball to increase participation into the sport linked to investment in key sites identified.
- ◀ In consultation with the East Kent Youth League, explore opportunities to establish a local, Canterbury District youth league.
- ◀ Seek to improve poor quality courts at education sites to provide enhanced curricular and extracurricular opportunities for netball.

### **Golf**

#### **Summary**

- ◀ There are four golf clubs situated within Canterbury District, providing four courses.
- ◀ Three golf clubs in the District are owned and operated by members. The other is owned by hotels.
- ◀ Four courses offer 18-hole courses and a nine hole course at Whitstable & Seasalter Golf Club.
- ◀ Cave Hotel & Golf Resort (outside) also serves the area, providing two courses (18-hole and academy course).
- ◀ All courses and supporting ancillary facilities are considered to be good quality. The overall picture suggests that there is demand for golf within Canterbury District, meaning each course should be protected. Further to this, clubs should be supported to maximise their usage throughout the week.
- ◀ Potential spare capacity should be monitored, particularly in respect of accommodating different playing formats to fully determine any requirements for new provision.

#### **Scenarios**

With four golf courses across the District, and another in close proximity to the district boundary, it is considered that the supply of golf facilities is sufficient to meet current and future levels of demand. Therefore, focus should be on preserving the current stock of golf courses and clubs in Canterbury District, as well as exploring the feasibility of providing non-traditional golf formats to attract different profiles of golfing members to the game.

#### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing golf provision.
- ◀ Potential spare capacity should be monitored, particularly in respect of accommodating different playing formats to fully determine any requirements for new provision.
- ◀ Seek to enhance the existing golfing offer available to District residents and consider creating alternative non-traditional provision in the analysis area to further encourage golf participation.
- ◀ Sustain course quality across all active sites to facilitate current and future growth.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth.
- ◀ Encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for existing and new players.



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## PART 5: ACTION PLAN

### Delivery of the action plan

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report. It provides recommendations based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It should be reviewed in the light of staff and financial resources in order to prioritise support for strategically significant provision and provision that other providers are less likely to make. The Action Plan is separated by analysis area.

The delivery of the Action Plan will rely on the involvement of various partners. These key partners can be split into categories each of which have a different role:

- ◀ Canterbury City Council - main role is strategic, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the action plan. Different departments at the council will provide different forms of support:
  - ◀ Environment - strategic overview of open space provision in the district, including production of the Open Spaces Strategy and project delivery.
  - ◀ Planning, Development Management - assess and decide whether planning applications should be granted or refused on a case by case basis, taking into account the development plan<sup>14</sup>, all available evidence and site specific factors.
  - ◀ Planning, Policy - produce the Local Plan, including identification of the need for sport facilities through evidence documents, allocation of sites where appropriate and creation of policies, including for supporting infrastructure and open space.
  - ◀ Commercial and Cultural Development - will work and support the voluntary sector and other stakeholders in the development of their organisations and assist in signposting the sector to look for additional funding streams available. Also to work with the local sport sector on the strategic aims and objectives for the district.
  - ◀ Contracts and Facilities Management - maintains Local Authority pitches and associated buildings.
  - ◀ Property - arranging and signing leases for council land, including pitches and ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Sport England – planning application support, statutory role on loss of any playing fields, supporting grant applications, support developing community use agreements.
- ◀ NGBs – identifying and supporting funding applications, supporting club development, helping to negotiate community use agreements.
- ◀ Education – establishing community use agreements, applying for funding, maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Sports Clubs – applying for funding, maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Private Sector - establishing community use agreements, applying for funding, maintenance of provision.
- ◀ Voluntary Sector - applying for funding, maintenance of provision.

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. 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 outdoor facility sites and associated provision, as identified within strategic recommendation e in Part 3: Strategic Recommendation.

Please note that if a site is not included within the action plan it does not mean it is surplus to requirements as it could play a role in supporting the use of other sites and/or accommodating recreational, informal or play from other sports not assessed in this document.

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<sup>14</sup> This includes the adopted Local Plan, supplementary planning documents and associated strategy and evidence documents.



# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Site hierarchy tier

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance within the District i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand, or the recommended action has the greatest anticipated impact on addressing shortfalls (identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the Council area as a whole).

Table 5.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

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

**Hub sites** are of strategic District -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.

**Key centres** are more community focused sites, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area. There may be more of a focus on a specific sport.

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

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one facility or a low number of facilities that

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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service just one or two sports. The level of priority attached to them for external investment may be relatively low.

For local authority sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities, and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

Some local sites are suitable for rationalisation providing that capital receipts are allocated to replace the lost provision at larger, multi-pitch sites.

### Lead and delivery partners

As mentioned previously it's not the Council's role to deliver all the actions, and many actions will require multiple partners engaging, therefore the lead and delivery partners column identifies the main partners who are able to work towards the delivery of the actions. For those actions which the Council does not have the ability to enact, but partners do, the Council will offer advice and support when appropriate.

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.

### Priority

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 centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority level. It is these projects/sites which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres are a **medium** priority, 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.

The **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 for specific users.

### Costs

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

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

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

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## Timescales

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur.

The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

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

## Aim

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

## Funding

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 (or paid CIL levy) and other local funding/community schemes could go some way towards meeting deficiencies and/or improving provision, other potential/match sources of funding should also be investigated.

The 'Funding opportunity' column identifies some of the potential sources of funding. Please refer to Appendix 3 for current funding sources that are relevant for community improvement projects involving sports facilities.

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

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## CANTERBURY CITY ANALYSIS AREA

### Sport by sport priorities

Sport	Status	Priority actions
Football (grass pitches)	Youth pitches at capacity and a small shortfall. Quality improvements needed.	Ensure new pitches at Barton Court Academy are configured as youth pitches and community use established. Improve pitch quality and maximise use at Thanington Recreation Ground and Victoria Recreation Ground.
Football (3G pitches)	No current/future requirement for more pitches.	No action required.
Cricket	Pitches are played to capacity.	Explore opportunities to establish community use at Kings School (Birley's Playing Fields).
Rugby union	Small shortfall due to school overplay.	Improve quality as required at St Anselms RC School. No demand for community use.
Hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey	Retain all AGPs for school and community club use. Explore community use where relevant.
Tennis	Adequate quantity but quality to be improved.	Improve court quality at Victoria Recreation Ground.
Bowls	Adequate provision	No action required.
Netball	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.	Work with Kings School to secure existing community use at Birley's Playing Fields.

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## Canterbury City Action Plan

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>15</sup>	Cost <sup>16</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
76	Appeti Tennis Centre	Tennis	Private	One macadam tennis court (no sports lighting) assessed as good quality.	Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime. Explore opportunities for sports lighting if demand is identified in the future.	LTA	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	Self-funding
4	Barton Court Grammar School	Football	Education	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Available for community use but unused.	Improve quality and explore opportunities to establish community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	-
		Rugby union		One senior rugby pitch assessed as poor quality (M0/D1) with drainage issues. Available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	RFU Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Six macadam courts assessed as standard quality (no sports lighting) that are available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use.	LTA Education		L	L	L		
		Netball		Four macadam courts assessed as standard quality (no sports lighting) that are available for community use but unused.	Explore options to secure community use if site could be developed for use to accommodate a summer league.	EN Education		M	S	M		
		Cricket		One disused NTP at site. The school has not had demand for cricket provision for several years.	No identified demand to be brought back into use for cricket.	ECB Education		L	L	L		
-	Beverley Meadow	Rounders	Local Authority	The site is not officially marked out with rounders pitches, but it attracts between eight and ten teams each year.	Further consult with East Kent Rounders League to establish the need to mark out official pitches.	RE Local Authority	Local site	M	S	L	Protect Provide	-
8	Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (sports centre)	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Small levels of overplay on youth 9v9 pitch. Unsecure community use.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance	S106/CIL Grant funding
		Rugby union		One senior rugby pitch assessed as standard quality (M1/D1). Basic level of maintenance on pitch. Available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use.	RFU Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Two artificial grass courts assessed as standard quality (with sports lighting). Available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use.	LTA Education		L	L	L		
		Netball		Two artificial grass courts assessed as standard quality (no sports lighting). Available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use.	EN Education		L	L	L		
		Athletics		Eight lane, 400m synthetic track, with floodlights and field event provision. The track is standard quality having been resurfaced in 2011.	Ensure the appropriate permit and licence is maintained to allow continued use of the track to host competitions.	EA Education		M	L	L		
59	Canterbury Academy Trust Campus (Primary School)	Tennis	Education	Two macadam courts assessed as standard quality (no sports lighting) that are available for community use.	Improve quality in order to maximise pay and play opportunities.	LTA Education	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect	S106/CIL
77	Canterbury Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	Two flat bowling greens assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality and address any issues as appropriate.	Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-

<sup>15</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years), (M) - Medium (3-5 years), (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>16</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k, (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k, (H) -High £250k and above

**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>15</sup>	Cost <sup>16</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
-	Canterbury Golf Club	Golf	Sports Club	One 18 hole golf course, good quality.	Protect and maintain provision.	EG <b>Sports Club</b>	Key Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
11	Chaucer Technology School (Closed)	Football	Education	Barton Court Academy is a new free school currently under construction on this site. Outdoor provision will include three or four football pitches marked on the adjoining playing field.	Encourage provider to establish secured community use for local teams. Explore the opportunity to meet existing demands in the area for youth pitches to be marked.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	H	M	M	Protect Provide	Education funded
26	Kings School (Birley's Playing Fields)	Football	Education	Four adult pitches, two youth 11v11 pitches and three youth 9v9 pitches all assessed as good quality. Overmarked on cricket outfield. Unsecure community use.	Sustain pitches quality through current maintenance regime. Work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Key Site	L	L	L	Protect	Self-funding
		Cricket		One standalone NTP and three junior cricket squares which consist of one wicket on each square. All assessed as good quality. School use only but available for community use.	Further explore opportunities to establish secure community use if demand is identified in the future.	ECB Education		M	M	L		
		Rugby union		Five senior rugby pitches and three junior rugby pitches all assessed as good quality (M2/D1). Available for community use but unused as pitches are converted to football from January each year.	Sustain quality and retain for school use.	RFU Education		L	L	L		
		Hockey		One sand dressed AGP full size assessed as good quality. Pitch has recently been refurbished (2019). No hockey community use but some football training takes place. Although available for community use, the school takes priority meaning that access to the site can be an issue.	Retain to deliver and accommodate school hockey and utilise for adhoc/overspill community hockey as required.	EH Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Six macadam courts all assessed as good quality that are available for community use but unused. Overmarked with netball. Also 12 courts marked on the AGP.	Sustain quality and further explore opportunities to establish secure community use if demand is identified in the future.	LTA Education		M	S	L		
		Athletics		Canterbury Harriers also host regular sessions at the school.	Continue to support the Club delivering sessions.	EA Education		L	L	L		
		Netball		Four netball courts assessed as good quality. Overmarked with tennis. Canterbury & District Netball League hosts all netball games at site on a Sunday morning.	Sustain quality and work with the school to secure community use.	EN Education		H	S	L		
27	Kings School Recreation Centre (Blores)	Hockey	Education	One sand dressed AGP which is full size and assessed as good quality. No sports lighting. Pitch has recently been refurbished (2019). No hockey community use but some tennis takes place. Although available for community use, the school takes priority meaning that access to the site can be an issue.	Retain to deliver and accommodate school hockey and utilise for adhoc/overspill community hockey as required. Consider whether sports lighting is required to improve community use	EH Education	Local Site	L	L	M	Protect	Self-funding
		Tennis		Three macadam courts all assessed as good quality (no sports lighting) that are available for community use but unused. Also 12 courts marked on the AGP.	Sustain quality and further explore opportunities to establish secure community use if local demand exists.	LTA Education						



**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>15</sup>	Cost <sup>16</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
		Netball		Three netball courts assessed as good quality. Overmarked with tennis.	Sustain quality and work with the school to secure greater community use.	EN Education		M	S	L		
81	Pilgrims' Way Primary School & Nursery	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch assessed as poor quality. Not available for community use.	Retain and improve for curricular use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
39	Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School	Football	Education	One adult pitch assessed as good quality with some spare capacity but with unsecure community use. Clubs report changing rooms as being poor quality.	Sustain quality and work with the school to secure community use. Explore options for improvements to the changing rooms.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	L	M	L	Protect Enhance	-
		Tennis		Four macadam courts assessed as poor quality (no sports lighting) that are not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	LTA Education		L	M	L		
42	St Anselms RC School	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as poor quality. Pitches unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	-
		Rugby union		One senior rugby pitch assessed as poor quality (M0/D0) and overplayed by school use.	Improve quality as required. No demand for community use.	RFU Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Four tarmac courts assessed as poor quality (no sports lighting) that are not available for the community.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	LTA Education		L	L	L		
46	St Lawrence Ground	Cricket	Kent County Cricket Club	Home to Kent County Cricket Club's and as such the ground is exclusively used to accommodate fixtures from these teams. As players play professionally it is noted that the ground quality must be of a high standard and as such external use by community clubs is prohibited, thus excluding any potential spare capacity for regular community use by local clubs.	No action. As a professional ground it is excluded from the supply and demand analysis presented in this section of the report.	ECB	Key Site	-	-	-	Protect	-
		Football (3G)		One small sided short pile 3G which is floodlit. Predominantly used for 5v5 football and walking football.	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	FA, FF Sports Club		L	L	M		
55	Thanington Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	Three adult pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Penalty sport repair required, and the cutting regime needs improvement; but the site appears to be able to accommodate additional demand.	Improve quality to accommodate additional demand.	FA, FF Local Authority	Key Site	H	S	M	Protect Enhance	LFFP
57	The Archbishop's School	Football	Education	Two youth 11v11 pitches, two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch which is at capacity. All assessed as standard quality. Well used for community use but unsecured.	Improve pitch quality to create future spare capacity and work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance	S106/CIL
		Tennis		Three macadam courts assessed as standard quality (no sports lighting) that are not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use	LTA Education		L	L	L		
62	The Orchard School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use	LTA Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-



## CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>15</sup>	Cost <sup>16</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
67	Victoria Recreation Ground	Football	Education /Lifestyle Fitness (on behalf of the City Council)	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Pitch rotation with portable goals recommended given that goalmouths are considerably worn.	Improve pitch quality and maximise use. Explore recommendation of pitch rotation to prevent further damage to goalmouths.	FA, FF <b>Education /Lifestyle Fitness</b>	Key Site	H	M	L	Protect Enhance	LFFP
		Tennis		Two macadam courts (floodlit) assessed as poor quality due to surface quality and grip underfoot. Leased to The Canterbury Academy Trust and managed by Lifestyle Fitness.	Improve court quality and consider resurfacing to encourage greater recreational usage.	LTA <b>Education /Lifestyle Fitness</b>		H	M	M		S106/CIL
		Beach court		Previously used during the 2012 Olympics for beach volleyball. Now used for beach tennis. Appeti Tennis, in association with Lifestyle Fitness (which manages the site), offers pay and play beach tennis sessions.	Sustain court to meet demand.	LTA <b>Education /Lifestyle Fitness</b>		L	L	L		-
		Cricket		Disused NTP. Requires replacement before utilisation would be possible.	Explore the feasibility of future utilisation to alleviate overplay.	<b>ECB</b>		M	M	M		S106/CIL
82	St John's CofE Primary School Canterbury	Hockey	Education	One small sided sand dressed AGP not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
85	St Stephen's Junior School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality that is not available for community use.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
88	St Nicholas School	Hockey	Education	One small sided sand dressed AGP not available for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
-	Thanington Park Development (Pentland Homes)	Cricket	Private	Allocated site with reserved matters planning permission (CA/17/02719) for a 150m2 cricket pavilion and associated pitch. Sturry CC is moving to a new site to provide its own permanent home. Discussions to date have been regarding a new fine turf square, pavilion and grounds storage, and a long term lease for the Club. It is currently renting at St Lawrence & Highland Court CC.	Support the Club in its move to a new ground and ensure long term security of tenure is achieved. Reassess capacity at St Lawrence & Highland Court CC once move is complete.	<b>ECB</b>	Local Site	H	S	H	Provide	S106/CIL

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## HERNE BAY ANALYSIS AREA

### Sport by sport priorities

Sport	Status	Priority actions
Football (grass pitches)	Shortfalls of youth and adult pitches. Quality improvements needed.	Address shortfalls through improving the quality of pitches at Key sites.
Football (3G pitches)	Future shortfall of one full size 3G pitch for team training.	Explore options for developing in Herne Bay Area.
Cricket	Some spare capacity.	Explore opportunities and feasibility to re-establish community use at Burton Downs Recreation Ground.
Rugby union	Pitches played to capacity.	No action.
Hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey.	Ensure long term sustainability and support and connectivity with local school network.
Tennis	Adequate quantity but quality to be improved.	Improve court quality at War Memorial Park.
Bowls	Adequate provision	No action.
Netball	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.	No action for this area.

## CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### Herne Bay action plan

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
7	Burton Downs Recreation Ground	Cricket	Local Authority	Currently the pitch is disused but has potential to be brought back into use. Herne Bay CC and Herne CC have expressed an interest in the site and utilising the old pavilion.	Further explore opportunities and feasibility to re-establish community use if demand is identified in the future.	ECB <b>Local Authority</b>	Local Site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide	S106/CIL Grant funding
14	Detached Playing Field (Briary Primary School)	Football	Education	Although one 11v11 youth pitch is marked out, there is space on the site to accommodate another similar size pitch. Herne Bay Wanderers is keen to use the site.	Resolved to grant strategic allocation (CA//17/02907) and includes replacement of three junior football pitches and a smaller hard surfaced multi-sports pitch on adjacent land.	FA, FF Education <b>Local Authority SE</b>	Local Site	H	M	L	Provide Enhance	S106/CIL
15	Hampton School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Pitches are available for community use but are unused.	Retain for curricular use and explore opportunities to establish community use. Some local demand for access to mini pitches identified.	<b>FA, FF</b> Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
16	Herne Bay High School	Football	Education	Two adult pitches, one mini 5v5 pitch and two youth 9v9 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Pitches are overplayed. Tenure is unsecure on site.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality and transfer some demand to the schools 3G pitch provision. Work with the school to secure community use.	<b>FA, FF</b> Education	Key Centre	H	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide	LFFP S106/CIL
		Cricket		One cricket square consisting of three wickets assessed as poor quality. Cricket square is available for community use but is unused.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	Education		L	L	L		
		Rugby union		One senior rugby pitch assessed as standard quality (M1/D1) which has natural, adequate drainage. Basic level of maintenance on pitch. Pitch at capacity through school demand.	Retain for curricular use and improve quality as required.	Education		L	L	L		
		Hockey		One sand dressed AGP which is full size and assessed as poor quality (albeit only five years old). No hockey clubs utilise the pitch (Herne Bay HC now plays at the new Herne Bay Sports Hub site) to accommodate midweek training demand. The pitch is subject to some football use by community clubs.	If an opportunity arises to explore resurfacing of Herne Bay High School, there remains a continued need to ensure that the school has access to hockey provision for curricular and extra-curricular use. Any discussion/feasibility work should be carried out in partnership with England Hockey and all relevant partners.	<b>FA, FF</b> EH Education		M	M	H		
		Football (3G) Tennis Netball		One small sided TigerTurf 3G which is floodlit. It is predominantly used for tennis and netball, however; mini soccer teams do use it. Marked with three tennis courts and two netball courts.	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	FA, FF <b>Education</b>		L	L	L		

<sup>17</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years), (M) - Medium (3-5 years), (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>18</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k, (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k, (H) -High £250k and above

**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity	
17	Herne Bay Hockey & Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four macadam courts (sports lighting) assessed as standard quality. Home to Herne Bay LTC which will move to facilities at Herne Bay Sports Hub.	Although tennis courts remain at the site, the tennis club will also use new tennis courts and the clubhouse at the Sports Hub. It is therefore not yet known what the impact of this will be on the Herne Bay Hockey and Lawn Tennis Club site. Although the AGP is not required to meet existing community hockey demand in the area, there remains a need to ensure that school hockey participation continues to service both curricular and extra-curricular activities.	LTA Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	M	Provide	-	
		Hockey		Currently one significantly disused/overgrown full size AGP which is sand based. The pitch was the home venue of Herne Bay HC but has not been used since 2011.									
18	Herne Bay Junior School	Football	Education	One youth 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality which is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular use.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-	
19	Herne Bay Sports Hub	Hockey	Sports Club Trust	One sand filled AGP which is full size, and one sand dressed AGP which is also full size. All assessed as good quality (built 2019).	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	EH Sports Club	Hub Site	L	L	L	Protect	-	
		Football (3G)		One full size, medium pile 3G pitch assessed as good quality.	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.								FA, FF Sports Club
		Tennis		Six macadam courts (sports lighting) assessed as good quality.	Sustain courts quality through current maintenance regime.								LTA Sports Club
		Cricket Football		Provision includes a cricket pitch (ready towards end of 2022 season if constructed in 2021 as square construction not yet undertaken) which will also have two mini soccer pitches marked out on the outfield during winter.	The cricket club requires ancillary provision including ground equipment storage, WC and kitchen facilities to be completed in order to run activity and maintain the pitch as agreed. The ball strike assessment needs to be updated to assess risk to the road and 3G football pitches as well as proposed housing.								ECB Sports Club
20	Herne CE Junior School	Football	Education	Two mini 5v5 pitches, two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Community use but unsecure tenure.	Work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	S	L	Protect	-	
36	Reculver C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as poor quality. Pitches available for community use but are unused.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-	
		Netball		One tarmac surface netball court assessed as poor quality. Available for community use but unused.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education		L	L	L			
56	The Altira Park Stadium	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Home ground to Herne Bay FC (Step 4).	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-	

**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>17</sup>	Cost <sup>18</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
60	The Cherry Orchard Playing Field	Football	Local Authority	Three adult pitches which have small levels of overplay and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard quality.	Improve pitch quality to address overplay and meet future demand.	<b>FA, FF</b> Local Authority	Key Site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance	LFFP
		Cricket		One cricket square consisting of six wickets assessed as standard quality with some spare capacity. Reports of the topdressing containing stones/gravel.	Remedial work is required to the square due to these issues.	<b>ECB</b> Local Authority		M	S	L		Grant funding S106/CIL
29	War Memorial Park, Herne Bay	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard quality. No peak time capacity. Goal mouths in need of repair.	Sustain pitches quality through current maintenance regime.	<b>FA, FF</b> Local Authority	Key Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	LFFP
		Tennis		Four macadam courts (no sports lighting) assessed as standard quality and four macadam courts (no sports lighting) assessed as poor quality due to surface quality and grip underfoot.	Improve court quality across the site to encourage/promote recreational usage.	<b>LTA</b> Local Authority		M	M	M		Grant funding S106/CIL
		Bowls	Sports Club	Two flat bowling greens assessed as good quality. Site is owned by the council, but the green is maintained by Herne Bay Bowls Club.	Sustain quality and address any issues as appropriate.	<b>BE</b> Sports Club		L	L	L		-

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## NORTH RURAL ANALYSIS AREA

### Sport by sport priorities

Sport	Status	Priority actions
Football (grass pitches)	Shortfalls of youth and adult pitches. Quality improvements needed.	Address shortfalls through improving the quality of pitches at Key sites. Consider development of a new site to service Tankerton FC. Secure community use at education sites.
Football (3G pitches)	No current/future requirement for more pitches.	No action required.
Cricket	Some spare capacity.	Improve quality and secure community use.
Rugby union	Small shortfall expressed.	Improve quality and consider sports lighting at Stodmarsh Playing Fields to address shortfall and increase capacity. Seek to renew World Rugby Compliant certification at University of Kent.
Hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey but quality improvements needed.	Protect hockey AGPs and improve quality at University of Kent as a priority.
Tennis	Adequate provision	No action.
Bowls	Adequate provision	No action.
Netball	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.	No action in this area.

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## North Rural Action Plan

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>19</sup>	Cost <sup>20</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
6	Blean Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch which has small levels of overplay. All assessed as poor quality. Community use is unsecure.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitches quality to meet future demand. Work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance	S106/CIL
21	Hersden Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. The site has potential for an additional pitch and greater use. Pavilion recently destroyed by arson.	Improve pitch quality and maximise use and rebuild pavilion.	FA, FF <b>Local Authority</b>	Local Site	H	M	M	Protect Enhance	LFFP Grant funding
		Bowls	Sports Club	One flat bowling green assessed as good quality. Capacity to accommodate additional demand.	Sustain quality and maximise use.	BE Sports Club		L	L	L		
24	Junior King's School	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 pitches and five youth 11v11 pitches all assessed as standard quality. Community use is unsecure.	Work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Key Site	M	S	L	Protect	-
		Cricket		Three junior cricket squares consisting of one wicket and one cricket square which consist of two junior wickets and five senior grass wickets on. All assessed as good quality. Available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use. Explore opportunities to establish secured community use if demand exists.	Education		M	L	L		
		Hockey		Two small sided sand filled AGP. Available for community use but unused.	Retain for curricular use.	Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Nine macadam courts assessed as good quality that are available for community use.	Retain for curricular use. Explore opportunities to establish secured community use if demand exists.	Education		M	L	L		
25	Kent College (Canterbury) (Whitstable Road Site)	Cricket	Education	One cricket square which consists of 12 wickets assessed as good quality that are available for community use but are unused.	Retain for college use. Explore opportunities to establish secured community use if demand exists.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	Self-funding (sinking fund) Grant funding
		Hockey		One sand filled AGP which is full size. Assessed as poor quality. AGP was built in 2012 therefore still has two years left of its recommended lifespan. Adhoc hockey club use (albeit from clubs outside of Canterbury District). The pitch is subject to some football use by community clubs.	Protect as a hockey surface and address drainage/quality issues identified. Ensure sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required.	EH Education		M	M	M		
		Tennis		12 artificial grass courts assessed as standard quality that are not available for community use.	Retain for college use.	Education		L	L	L		
		Rugby union		One senior rugby pitch assessed as good quality (M2/D1) which is not available for community use. Good maintenance programme assigned to pitch.	Retain for college use.	Education		L	L	L		
31	Moat Lane	Football	Education	Two adult pitches assessed as	Improve pitches quality through	FA, FF	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect	S106/CIL

<sup>19</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years), (M) - Medium (3-5 years), (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>20</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k, (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k, (H) -High £250k and above



**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>19</sup>	Cost <sup>20</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
	Playing Fields		Trust	standard quality with some spare capacity. Drainage issues at site.	maintenance and drainage improvements.	Trust					Enhance	
		Cricket		One cricket square which consists of six wickets assessed as standard quality. Used by Reculver CC (juniors).	Improve quality and secure community use.	ECB Trust		M	S	L		
		Rugby union		Two senior rugby pitches assessed as standard quality (M2/D0). Good maintenance on pitches, however, there are drainage issues. Available for community use but unused.	Retain for school use and improve pitch quality in particular drainage issues as required.	RFU Trust		L	L	L		
35	Radfall Recreation Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. No peak time capacity. Unsecure tenure. Council owned but maintenance is carried out by Whitstable Town FC Youth with no lease/licence in place.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Work to secure tenure of the site through a long term lease arrangement.	FA, FF Sports Club	Key Site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance	LFFP
		Cricket		One cricket square which consists of six wickets assessed as standard quality. Small levels of overplay on site. Council owned but Whitstable Labour Club manage/use the square but Herne Bay and Whitstable CC also both use it and have aspirations to use it for overflow matches next year.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality to meet future demand. Also, option to explore installation of a non-turf pitch and mobile cage. However, there is a need to secure the lease of the site with the Council as per above and linked to the football club.	ECB Sports Club		H	S	L		Grant funding (Kent Sport Sport England)
37	Rough Common Playing Field	Cricket	Local Authority	One cricket square which consists of ten wickets assessed as standard quality. Leased by Harbledown CC from the Village Hall Committee. The agreement actually lapsed at the end of the 2019 season, with the Club seeking to renegotiate a new five year agreement.	Explore feasibility of installing an NTP to increase capacity for adult training, junior match play and links with Canterbury Academy. Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Support club on renegotiating lease.	ECB Local Authority	Local Site	H	S	L	Protect	-
38	Seaview Caravan Park	Football	Private	Two adult pitches which have small levels of overplay, one mini 5v5 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and two youth 9v9 pitches. All assessed as standard quality. No secure tenure for Tankerton FC.	Protect playing field as no surplus in the area is identified. Review future use of the site given that Tankerton FC will be moving off the site in the future and explore opportunities to meet identified shortfalls in the Area.	FA, FF Commercial	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect	-
-	Tankerton FC	Football	Sports club	Tankerton FC is currently in the process of developing a new ground opposite its current facility at Seaview Caravan Park. A 9v9 youth pitch has recently been developed (although not yet in use) and further plans for the site include a new clubhouse, car park and for a further six football pitches.	Support the Club in development of the site and ensure pitches/facilities are provided in line with FA specifications.	FA, FF Sports Club	Potential Key Site	H	M	H	Provide	Grant funding (FF) LFFP
41	Spires Academy	Football	Education	One adult pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality. Work	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	S106/CIL

**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>19</sup>	Cost <sup>20</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
				as poor quality. Small levels of overplay on all pitches. Overmarked with rugby. Unsecure community use.	with the school to secure community use.							
		Rugby union		One senior rugby pitch assessed as poor quality (M0/D0) due to drainage issues and low maintenance. Pitch available for community use but unused.	Retain for school use and improve pitch quality as required.	Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		Three tarmac courts assessed as poor quality (no sports lighting) that are available for community use but unused. Poor quality due to surface quality and grip underfoot.	Retain for school use and improve pitch quality as required.	Education		L	M	M		
44	St Edmunds School	Football	Education	Three adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Small levels of overplay on pitches.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitches quality.	FA, FF Education	Key Centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	Self-funding (sinking fund) Grant funding S106/CIL
		Cricket		One cricket square which consists of seven wickets assessed as good quality and one standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Junior schools' cricket only on main site. School is progressing with plans for installing another cricket square.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Consider aspiration for an additional cricket square to help meet future demand.	ECB Education		L	L	L		
		Hockey		One sand dressed AGP which is full size and is assessed as standard quality. No hockey clubs utilise the pitch to accommodate any match demand. The pitch is subject to some extra-curricular match demand from the School.	Protect as a hockey surface and ensure a sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required. Possible issue with sports lighting which need to be resolved.	EH Education		M	M	M		
		Tennis		Six macadam courts assessed as standard quality (no sports lighting) that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain courts quality through current maintenance regime.	Education		L	L	L		
		Netball		Four netball courts assessed as standard quality that are available for community use but unused.	Sustain courts quality through current maintenance regime.	Education		L	L	L		
48	Stodmarsh Playing Fields	Football	University	Canterbury Christ Church University playing fields with three adult pitches assessed as poor quality. Peak time spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. Overmarked with lacrosse as and when required.	Work to improve pitch quality in order to maximise use to address shortfalls identified.	FA, FF University	Key Site	M	S	M	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
		Rugby union		Two senior rugby pitches assessed as poor quality (M1/D0) due to poor drainage. No sports lighting which inhibits use by the University teams which train at Canterbury Rugby Club.	Improve pitches quality through maintenance and drainage improvements. Consider the feasibility of installing floodlights to enable greater use.	RFU University		M	S	M		
50	Sturry C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. Community use is unsecure.	Improve pitch quality and work with the school to secure community use.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
51	Sturry FC	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch which has small levels of overplay and one youth 9v9 pitch all	Work to improve pitch quality in order to maximise use to address	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	M	L	M	Protect Enhance	Grant funding

**CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>19</sup>	Cost <sup>20</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
				assessed as poor quality. Peak time spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	shortfalls identified.							S106/CIL
53	Swalecliffe Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Space for pitch rotation and additional junior pitches. Goal mouth in need of repair.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Consider re-configuring pitch layout to address current shortfalls in youth pitches.	FA, FF <b>Local Authority</b>	Key Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide	Grant funding S106/CIL
65	Tyler Hill Memorial Hall	Football	Trust	One adult pitch, one mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Rented by Tyler Hill Youth FC on an annual basis but secure use.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	FA, FF Trust	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
		Cricket		One cricket square which consists of four wickets assessed as good quality. Overmarked with football pitches. Rented by Tyler Hill CC on an annual basis but secure use.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	ECB Trust						
66	University of Kent	Football	University	Two adult pitches, one mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as good quality. Used by University teams and Canterbury Youth FC.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime. Ensure configuration is correct to appropriate service demand. Work to secure community use.	University	Hub Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	Self-funding (sinking fund) SE Grant
		Rugby union		Two senior rugby pitches assessed as good quality (M2/D1). Used by University teams only.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	University		L	L	L		
		Hockey		One sand dressed AGP which is full size, assessed as standard quality. The AGP has exceeded the recommended surface lifespan. Although it is standard quality it requires some drainage improvement. Minimal spare capacity.	Protect as a hockey surface and address drainage/quality issues identified. Ensure a sinking fund is in-place for refurbishment when required. Work to secure community use.	EH <b>University</b>		H	M	M		
		Football (3G)		One full size 3G (medium pile) pitch assessed as standard quality despite exceeding the recommended surface lifespan. One full size 3G (long pile) assessed as good quality. However, the certification for the World Rugby compliance expired in February 2020.	Sustain quality on both pitches by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when required. Given the certification for the World Rugby complaint 3G has expired this should be re-tested and re-certified before any contact and/or lineout sessions take place. Work to secure community use.	FA, FF RFU <b>University</b>		H	S	H		
22	West Meadows Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## SOUTH RURAL ANALYSIS AREA

### Sport by sport priorities

Sport	Status	Priority actions
Football (grass pitches)	Small amount of spare capacity across all pitch types.	Improve quality in order to address overplay.
Football (3G pitches)	No current/future requirement for more pitches.	No action
Cricket	Current and future shortfalls.	Improve quality in order to address shortfalls.
Rugby union	Pitches played to capacity.	Access to additional pitches are required to build future capacity. Explore feasibility of relocation opportunities for Canterbury RFC.
Hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey.	Ensuring long term quality.
Tennis	Adequate quantity but quality improvement needed.	Improve the quality at Broome Park Golf Club to encourage greater use.
Bowls	Adequate quantity but quality improvement needed.	Improve the quality of the green at Barham Bowling Club.
Netball	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.	No action required in this area.

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## South Rural Action Plan

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
1	Barham C of E Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch assessed as poor quality. Pitch unavailable for community use.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
3	Barham Youth FC (The Bear Trap)	Football	Sports Club	One mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Some peak time capacity.	Retain existing usage to help sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
5	Bekesbourne Recreation Ground	Football	Community Organisation	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality.	Retain existing usage to help sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Community Organisation	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
9	Canterbury RFC	Rugby union	Sports Club	Three senior rugby pitches, one junior rugby pitch and three mini rugby pitches all assessed as good quality (M2/D1). All pitches drain well and are subject to good maintenance but are played to capacity. Canterbury RFC aspires to relocate to a larger site at which improved ancillary facilities can be established.	Consider continuing to explore opportunities and feasibility to relocate to a new site. Although current demand is being accommodated, no further increase in use is recommended at the current site.	RFU Sports Club	Key Site	M	M	H	Protect Provide	Grant funding S106/CIL
10	Chartham Sports Club	Football	Sports Club	Three mini 5v5 pitches and three mini 7v7 pitches all assessed as standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
		Cricket		Currently one disused cricket square.	No identified demand to reinstate cricket pitch.	Sports Club		L	L	L		
72	Charlton Park	Cricket	Private	One cricket square consisting of four wickets assessed as poor quality. Overplayed.	Improve square quality to help alleviate overplay.	ECB Sports club	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
73	Barham Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One flat bowling green assessed as poor quality. Drainage issues on the green. Capacity to accommodate additional demand.	Improve maintenance and drainage to be able to accommodate more additional demand.	Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
74	Barham Tennis Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Four macadam courts (no sports lighting) assessed as standard quality, two are mini courts.	Sustain courts quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
75	Broome Park Golf Club	Tennis	Sports Club	Two macadam courts (no sports lighting) assessed as poor quality.	Consider the feasibility of resurfacing the court to encourage recreational usage.	LTA Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	M	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
		Golf		One 18 hole golf course assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club		L	L	L		
71	Kenfield Cricket Ground	Cricket	Private	One cricket square consisting of two wickets assessed as poor quality. Small level of overplay.	Improve square quality to help alleviate overplay.	ECB	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
28	Littlebourne Recreation Ground	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
		Cricket		One cricket square which consists of eight wickets assessed as standard	Improve square quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to	ECB		M	M	L		

<sup>21</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years), (M) - Medium (3-5 years), (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>22</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k, (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k, (H) -High £250k and above



## CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
				quality with one NTP assessed as good quality. Levels of overplay on pitch.	alleviate overplay.	Sports Club						
30	Memorial Playing Field	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Local Authority	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
32	Patricxbourne Rd Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One adult pitch assessed as standard quality.	Sustain pitch quality through current maintenance regime.	Local Authority	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
		Tennis		Three macadam courts (sports lighting) assessed as good quality.	Sustain courts quality through current maintenance regime.	Local Authority		L	L	L		
		Cricket		Currently one disused cricket square.	No identified demand to reinstate cricket pitch.	Local Authority		L	L	L		
33	Petham Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. Pitch unavailable for community use.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
34	Polo Farm Sports Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Two cricket squares which consist of 27 wickets per square with one NTP assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Key Centre	L	L	L	Protect	-
		Hockey		Two water base AGPs and one sand dressed AGP all assessed as good quality. All pitches are full size.	Protect and sustain quality on all pitches by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when required.	EH Sports Club		L	L	M		
		Tennis		Six clay courts (sports lighting) assessed as good quality.	Sustain courts quality through current maintenance regime.	Sports Club		L	L	L		
40	Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Football	Education	Two adult pitches which are slightly overplayed and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as standard quality. Community use is unsecure.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitches quality and secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
		Cricket		One cricket square consisting of ten wickets assessed as poor quality and one standalone NTP assessed as standard quality. Pitch available for community use but unused.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education		L	L	L		
		Football (3G)		One long pile 3G pitch which is World Rugby complaint and FA registered assessed as good quality. Also used for American football.	Sustain quality on both pitches by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when required.	Education		L	L	M		
43	St Augustines Football and Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	One mini 5v5 pitch, one mini 7v7 pitch, one youth 11v11 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch all assessed as good quality apart from mini 5v5 pitch which is standard quality.	Sustain quality on pitches by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Local Authority	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
45	St Lawrence and Highland Court Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	Two cricket squares consisting of 40 wickets assessed as good quality. Although the pitches have spare capacity this is not at peak time.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-

## CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>21</sup>	Cost <sup>22</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
				Leased by St Lawrence and Highland Court CC until 2031; and also used/rented by Reculver CC and Sturry CC on a match by match basis.								
49	Street End Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One cricket square consisting of four wickets assessed as standard quality with one NTP assessed as good quality. Small levels of overplay.	Improve square quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
61	The Kent College Junior School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch and one mini 7v7 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Pitches unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
		Cricket		One standalone NTP assessed standard quality. Not available for community use.	Sustain NTP quality for curricular use.	Education		L	L	L		
		Tennis		One tarmac court assessed as good quality (no sports lighting). Not available for community use.	Sustain quality by upholding the current maintenance regime for curricular use.	Education		L	L	L		
63	The Street Recreation Ground	Tennis	Local Authority	One macadam tennis court (no sports lighting) assessed as poor quality due to surface quality and grip underfoot.	Consider the feasibility of resurfacing the court to encourage recreational usage. Explore opportunities for potential sports lighting to also encourage more recreational usage.	LTA Local Authority	Local Site	M	M	M	Protect	S106/CIL



# CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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## WHITSTABLE ANALYSIS AREA

### Sport by sport priorities

Sport	Status	Priority actions
Football (grass pitches)	Most pitch types at capacity and small shortfall of mini pitches.	Improve quality at Key sites and explore opportunities to bring sites back into use to create future spare capacity.
Football (3G pitches)	No current/future requirement for more pitches.	No action.
Cricket	Current and future shortfalls.	Improve quality at The Belmont Ground.
Rugby union	Shortfall of pitches.	Improve quality at Whitstable Rugby Club.
Hockey	Adequate provision for community hockey.	No action.
Tennis	Adequate quantity but quality improvement needed.	Improve quality at St Anne's Tennis Courts.
Bowls	Adequate provision.	No action.
Netball	Access to additional outdoor courts to service summer youth netball.	No action required in this area.

## CANTERBURY DISTRICT PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

### Whitstable Action Plan

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>23</sup>	Cost <sup>24</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
13	Chestfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Sports Club	One cricket square consisting of 15 wickets assessed as good quality. Club requires investment to develop a fit for purpose pavilion to service the venue and growing demand on the site, including walking netball.	Sustain pitch quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Support the Club in working towards pavilion improvements.	ECB Sports Club	Local Site	M	S	M	Protect	-
-	Chestfield Golf Club	Golf	Sports Club	One 18 hole golf course, good quality.	Protect and maintain provision.	Sports Club	Key Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
-	Church Street Playing Field	Football	Kent County Council	The site is connected to The Whitstable School. Although it has previously contained pitches, due to misuse and difficulty with clubs securing access between the County Council and the School it has been unused for a few years. Rising Stars Youth has previously used the site for recreational use and has expressed interested in taking on a lease for the site but chose not to progress this due to the cost.	Explore further opportunities to bring the site back into use and to established secured use for local teams. There is some local demand for youth pitches identified.	FA, FF Kent County Council	Local Site	M	S	L	Provide	Grant funding S106/CIL
89	Homing Park	Tennis	Private	One macadam court (no sports lighting) assessed as good quality. Located on a caravan park with no current community use.	Explore opportunities to establish community use to operate as a satellite for a local club or for pay and play opportunities.	LTA Private	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Provide	-
23	Joy Lane Junior School	Football	Education	One mini 5v5 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches all assessed as poor quality. Pitches available for community use but unused.	Retain and improve for curricular use as required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
-	Mariners View	Football	Private	When the housing development was built the developers agreed to put a mini football pitch in place. Although the pitch now exists, it is not currently in use since it has no support facilities in place (e.g. changing rooms). However, it is a good pitch and could provide future capacity if access to ancillary facilities could be secured.	Explore opportunities to secure access to appropriate ancillary facilities such as toilets at least in order to allow future use.	FA, FF	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect Provide	-
79	St Anne's Tennis Courts	Tennis	Local Authority	Four macadam courts (no sports lighting) assessed as standard quality. Local tennis league is based at this site.	Improve court quality by upholding the current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of sports lighting to accommodate additional demand.	LTA Local Authority	Local Site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide	Grant funding S106/CIL
83	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	Hockey	Education	One small sided sand dressed AGP.	Sustain quality pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-

<sup>23</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years), (M) - Medium (3-5 years), (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>24</sup> (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	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>23</sup>	Cost <sup>24</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
					Ensure sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when required.							
52	Swalecliffe Community Primary School	Football	Education	One mini 7v7 pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use and unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality pitches by upholding the current maintenance regime. Secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Local Site	M	S	L	Protect	-
58	The Belmont Ground	Cricket	Local Authority	One cricket square consisting of eight wickets with one NTP assessed as standard quality. Levels of overplay on pitch.	Improve square quality through an enhanced maintenance regime to alleviate overplay.	ECB Local Authority	Local Site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL
64	The Whitstable School	Football	Education	Two mini 7v7 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch which has small levels of overplay. All assessed as poor quality. Community use is unsecure.	Given identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitches quality. Work with the school to secure community use.	FA, FF Education	Key Site	H	M	L	Protect Enhance	LFFP
		Football (3G)		One medium pile 3G which is full size assessed as poor quality. The pitch is ten years old and is heavily used by the community.	Explore opportunities to resurface the pitch to be able to continue accommodating the current usage.			H	S	H		
		Tennis		Two tarmac courts assessed as poor quality (no sports lighting) that are not available for community use.	Retain for school use and improve as required.	Education	L	L	L	-		
-	Waldens' Pitches, Seasalter (Faversham Road)	Football	Private	Although it previously contained football pitches, this site has not officially been used for matches. There are problems with the drainage channels and the collectors at the end of each row which are standing proud of the ground. In addition to the pitch problems, there are no changing rooms servicing the site.	Explore further opportunities to bring the site back into use and to establish secured use for local teams. There is some local demand for youth pitches identified.	FA, FF	Local Site	M	S	L	Provide	Grant funding S106/CIL
78	West Beach Tennis Courts	Tennis	Local Authority	Five macadam courts (no sports lighting) assessed as standard quality.	Sustain court quality by upholding current maintenance regime.	Local Authority	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
68	Westmeads Recreation Ground	Football	Local Authority	Previously contained football posts but was removed mainly due to the high cost to repair the drainage as the site is heavy clay based soil and the existing drainage is blocked creating standing water even after little rainfall.	No specific local demand identified to bring back into use given the costs that would be associated with this. Retain as strategic reserve.	Local Authority	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
80	Whitstable Bowling Club	Bowls	Sports Club	One flat bowling green assessed as good quality.	Sustain quality and address any issues as appropriate.	Sports Club	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
87	Whitstable Junior School	Hockey	Education	One small sided sand dressed AGP.	Sustain quality pitch by upholding the current maintenance regime. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for refurbishment when required.	Education	Local Site	L	L	L	Protect	-
69	Whitstable Rugby Club	Rugby union	Sports Club	Two senior rugby pitches assessed as poor quality (M0/D1) due to low level maintenance. One of the two pitches accommodate all midweek training demand from Whitstable	Given the high level of demand on the site and identified overplay, there is a need to improve pitch quality and the maintenance regime.	RFU Sports Club	Local Site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance	Grant funding S106/CIL

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Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Lead and delivery partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales <sup>23</sup>	Cost <sup>24</sup>	Aim	Funding opportunity
				RFC. Small levels of overplay on pitches.	Consider options and feasibility for a suitable alternative training venue to capacitate all midweek training demand.							
70	Whitstable Town FC	Football	Sports Club	One adult pitch assessed as good quality. Ancillary facilities are poor quality and require replacement/rebuild. Whitstable Town FC is a Step 4 club.	Sustain quality pitches by upholding current maintenance regime. Explore the feasibility of replacement/rebuild of the ancillary provision on site to encourage additional usage and meet league requirements.	FA, FF Sports Club	Local Site	M	M	H	Protect Enhance	Grant funding/FF S106/CIL
-	Whitstable & Seasalter Golf Club	Golf	Sports Club	One 9 hole golf course, good quality.	Protect and maintain provision.	Sports Club	Key Site	L	L	L	Protect	-

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## PART 6: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIO

The current resident population in Canterbury District is 164,553. By 2040 (the period to which the assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 193,608 representing an increase of 29,055 people (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 18%) according to ONS data. This is broadly in line with population increase from planned housing growth and as such is also used in this scenario.

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for outdoor sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2040 (in line with the Local Plan period). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) updates the likely demand generated and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via team generation rates (TGRs) in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

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

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

The scenario overleaf shows the additional demand for pitch sports generated from total population increase across the Plan period (29,055). 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.

Please note that scenarios also take into consideration training demand for the individual sports.

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## Scenario

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth across the Plan period is 29,055.

This population increase equates to 22 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, three match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey and 115 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket.

Training demand equates to 40 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to nine hours of use per week on AGPs. There are also two match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby union on a floodlit grass pitch.

Table 6.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport	
	Match demand (MES) per week <sup>25</sup>	Training demand
Adult football	5 (4.78)	40 hours (on a 3G artificial grass pitch)
Youth football	9 (9.39)	
Mini soccer	6	
Rugby union	2 (1.91)	2 match equivalent sessions (on a floodlit natural grass pitch)
Adult hockey	2 (2.26)	7 hours (on a sand based AGP)
Junior & mixed hockey	1 (0.87)	2 hours (on a sand based AGP)
Cricket	115 (114.72) per season	N/A

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

Table 6.2: 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 <sup>26</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>27</sup>
Adult football	4.78	£544,902	£114,974
Youth football	9.39	£802,492	£168,523
Mini soccer	6.00	£170,901	£35,889
Rugby union	1.91	£305,145	£65,301
Cricket	2.47	£830,869	£167,836
Sand based AGPs	0.59	£550,400	£17,062
3G	1.06	£1,197,637	£38,871

Further to the above, the Calculator also estimates that there will be a need to provide 32 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 £6,245,644.

<sup>25</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>26</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>27</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)



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## **Conclusions**

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.

Please note that the Local Plan already currently allocates three sites for playing fields:

- ◀ OS3- Greenhill (public playing fields) - resolved to grant, strategic allocation (CA//17/02907) and includes three junior football pitches and a smaller hard surfaced multi-sports pitch.
- ◀ OS4- Swalecliffe (junior football pitches) - planning permission granted (CA/16/00940) but not yet developed.
- ◀ OS5- Stuppington Lane (informal recreational use including public playing fields) – no progress to date.

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.

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## **PART 7: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

### ***Delivery***

The PPS provides guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment across Canterbury district. By addressing issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of Canterbury can be met. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

Production of this Strategy is the start of the planning process. Successful Strategy 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, to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities.

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

To help ensure 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.

The process of PPS development has already led to a number of benefits that assist its application and delivery. These include enhanced 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.

Following sign off of the PPS, a short-term Action Plan should be prepared by the Council, in consultation with relevant partners, in order to distil the existing Action Plan and to give the Steering Group a short-term focus. This would then need to be revised through regular meetings.

### ***Monitoring and updating***

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.

KKP will provide the tools used to produce the PPS to the Council as well as training on how to use such tools, such as the PPS database used to hold all information gathered. This will enable the monitoring and updating process to be carried out.

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, 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 outdoor sports facilities will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

An annual review should not be regarded as a 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.

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).
- ◀ Consider how provision for sport can be made in new development, where on-site provision is required and how developer contributions are used.

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.

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

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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.


NGBs will also be able to confirm any further performance quality assessments undertaken within the study area. Discussion with league secretaries may also indicate annual league meetings which may be useful to attend to pick up on specific issues and/or enable a review of the relevant club details to be undertaken.

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

It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental 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.

### Checklist

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

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

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## APPENDIX ONE: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Artificial grass pitches

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training (although not ideal).
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and used for football training (although not ideal).
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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**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**.

**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.



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## APPENDIX TWO: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

### National context

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

### ***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 eight 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.
- ◀ 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's five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation' aims 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

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## ***National Planning Policy Framework (2019)***

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 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 funding 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) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition

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- ◀ **Engage children and young people**
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people
  
- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
  
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability 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

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

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

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

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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

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)**



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- 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.

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

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

**Vision:** tennis opened up

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

### **Objectives**

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from 623,602 to 1,000,000 by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often:
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month by 2023.
  - ◀ The number of children playing tennis.
- ◀ Enable five new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

### **Strategies**

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

### **LTA facility Loans Programme**

In addition to the initiatives listed above, - The facility loan scheme provides loans up to £250,000 to help venues deliver projects that will grow the number of people playing tennis. This scheme is part of our mission to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. To attract new players within local communities it is critical that there is access to quality all year round facilities and therefore the LTA will prioritise investment into low cost indoor structures and floodlights more information can be [found here](#)

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

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

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ***UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)***

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA’s Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future “running” facilities.

The strategy does not seek to identify priority facilities, clubs or geographical areas. Instead, it provides the direction and guidance that will enable the four Home Country Athletics Federations (England Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics) to establish their own priorities and deliver the principles of the UKA Facilities Strategy within their own national context.

### **Key outcomes:**

- ◀ Increased participation across all athletics disciplines
- ◀ Increased club membership by providing facilities that support a participation pathway from novice through to club member
- ◀ Increased talent pool
- ◀ Long term improvement in the development of athletes of all ages and abilities
- ◀ Securing the long term future of existing facilities
- ◀ More attractive and inspiring facilities for existing and potential athletes
- ◀ Improving the athletics experience for all participants
- ◀ Improved relationships and interactions between stakeholders, particularly clubs and facility operators

## ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way***

England Netball is undergoing a period of review and reflection in preparation of a new Strategy for the growth and development of the Game beyond ‘Your Game Your Way’, the current Strategy which comes to an end in 2020.

Its mission is for netball to be played in a diverse range of ideal environments that inspire and enable participation, growth and world class performance. It is to achieve this mission through directing tailored programmes to each of its segments of participation, which are:

- ◀ Minis, returners, adult casual, youth social and recreational
- ◀ I Heart Netballers
- ◀ Hooked on netball
- ◀ Aspiring to perform
- ◀ Elite and high performance, aspiring to perform
- ◀ Talented youth and developing excellence

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## ***Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)***

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”. The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◀ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◀ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◀ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◀ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◀ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◀ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◀ Being customer focussed
- ◀ Stronger counties and club
- ◀ Excellent governance
- ◀ Improve image
- ◀ More members and players
- ◀ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◀ Winning golfers

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## APPENDIX THREE: 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
<p>Big Lottery Fund  <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>The Big Lottery Fund distributes over £500m a year to communities across the UK, raised by players of The National Lottery.</p> <p><b>Awards for All</b> – this fund offers National Lottery grants between £300 and £10,000. Applications can be made by: voluntary or community organisations, registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies or community interest companies, social enterprises, schools and statutory bodies (including town, parish and community councils). To receive funding, the applicant must meet at least one of the funding priorities listed for these grants. The funding priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities.</li> <li>◀ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.</li> <li>◀ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reaching Communities England</b> – this programme provides flexible funding over £10,000 for up to five years to organisations in England who want to act on the issues that matter to people and communities. Grants will be awarded to voluntary and community organisations or social enterprises to fund project activities, operating costs, organisational development and capital costs. Ideas must meet one or more of the following funding priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities.</li> <li>◀ Improving the places and spaces that matter to communities.</li> <li>◀ Enabling more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage.</li> </ul>
<p>Sport England                      The current funding streams may change so refer to the website for the latest information:  <a href="https://www.sportengland.org/funding/">https://www.sportengland.org/funding/</a></p>	<p>Sport England’s vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or activity, regardless of age, background or ability.</p> <p><b>Small Grants</b> – this programme offers funding to projects involving adults and young people aged 14 or over which meet one or more of the aims of their ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy. These aims are: get inactive people more active, develop lasting sporting habits, engender more positive attitudes among young people, develop more diverse volunteers and to improve progression and inclusion among the most talented. Projects with mixed age groups may still be considered if there is a focus on people aged 14 and over.</p> <p><b>Community Asset Fund</b> – this programme is dedicated to</p>



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Awarding body	Description
	<p>enhancing the spaces in your local community that give people the opportunity to be active.</p> <p><b>Major Events Engagement Fund</b> – Sport England’s ‘Towards an Active Nation’ strategy commits them to invest £2m in helping national governing bodies (NGBs) to host major events which evolve their existing business model and derive a greater financial return from their existing customers (players, volunteers or spectators). This funding can also be used to develop programmes that engage with individuals local to the major event, who are currently less likely to take part regularly in sport or physical activity.</p>
<p>Football Foundation  <a href="http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/">http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/</a></p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grassroots local development.</p> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund</b> – this fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations that improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities, sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age or ability and to help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport. Grants are available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Grass pitch drainage/improvements,</li> <li>◀ Pavilions, clubhouses and changing rooms,</li> <li>◀ 3G Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) and multi-use games areas,</li> <li>◀ Fixed floodlights for artificial pitches.</li> </ul> <p><b>Premier League &amp; The FA Facilities Fund Small Grants Scheme</b> – this scheme awards grants of up to £10,000 for the provision of capital items, or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. This scheme aims to support the growth of football clubs and activity, prevent a decline in football participation and make improvements to facilities to address any health and safety issues. Grants, which cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost, are awarded to support the costs of the following list of projects and items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Replacement of unsafe goalposts,</li> <li>◀ Portable floodlights,</li> <li>◀ Storage containers,</li> <li>◀ Changing pavilion/clubhouse refurbishment and external works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Grounds maintenance equipment,</li> <li>◀ Pitch improvement works (not including routine maintenance works),</li> <li>◀ Fencing.</li> </ul> <p>The scheme is available to local authorities, educational establishments, grassroots football clubs and professional and semi-professional football clubs and their associated community organisations, to support their community outreach programmes.</p> <p><b>Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment Scheme</b> - this scheme, run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation, gives teachers the opportunity to get their</p>

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Awarding body	Description
	hands on free resources to aid their pupils' learning. Primary school teachers registered at <a href="http://plprimarystars.com">plprimarystars.com</a> can access either a free Nike football strip, or a free equipment pack which can be used across the curriculum.
Rugby Football Union (RFU) <a href="https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/funding">https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/running-your-club/funding</a>	The RFU now provides Local Club Grants for facility improvements. These are managed and administered locally by RFU staff and Constituent Body volunteers.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust <a href="https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding">https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding</a>	<b>The Interest Free Loan Scheme</b> provides finance to clubs for various capital projects such as buildings, equipment purchase, fine turf, land purchase and non-turf. All ECB affiliated cricket clubs are eligible to apply, as well as other organisations that can evidence achievement/delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims. Clubs with a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £50,000 whereas clubs without a junior section can apply for funding from £1,000 to £20,000. A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.
EU Life Fund <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</a>	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. LIFE also finances some grants for non-governmental organisations active in the field of the environment because they are key players in the development and implementation of environmental policy.
National Hockey Foundation <a href="http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/">http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</a>	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: young people and hockey, young people and sport in Milton Keynes, enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level and smaller charities. There is no limit on the amount of funding that an organisation can request. However, the Foundation does not generally award grants for less than £10,000 or more than £75,000.
Rugby Football League <a href="https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities">https://www.rlwc2021.com/facilities</a>	<b>Rugby League World Cup 2021 Capital Facilities Legacy funding.</b> Small Grants Scheme awards grants of up to £15,000 for the provision of capital items, kit and equipment or to refurbish/improve existing facilities. Large capital grants programme of £15,000 plus focused on supporting the development of new or refurbished local rugby league facilities. The programme is split into four themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcoming environments</li> <li>2. More players</li> <li>3. Community engagement</li> <li>4. Innovation fund</li> </ol>

## Funder's requirements

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

- ✦ Identify need (i.e. why the project is needed) and how the project will address it.
- ✦ Articulate what difference the project will make.
- ✦ Identify benefits, value for money and/or added value.
- ✦ Provide baseline information (i.e. the current situation).
- ✦ Articulate how the project is consistent with local, regional and national policy.
- ✦ Financial need and project cost.
- ✦ Funding profile (i.e. who is providing which services/facilities? Unit and overall costs).

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- ◀ Technical information and requirements (e.g. planning permission).
- ◀ Targets, outputs and/or outcomes (i.e. the anticipated situation after the project/what the project is anticipated to 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/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance>

The costs are for the development of community sports facilities and are based on providing a 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.