



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN
NOVEMBER 2019

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CC	Cricket Club
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CSP	County Sports Partnership
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PF	Playing Field
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106 Agreement
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under
ONS	Office for National Statistics
IMS	International Match Standard
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is an update to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Solihull, originally completed in June 2017. Building upon the preceding updated Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch facilities and accompanying ancillary facilities.

A Steering Group has led and will continue to lead the PPS to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. It is made up of representatives from the Council, Sport England and pitch sport National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), namely the Football Foundation (FF), Birmingham County FA, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), the Rugby Football Union (RFU), England Hockey (EH) and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

The Strategy is capable of:

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

Agreed scope

The PPS covers the following playing pitches including accompanying ancillary facilities:

- ◀ Football pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Rugby union pitches (including 3G AGPs)
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches (Sand/water based AGPs)
- ◀ Other grass pitch sports (Gaelic football and baseball/softball).
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Athletics tracks

It should therefore be noted that for non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis and athletics), the supply and demand principles of Sport England methodology: Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) are followed to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This is less prescriptive than the PPS guidance. Thus, where applied, the approach to assessing non-pitch sports is a supply/demand assessment based on more a 'light touch' approach.

Study area

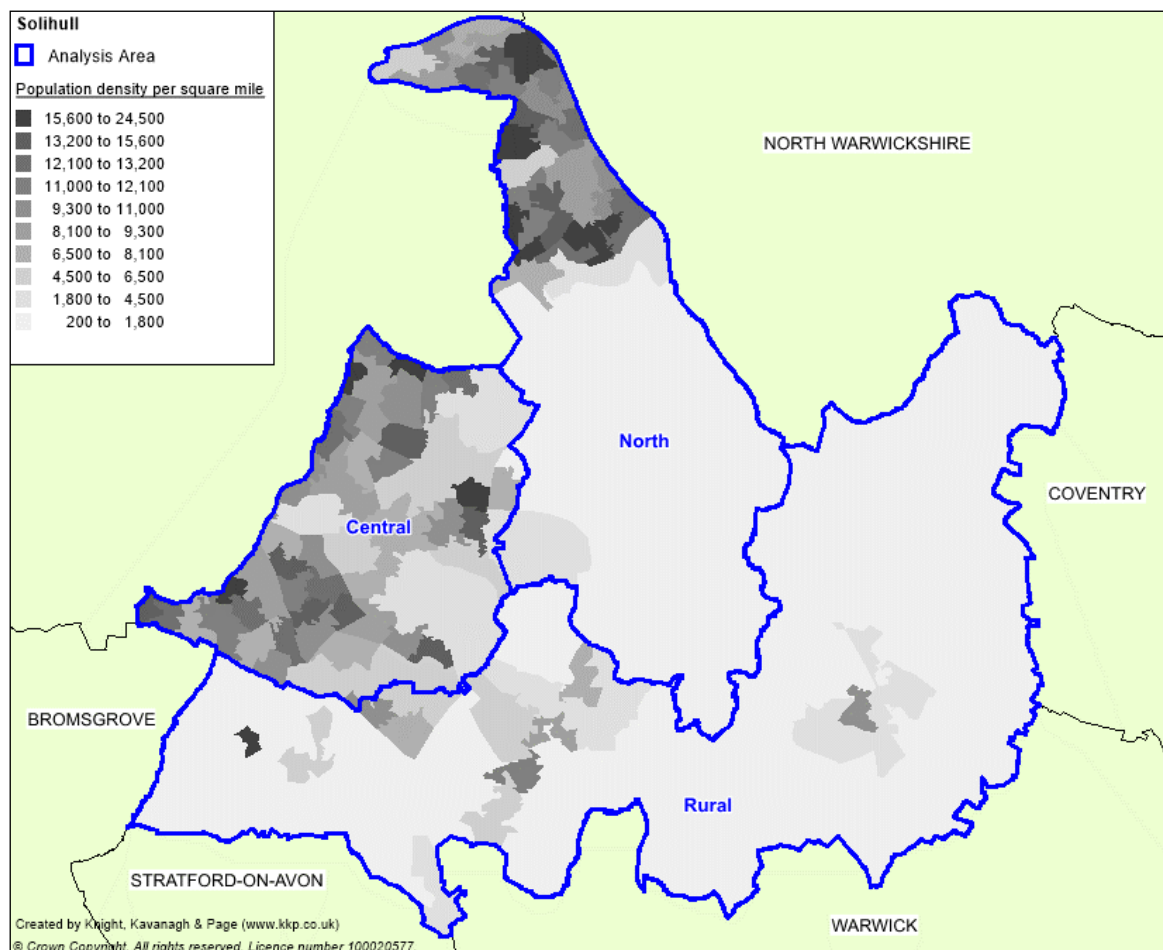
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This strategy covers the whole Borough boundary area of Solihull. Furthermore, the data gathered has been presented in such a way as to be further analysed by smaller analysis areas.

For this purpose, the Council's administrative area has been split into three neighbourhood areas made up of the following wards:

- ◀ **North Area** – Bickenhill, Kingshurst and Fordbridge, Castle Bromwich, Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood.
- ◀ **Central Area** – Elmdon, Lyndon Olton, Silhill, St Alphege, Shirley East/West/South.
- ◀ **Rural Area** – Blythe, Dorridge and Hockley Heath, Knowle, Meriden.

Figure 1.1: Solihull analysis area map



1.1: Structure

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

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitch facilities.
- ◀ Evidence to help protect and enhance playing pitch provision.
- ◀ The need to inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
- ◀ The need to inform the assessment of planning applications.
- ◀ The need to provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

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- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ◀ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations that provide a strategic framework for improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends numerous priority projects for Solihull that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

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

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 playing pitch 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.

Monitoring and updating

It is important that there is regular monitoring and review against the actions identified in the original PPS. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the work being signed off, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will consider it to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document and kept up to date, its lifespan can be extended. This update therefore extends the lifespan of the PPS to 2022.

The PPS update should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that was built up during its development. To assist this, all information, databases and other tools used to inform the Strategy will be handed over to the Council and full training will be offered to assist in utilisation (see Part: 7).

It should also be noted that this update has been completed outside of the cricket season. As such, the data used is likely to be outdated relatively quickly when clubs begin to affiliate ahead of 2020 fixtures. The ECB therefore believes, given the time elapsed since the original study, that a further update is required in the near future to ensure an accurate portrayal of the current picture.

1.2: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study and updating it is to identify current levels of provision within Solihull across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitches meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

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Local Plan Review

The Council is currently undertaking a Local Plan Review, with a draft plan published in November 2016. Since that time, more detailed work has been carried out on the proposed allocations, in the form of concept masterplans and the Government has revised its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and produced a methodology for assessing local housing need.

In response, the Council has:

- ◀ Revised its proposed site allocations
- ◀ Updated the housing requirement figure to reflect the new methodology
- ◀ Continued the commitment to a 2,000 dwelling contribution to the Birmingham and Black County Housing Market Area
- ◀ Changed the plan period to 2018-2035

A supplementary consultation update was published in January 2019 which includes the revised site allocations and proposes additional 'green sites' as a number of 'amber sites' that may be potentially included within the final submission. Several of the proposed site allocations will have an impact on existing or former playing pitches.

- ◀ Site 1: Barratt's Farm, Balsall Common
- ◀ Site 2: Frog Lane, Balsall Common
- ◀ Site 4: West of Dickens Heath
- ◀ Site 8: Hampton Road, Knowle
- ◀ Site 9: South of Knowle (Arden Triangle)
- ◀ Site 15: Auckland Drive, Chelmsley Wood
- ◀ Site 16: East of Solihull (off Lugtrout Lane)
- ◀ Site 18: Sharman's Cross Road
- ◀ Site 20: Damson Parkway
- ◀ Amber Site: A6 Rowood Drive

In addition, although not proposed through site allocations, Jaguar Land Rover Sports & Social Club may be pursued through the planning application process as it could be required for future expansion of the plant and/or supporting areas. Similarly, a new dual carriageway provided as part of the M42 J6 improvements could impact on provision at Páirc na hÉireann (Gaelic Athletic Association).

The PPS update is considered vital to determine the effect that such development will have on sport and what mitigation is required to offset any loss of provision and cater for any additional demand from resultant population growth. Given this, the PPS update will inform a review of the implications of existing sport, recreation and leisure provision for the delivery of site allocations and other significant developments that come forward. This will lead to a mitigation strategy (also to be undertaken by KKP) that will offer strategic planning advice to the Council and provide an evidence-based report to support the preparation of the Submission Draft version of the Local Plan Review and subsequent consultation.

National Planning Policy Framework

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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 predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public sector cuts.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust, and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the NPPF¹.

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

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.

Planning Policy and other relevant sport related corporate strategies must continue to be based upon a robust evidence base in order to ensure planning and sports development policy can be implemented efficiently and effectively;

1.3: Headline findings

The table overleaf highlights the updated quantitative headline shortfalls for each included sport with Solihull from the preceding Assessment Report update. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

¹<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>

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Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2036) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Solihull ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of seven match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of seven match sessions on adult pitches ◀ Shortfall of 17 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of 5.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches ◀ Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches
	Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of two match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of three match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches ◀ Shortfall of one match session on mini 5v5 pitches
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of eight match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of two match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches
	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions on adult pitches ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of one match equivalent session on youth 9v9 pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 11 match sessions on adult pitches ◀ Shortfall of six match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches ◀ Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches ◀ Shortfall of one match session on mini 5v5 pitches
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	Solihull	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches
	Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of one 3G pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of one 3G pitch

² Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes latent and displaced demand identified.

³ Figures for Solihull as a whole do not equate to a culmination of shortfalls in each analysis area as it also accounts for actual spare capacity of pitch types (which reduces or negates shortfalls).

⁴ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for training.

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2036) ²
	North	◀ Shortfall of four 3G pitches	◀ Shortfall of four 3G pitches
	Rural	◀ Shortfall of four 3G pitches	◀ Shortfall of four 3G pitches
Cricket	Solihull	◀ Shortfall of 71 match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 233 match equivalent sessions
	Central	◀ Shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 48 match equivalent sessions
	North	◀ Shortfall of two match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 42 match equivalent sessions
	Rural	◀ Shortfall of 69 match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 153 match equivalent sessions
Rugby union	Solihull	◀ Shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 16 match equivalent sessions
	Central	◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions
	North	◀ Shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions	◀ Shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent session
	Rural	◀ Shortfall of three match equivalent session	◀ Shortfall of five match equivalent session
Rugby league	Solihull	◀ No current demand	◀ No future demand expected
	Central	◀ No current demand	◀ No future demand expected
	North	◀ No current demand	◀ No future demand expected
	Rural	◀ No current demand	◀ No future demand expected
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Solihull	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	Central	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	North	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	Rural	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
Other grass pitch sports	Solihull	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	Central	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	North	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
	Rural	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met

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Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2036) ²
Tennis	Solihull	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	Central	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	North	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	Rural	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
Athletics	Solihull	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	Central	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	North	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met
	Rural	◀ Current demand is being met	◀ Future demand can be met

Conclusions

The existing position for all pitch sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some pitches and for some areas where demand is currently being met. As such, there is a need to protect all existing playing pitch provision until demand is met; or there is a requirement to replace any lost provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost. This is especially pertinent given the site allocations in the Draft Local Plan Review.

As there is no surplus provision identified, qualitative improvements to mitigate the loss of a playing field will not meet the requirements of planning policy i.e. paragraph 97 of the NPPF and Sport England's Playing Field Policy. In cases where an alternative development leads to the loss of playing field or part of a playing field, a quantitative replacement will be required in addition to qualitative improvements and any replacement provision will need to satisfy Sport England and relevant NGBs.

In the main, the identified shortfalls do not mean that new provision is required. Instead, most shortfalls expressed can be met by improving pitch quality to increase capacity, whilst other options include gaining access to existing unused pitches, such as those located at currently unavailable school sites, pitch re-configuration or the restoration of disused/lapsed pitches (if feasible).

Notwithstanding the above, the creation of new provision may be required in key housing growth areas where there is expected to be a large increase in population. Furthermore, in relation to football, a shortfall of 3G pitches can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, thus reducing overplay, which in turn can aid and sustain pitch quality improvements.

For cricket, new provision in the form of NTPs that can be incorporated onto existing sites will help reduce grass wicket shortfalls without the requirement for entirely new squares. The increase in NTPs should be used to transfer junior cricket from grass wickets.

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From a rugby union perspective, most shortfalls can be alleviated through pitch quality improvements and an increase in floodlit provision, although in isolated cases there may also be a need for an increase in pitch provision. This will be aided if any new 3G pitches can be made World Rugby compliant.

For hockey, it is imperative that the existing AGPs used by clubs are retained. This also applies for tennis and other grass pitch sports; it is considered that demand can be met provided the existing quantity of facilities is sustained albeit there are some specific sites that require quality improvements.

PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

A vision was set out for the original PPS to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Solihull PPS. This remains unaltered. It seeks to support the Council and its partners in the creation of:

'An accessible, high quality and sustainable network of sports facilities that provides and promotes local opportunities for participation by all residents.'

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims - to;

- ◀ Protect all facilities through planning policy.
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- ◀ Ensure that there are sufficient facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer-term demand.

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PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching objectives are based on the three Sport England themes (see figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

AIM 1

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

AIM 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities by working in partnership to improve the quality and management of sites

AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

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 updated relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each playing pitch sport; resulting in sport specific recommendations.

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 246 grass football pitches within Solihull across 89 sites, of which 210 pitches are available for community use across 72 sites.
- ◀ Allocations in the Draft Local Plan Review may affect 10 sites with football provision in addition to Rowood Drive (identified as an Amber site) and Land Rover Sports & Social Club (subject to plant extension).
- ◀ In total, nine pitches are assessed as good quality, 164 as standard quality and 37 as poor quality.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, 6% are serviced by good quality facilities, 74% by standard quality facilities and 20% by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Secure of tenure is an issue at the allocated sites as well as at the Pavilions and Marston Green Football Club.
- ◀ Five clubs play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ Through the audit, 478 teams from within 102 clubs are identified as playing within Solihull consisting of 95 adult men's teams, nine adult women's teams, 204 youth boys' teams, 19 youth girls' teams and 151 mini soccer teams; this is a significant increase since 2016/2017.
- ◀ Three clubs express latent demand amounting to two adult, seven youth and six mini teams.
- ◀ Of the 15 based clubs that quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 17 teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2035) predict a growth of seven senior men's, 15 youth boys' and one youth girls' team.
- ◀ There are 35 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity identified across 24 sites and 50 pitches.
- ◀ There are 27 match equivalent sessions of overplay identified across 14 sites and 22 pitches, most of which occurs on adult pitches.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches.
- ◀ Taking into account future demand, a shortfall is evident on adult, youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 pitches.

Scenarios

Improving overplayed and poor quality pitches

Improving pitch quality on overplayed pitches (i.e. through increased maintenance or drainage improvements) to either standard or good quality will increase capacity and therefore help to accommodate expressed overplay.

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In total there are 29 match equivalent sessions of overplay are identified in Solihull across 14 sites and 22 pitches. Improving quality of such provision (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that all current levels of overplay would be alleviated 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

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁵	Good quality capacity rating ⁶
365	Tanworth Lane Sports Ground	Adult	1	Pool	2.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	2	1
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
238	Chelmsley Wood Squash Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
249	Hampton Sports Club	Adult	1	Good	1	1
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
269	Marston Green Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
293	The Pavilions	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
367	Glades Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2	
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Adult	2	Standard	1	1
250	Heart of England School	Adult	1	Poor	1	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
253	Highgate United Football Club	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
260	Knowle Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	5.5	4.5
273	Meriden Sports Park	Adult	1	Standard	1	

⁵ Match equivalent sessions

⁶ Match equivalent sessions

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁵	Good quality capacity rating ⁶
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	Adult	1	Poor	2	
299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	0.5

As seen, the majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality increased to good. The only exceptions to this are adult pitches at Hampton Sports Club, the Pavilions and Knowle Football Club. Some play at these sites should therefore be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or to an existing or additional 3G pitch. Alternatively, if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration at the sites could be considered.

In addition, there are currently 18.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites will provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from currently overplayed sites as well as latent and future demand. This would result in all shortfalls being overcome.

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 matches. Not only can this alleviate over play of grass pitches but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

Local Football Facility Plan quality improvements

As improving the quality of certain overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. The Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) for Solihull identifies ten existing sites that are considered to be in need of investment and that are key for football for grass pitch improvements.

The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches in Solihull if quality was improved by one increment at each of these sites (i.e. standard to good or poor to standard).

Table 4.2: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved capacity rating
229	Balsall & Berkswell Football Club	Adult	1	Standard		1
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard		2
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		(Mini 7v7)	2	Standard	6.5	10.5
		(Mini 5v5)	1	Standard	3.5	5.5
233	Bluebell Recreation	Adult	3	Standard	5	8

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Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current capacity rating	Improved capacity rating
	Ground	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2	4
		Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	4	6
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	Adult	3	Standard	2	5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard		2
		Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
		Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	3	5
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	3	5
244	Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground	Adult	5	Poor	2.5	7.5
		Mini (7v7)	2	Poor	4	6
367	Glades Football Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	2	
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
		(Mini 7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		(Mini 5v5)	1	Standard		2
250	Heart of England School	Adult	1	Poor	1	
		Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	0.5
255	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	2.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	3
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	3
		(Mini 7v7)	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
282	Silhillians Sports Club	Adult	4	Standard	1	5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	3.5
		(Mini 7v7)	1	Standard	1.5	3.5
		(Mini 5v5)	1	Standard	2	4
293	The Pavilions	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
		(Mini 7v7)	2	Standard	6	10
		(Mini 5v5)	1	Standard	2	4

As seen, existing overplay across the LFFP sites would be eradicated on all but one pitch (at the Pavilions). Moreover, total spare capacity (not actual spare capacity) across the sites would equate to 125 match equivalent sessions compared to 50 match equivalent sessions currently.

Providing security of tenure

Currently, 78 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches throughout Solihull. If such sites were to fall out of use existing shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated and any spare capacity would be removed. This is as evidenced for each pitch type in the table below.

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Table 4.3: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites

Analysis area	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
	Current total	Unsecure usage	Potential total	Latent demand	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	0.5	29	28.5	1.5	2.5	32.5
Youth 11v11	7	15	22	1.5	0.5	24
Youth 9v9	1.5	12	13.5	2	1.5	17
Mini 7v7	6	11	5	1.5	1.5	8
Mini 5v5	2.5	11	8.5	1.5	2.5	12.5

Most unsecured use is based at sites allocated for potential development in the Draft Local Review, with 60 match equivalent sessions played across these and only two being currently unused. This shows the importance of adequately replacing and mitigating any permanent loss of the provision.

Table 4.4: Match equivalent sessions at allocated sites

PPS site ID	PPS site/s affected	Grass football pitches on site	Current usage (match equivalent sessions)
251	Heart of England School (Holly Lane)	One adult; one youth	3.5
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Two adult	9.5
253	Highgate United Football Club	Three adult; one youth; five mini	14.5
281	Shirley Town Football Club	One adult	0.5
299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	Two adult	5.5
260	Knowle Football Club	One adult; one mini	11
226	Arden Academy Trust	Two adult	2
403	Auckland Drive	One youth	-
265	Lugtrout Lane	Three youth; three mini	3
225	Solihull Moors Football Club	One adult	1.5
410	Rowood Drive	Disused	-
292	Land Rover Sports & Social Club	Four adult; two youth	9

A lot of the remaining unsecured use is located at educational 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 longer-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g. by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can seek a community use agreement.

Securing access to currently unavailable sites

By opening up sites currently unavailable for community use, an additional five match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on adult pitches would be created, as well as two

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match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and seven match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches.

For mini football, 54 more match equivalent sessions would be available on mini 7v7 pitches and 31 match equivalent sessions would be available on mini 5v5 pitches.

As with unsecured sites, the majority of sites not currently offering community use are school sites. As accessing all school sites is considered improbable, initial focus should be on schools offering a large number of pitches, such as Alderbrook School and Lyndon School.

Removing unofficial use

Multiple options are being explored in an attempt to reduce unofficial use grass pitches of. This includes:

- ◀ New light weight goals that are put up and taken down before and after each match by the nominated home team.
- ◀ New yellow goal posts that are permanently fixed in areas away from official pitches in an attempt to attract unofficial use.
- ◀ Sacrificial pitches with permanent, fixed goalposts that allow and encourage unofficial use. Such pitches should receive a basic maintenance schedule, with resources instead focused on official pitches.
- ◀ Increased recreational areas, some of which are identified in the LFFP.

By relieving pitches of unofficial use, overplay and therefore shortfalls will reduce. Quality will also be protected, with improvement attempts more likely to be successful. The majority of sites that experience high volumes of unofficial use are open access sites such as parks and recreation grounds. Examples include Castle Bromwich Playing Fields and Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure appropriate mitigation for sites allocated within the Draft Local Football Facility Plan that satisfies the Council, the FA and Sport England.
- ◀ Consider the establishment of hub sites which operate as central venues, including a large number of grass pitches, potentially including 3G provision, that can cater for numerous key clubs.
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes.
- ◀ Consider reconfiguration of existing sites to meet the shortfalls of pitches and specific pitch types.
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Use the LFFP as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use (or to existing or new 3G pitches).
- ◀ Work to accommodate exported, latent and future demand at sites that are not operating at capacity or at sites that are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Provide security of tenure for clubs using unsecure sites through community use agreements.

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- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at well used sites that are currently serviced by poor provision, again using the LFFP as a guide.
- ◀ Explore options to relieve pitches of unofficial use.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, which will usually be the case, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, where possible, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

3G pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are currently four 3G pitches in Solihull that are considered to be full size.
- ◀ In addition, there is one smaller sized pitch (Solihull Football Centre).
- ◀ Two of the full size 3G pitches (Solihull Moors Football Club and John Henry Newman Catholic College) are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant, although proposals at Dickens Heath Sports Hub and Silhillians Sports Club would provide provision.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are available for community use, although access is limited during weekdays due to curricular use.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre has reached the end of its lifespan and should be resurfaced; all remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ The LFFP identifies sites for the creation of five full size 3G pitches and two smaller sized 3G pitches (although this may need updating based on the findings of this update).
- ◀ All full size 3G pitches are reported as operating at or close to capacity at desirable times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ 15 teams currently use 3G pitches for matches.
- ◀ For training purposes, based on the FA model, there is a current shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches based on 478 teams requiring 13 full size pitches in total.
- ◀ When considering future demand for an additional 32 teams, the shortfall of pitches remains as nine.
- ◀ If each team was to remain within their respective analysis area for training, shortfalls equate to one in the Central Analysis Area, four in the North Analysis Area and four in the Rural Analysis Area.
- ◀ With limited spare capacity existing on the current stock and a shortfall of grass pitch provision, there is a clear need for more pitches to be developed in strategically suitable locations.
- ◀ An increase in World Rugby compliant provision may be needed given identified overplay of grass pitches.

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Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 13 full size 3G pitches in Solihull. There are currently four full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of nine pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), the need remains for 13 full size pitches.

If every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, the shortfall of nine full size 3G pitches equates to one in the Central Analysis Area and four in both the North and Rural analysis areas.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA, with 15 teams in Solihull already playing matches on the surface. 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 (including parish and town council pitches) be transferred.

Table 4.5: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	32
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	24
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	5
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	5
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	3
Total			69

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 4.6: 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	32	16	4	6	8
11v11	24	12	8	20	6
9v9	5	2.5	10	25	0.39
7v7	5	2.5	32	320	0.31
5v5	3	1.5	32	464	0.09

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Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 15 (rounded up from 14.79) full size 3G pitches as the requirements for each pitch type needs to be added together (as peak time is the same). This is two pitches more than the requirement for training demand; in practice, creating this number of 3G pitches could be unrealistic from a sustainability perspective. It may therefore be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play such as mini football or youth 9v9 football.

The table below therefore tests a scenario to enable all 5v5 and 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM). This factors in all mini teams playing within Solihull, rather than just those playing on council pitches.

Table 4.7: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
9.30am – 10.30am	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.30am – 11.30am	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.30am – 12.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for 5v5 and 7v7 matches, the overall need is for nine full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 73 teams playing 5v5 football requiring nine pitches (rounded down from 9.1) and 78 teams playing 7v7 football requiring seven pitches (rounded up from 6.5). As such, it is considered that there is a current shortfall of five full size 3G pitches to accommodate all mini football.

The table below tests a similar scenario for 9v9 football. This demand could be accommodated on six full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 5.5), meaning a current shortfall of two full size 3G pitches.

Table 4.6: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches

Time	AGP	Total games/teams
10am – 11:30am	2 x 9v9	2/4
11:30am – 1pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
1pm – 2:30pm	2 x 9v9	2/4
2:30pm – 4pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

It is also worth noting that if all 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday and all mini football was retained on a Sunday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and 9v9 football could be accommodated on nine full size 3G pitches. This would, however, require buy-in from leagues and clubs.

Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

The LFFP for Solihull identifies the following sites for five full size 3G developments:

- ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre
- ◀ Tudor Grange Academy

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- ◀ Arden Academy Trust or Knowle Football Club
- ◀ Dickens Heath Sports Hub x2

The PPS supports all of these developments based on the FA model used above; however, additions are required to alleviate all shortfalls given that demand has increased since the original PPS was produced, and it was this that the LFFP was based on. If all projects in the LFFP are delivered, there will be an outstanding shortfall of three 3G pitches in the North Analysis Area and one 3G pitch in the Rural Analysis Area; demand will be met in the Central Analysis Area.

World Rugby compliant 3G pitches

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22'. This provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The RFU investment strategy for AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education establishments. This is currently on hold as existing facilities and proposals are reviewed.

Silhillians Sports Club has been identified as a preferred site to provide a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the future. This would be used to host training demand from Silhillians RUFC and will also be available to all local community rugby clubs, meaning it will help to reduce some (not all) of the overplay and lack of suitable training facilities for clubs in Solihull.

The early proposal for a sports hub to be created at Dickens Heath as part of the mitigation of the loss of sites allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review included provision of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch for Old Yardelians RUFC and the wider rugby partnership. Whilst this proposal did not fully satisfy the RFU, the inclusion of a suitable 3G pitch should still be pursued in any future plans given the benefits it will have.

Other developments

In addition to the full size pitch projects identified in the LFFP, it also identifies Grace Academy and Smith's Sports College for the development of smaller sized 3G pitches. Whilst these will not necessarily assist in reducing training or match play shortfalls (although both could be accommodated to some degree), they should still be supported due to the impact the developments could have on increasing recreational and casual participation levels. Comparatively, there are a low number of existing smaller sized 3G pitches in Solihull, with only one facility currently in place.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Using the LFFP as a guide, develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls and consider identifying additional sites in the North and Rural analysis areas given increased demand.
- ◀ Consider creation of new 3G pitches as a means to mitigate loss of sites identified in the Draft Local Plan Review.
- ◀ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby demand as well as football demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.

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- ◀ Support the creation of smaller sized 3G pitches, not only to aid with training and match play shortfalls but also to increase recreational and casual participation.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Seek to resurface existing stock of 3G pitches that have exceeded recommended lifespan i.e. at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that all pitches currently on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place.

Cricket pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are 26 grass cricket squares in Solihull across 21 sites, 22 of which are considered to be available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone NTPs located at nine sites.
- ◀ Land Rover Sports and Social Club and Civil Service Sports Ground previously contained grass wicket squares that are now considered disused.
- ◀ Five clubs own their squares, nine clubs lease their squares and five clubs rent their squares (on an annual or seasonal basis).
- ◀ Catherine De Barnes, Dorridge and Marston Green cricket clubs have less than remaining on their lease agreements and therefore have limited security of tenure.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of grass wicket squares found nine community available pitches to be good quality and 13 to be standard quality.
- ◀ Shirley CC rates the quality of its ancillary facilities as poor quality.
- ◀ Eight clubs report demand for practice nets or additional practice nets whilst seven clubs report demand for an NTP to be provided.
- ◀ There are 19 affiliated clubs that generate 66 senior men's, three senior women's and 97 junior teams.
- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by Castle Bromwich, Earlswood, Lapworth and Tanworth & Camp Hill cricket clubs.
- ◀ A total of ten clubs express future demand equating to an increase of five senior men's, one senior women's and 17 junior teams, whilst team generation rates predict a growth two senior men's, nine junior boys' and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ There are high levels of South Asian league demand from leagues such as the LL Cricket League.
- ◀ There is no Last Man Stands franchise in Solihull although scope exists for one to be created.
- ◀ There are 11 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets totalling 171 match equivalent sessions per season across the same number of sites.
- ◀ Despite 11 sites showing potential spare capacity, only two are available for further use on a Saturday totalling one square and only six are available for further use on a Sunday totalling five squares.
- ◀ Eight squares are overplayed by 101 match equivalent sessions combined.
- ◀ As junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play midweek on a variety of days, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches (and midweek senior cricket) both now and in the future.

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- ◀ For Saturday cricket, there is an overall shortfall of provision both currently and in the future.
- ◀ For Sunday cricket, there is a minimal shortfall currently, which is exacerbated when factoring in future demand.
- ◀ For Sunday cricket, there is overall spare capacity currently but a future shortfall.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g. Blossomfield Sports Club), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Most overplayed squares in Solihull are without an accompanying NTP. Therefore, the solution to alleviate excessive usage is to install NTPs *in suit* at the sites as this will allow for the transfer of junior demand away from the grass wickets. This could be done at the following sites:

- ◀ Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)
- ◀ Dickens Heath Sports Club
- ◀ Earlswood Cricket Club
- ◀ The John Woolman Ground
- ◀ Berskwell & Balsall Common Sports Association
- ◀ Woodbourne Sports Club

Alternatively, if the above is not feasible, demand should be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, or to sites with a standalone NTP such as currently unavailable school sites.

The only overplayed site with an existing NTP is Moseley Cricket Club. Greater usage of the NTP should be encouraged, or, again, the transfer of demand to alternative sites should be explored.

Increasing stock of NTPs

Due to increasing financial constraints placed on local authorities, it is considered that grass wicket squares on council managed sites is becoming unsustainable. One way to combat this is to increase the provision of standalone NTPs on such sites. This will require less maintenance and also provides opportunities to the local community, especially in relation to South Asian league based demand.

The ECB has created a local authority NTP scheme aiming to create a substantial number of new cricket pitches in areas of need and to facilitate a partnership approach between local authorities and county cricket boards. It is expected that the primary source of identified strategic need will be an up-to-date PPS. The scheme will offer capital grants towards the cost of construction of NTPs, periodic maintenance for a period of five years and equipment to engage new participants.

The scheme has been piloted in Bristol and Sheffield, with budgets allowing for more local authorities to be awarded funding into 2017 and beyond.

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The estimated lifespan of an NTP is considered to be around ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance. A sinking fund should therefore be put into place to ensure a replacement wicket can be installed when it is required.

Accommodating future demand

It is considered that all clubs expressing future demand for an increase in junior teams can do so on the current facility stock. This can either be done through maximising usage of grass wickets with spare capacity, on NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares, or via standalone NTPs that exist at school sites.

In contrast, Berkswell, Dorridge, Woodbourne and Hampton & Solihull cricket clubs are unable to accommodate expressed future demand for senior cricket at their current sites, either due to a lack of overall spare capacity or due to no actual spare capacity existing on a Saturday or a Sunday. As such, for growth plans to be realised, demand will need to be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or new provision will be required.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◀ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Ensure South Asian league based demand has access to enough provision and explore potential sites that are suitable to host an LMS franchise.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Catherine De Barnes, Dorridge and Marston Green cricket clubs
- ◀ Improve the changing facilities servicing Shirley CC.
- ◀ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities including indoor provision.
- ◀ Explore increase of NTPs on council managed sites to relieve financial pressures on maintenance.
- ◀ Address overplay via the transfer of play to sites with actual spare capacity or through an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets.
- ◀ Ensure Berkswell, Dorridge, Woodbourne and Hampton & Solihull cricket clubs can realise future growth plans through access to alternative sites or through new provision.

Rugby union - grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are 17 sites containing 33 senior, five junior and 14 mini rugby pitches, of which, 26 senior, two junior and six mini pitches are available to the community.
- ◀ The creation of a sports hub at Dickens Heath may involve the re-location of Old Yardleians RUFC with its current site allocated for development, whilst another development may impact on disused rugby pitches at Sharman's Cross.
- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service RUFC is considered to have unsecure tenure as it has been served notice to leave Land Rover Sports & Social Club; Old Yardleians RUFC also has unsecure tenure due to development proposals.
- ◀ Of community available pitches, six are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard and seven as poor.

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- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service, Camp Hill and Edwardian rugby clubs all report ancillary facility issues.
- ◀ There are six rugby union clubs consisting of 15 senior, 23 junior and 30 mini teams.
- ◀ In addition, Berkswell & Balsall RUFC is designated to Solihull but is currently based in Warwick where it accesses its own site that contains three senior pitches.
- ◀ Edwardian, Silhillians, Old Yardleians and Birmingham Exiles rugby clubs train on match pitches through the use of floodlighting, as does Camp Hill RUFC but on a junior pitch rather than a senior pitch.
- ◀ Silhillians RUFC has been earmarked by the RFU as a potential venue for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ All six clubs express future demand amounting to six senior and five junior teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates predict a growth of three junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Despite six senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only two are considered available for further play during the peak period equating to one match equivalent session.
- ◀ There are six pitches overplayed across five sites by a combined 11.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 10.5 match equivalent sessions identified on senior pitches to meet current demand and this shortfall worsens to 16 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Installing drainage systems at sites would improve pitch quality and therefore increase the carrying capacity of pitches. Improving drainage at all sites used by clubs to good quality (D3 – pipe and slit drained) would result in a further 16 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity on senior pitches, three on junior pitches and six on mini pitches. This would fully alleviate overplay at Shirley Park as well as reducing overplay at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club, Camp Hill Rugby Club and Silhillians Sports Club albeit not fully.

Improving maintenance at all sites used by clubs to good (M2) would result in a further 11.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity on senior pitches, two on junior pitches and five on mini pitches. This would also fully alleviate overplay at Shirley Park as well as reducing overplay at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Old Yardleians Rugby Club and Old Edwardians Sports Club albeit not fully.

For maintenance to be considered good, as per RFU guidance, a pitch should undergo regularly grass cutting, seeding, weed killing, chain harrowing, sand-dressing, aeration and fertilisation. Enhancing the equipment available to clubs will help achieve this.

Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)

Overplay at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, Old Edwardians Sports Club, Camp Hill Rugby Club, Old Yardleians Rugby Club and Silhillians Sports Club is unlikely to be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements. As all five sites are predominately overplayed because of training demand, an increase in the number of floodlit pitches and/or areas available is required (as well as quality improvements). This will allow training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches/areas and can be achieved either via provision of dedicated, permanent floodlighting or through the use of portable floodlights.

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If additional floodlighting cannot be provided, clubs will require access to an increased number of pitches or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to alleviate expressed overplay. The latter is proposed at Silhillians Sports Club meaning the overplay of its grass pitches would be alleviated if it comes to fruition. This could also assist with overplay at other clubs if the provision can be accessed by them.

A World Rugby compliant pitch has also been proposed at the creation of Dickens Heath Sports Hub as part of the mitigation of numerous sites allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review, including Old Yardleians Rugby Club.

Mitigating Old Yardleians Rugby Club

Old Yardleians RUFC currently has access to four standard quality senior pitches, two of which are overplayed (by 2.5 match equivalent sessions, combined) whilst the remaining two are played to capacity. If four good quality pitches (M2/D3) were created to offset the loss, all overplay could feasibly be alleviated as capacity would equate to 14 match equivalent sessions, with only 10.5 match equivalent sessions currently required. However, this would require at least two of the pitches being floodlit so that training demand (which equates to four match equivalent sessions) was not concentrated on one pitch.

If a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch was provided, all training demand could take place on the provision. With only four match equivalent sessions being required for matches, this could be concentrated on two grass pitches albeit a third may be required to accommodate any growth as well as to enable rotation of pitches to sustain quality.

Loss of Land Rover Sports & Social Club

The proposed extension of the plant at Land Rover Sports & Social Club has resulted in Birmingham Civil Service RUFC being asked to vacate the site. There are currently no club sites in the locality that could accommodate the demand without overplay being exacerbated, with only unused school sites providing any options. Shirley Park offers potential as an alternative, if quality was to be improved.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Explore community use aspects at currently unused educational sites to fully determine availability and, as a minimum, protect the pitches for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Edwardian and Silhillians rugby clubs by providing lease arrangements with a minimum term of at least 25 years.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating to Camp Hill and Edwardian rugby clubs.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches that are not a result of training demand.
- ◀ Increase the floodlit provision available to clubs so that training demand can be spread across numerous pitches/areas.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore options to provide the clubs with access to a greater number of grass pitches or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Ensure any relocation of Old Yardleians RUFC provides at least like for like replacement of existing facilities, security of tenure and that the RFU and the Club are

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consulted on and supportive of any potential scheme; consider the development as a means to resolve its current overplay issues.

- ◀ Secure access to alternative provision for Birmingham Civil Service RUFC and ensure mitigation of any loss of provision at Land Rover Sports & Social Club.
- ◀ Ensure Birmingham Exiles RUFC is not directly impacted upon by Jaguar Land Rover proposals nearby to its site.
- ◀ Ensure Berkswell & Balsall RUFC remains catered for outside of Solihull and support the Club should it ever want to return to the area.

Rugby league pitches

Summary

- ◀ Following the merger of South Birmingham Hawks RLFC and Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC, there are no rugby league pitches provided in Solihull and no demand for access to provision.
- ◀ The Club continues to cater for some Solihull residents.
- ◀ The merged club has aspirations to grow in the future so, although not required at this time, ensuring demand could be met should a pitch be needed is encouraged.

Scenarios

The merger between Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC

The merger of Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC means that provision in Solihull is no longer required. Nevertheless, rugby league access to adequate facilities should remain an option in the event of demand returning in the future. If the merged club grew, a pitch in Solihull may become a necessity.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure Solihull based demand can be accommodated by the merged club.
- ◀ Ensure a venue within Solihull remains suitable should demand return in the future.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ There are currently eight hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull, all of which are floodlit, with seven available to the community.
- ◀ There are also four smaller sized AGPs, which, although not big enough to accommodate matches, can be used for training demand.
- ◀ A full size AGP at North Solihull Sports Centre and the smaller sized pitches at Grace Academy and Smith's Wood Sports College are identified in the Solihull LFFP for potential 3G conversion.
- ◀ Of the full size AGPs, one is assessed as good quality, four as standard quality and three as poor quality (Lode Heath School, St Martin's School and North Solihull Sports Centre).
- ◀ There are four affiliated clubs in Solihull consisting of 23 senior men's, 16 senior women's and 18 junior teams.
- ◀ Participation has increased at both senior and junior level since the original PPS was concluded in 2017.

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- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by Berkswell & Balsall Common HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC.
- ◀ Birmingham Wasps HC previously imported demand into Solihull from Birmingham; however, the Club folded following the 2017/2018 season.
- ◀ Old Silhillians HC expresses latent demand in that it could increase their number of teams if more pitches were available.
- ◀ Old Silhillians HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC both express future demand equating to three senior men's, two senior women's and four junior teams.
- ◀ Five of the full size AGPs are in current use by hockey clubs and all are at or close to capacity, in part due to additional football demand.
- ◀ Calculations suggest that there is a need for at least five full size, floodlit hockey suitable AGPs for match play purposes, suggesting the supply is sufficient to meet demand.
- ◀ There is a need for increased access to pitches for training purposes, with all four clubs facing existing capacity issues; an increase in 3G provision may alleviate this as it will enable the transfer of football demand from sand-based pitches.
- ◀ The key issues are to protect or mitigate the five AGPs currently in use by hockey clubs and to find a solution to accommodate remaining expressed exported, latent and future demand.

Scenarios

Accommodating future, latent and exported demand

The priority should be to protect or mitigate the five pitches currently in use by hockey clubs. These are:

- ◀ Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club
- ◀ Lode Heath School
- ◀ Old Silhillians Sports Club
- ◀ Saint Martin's School
- ◀ West Warwickshire Sports Club

Most clubs are facing capacity issues at the sites; however, this does not necessarily mean an increase in AGPs is required. Instead, an increase in 3G pitches may provide a resolution as more football teams will be able to transfer their training away from the sand-based pitches.

Another potential solution is to better utilise the stock of smaller sized AGPs given that all four are over 50% the size of a full size pitch. If logistically possible, these could provide adequate secondary training venues for all of the clubs.

Options should also be explored in relation to Solihull School and its two full size AGPs. Whilst community use is currently offered on one of the pitches, it is limited and is not available for weekend matches. An opportunity to increase access could present itself as the School and its management is merging with Saint Martin's School. As a minimum, the pitches should also be protected given the importance of curricular hockey at the site.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

North Solihull Sports Centre is under proposal to be converted to 3G. As the site is not currently used for club hockey, this development should be supported. No other existing

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full size sand-based pitches should be considered for 3G conversion given current hockey demand.

In addition, the LFFP also identifies Grace Academy and Smith's Sports College for the development of smaller sized 3G pitches. As with North Solihull Sports Centre, both would involve the conversion of existing sand-based facilities. If no clubs require future access for training purposes, as mentioned above, support should again be provided for the developments.

Recommendations

- ◀ As a minimum, protect or mitigate the five pitches currently in use by hockey clubs as well as the two pitches at Solihull School.
- ◀ Encourage providers have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Resurface the AGPs that have reached the end of their lifespan and protect those in current use by hockey clubs as a hockey suitable surface.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs, particularly those using education sites, through community use agreements.
- ◀ Explore greater community access at Solihull School and identify potential club users.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand when and if a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.

Other grass pitch sports

Summary

Baseball

- ◀ Birmingham Bandits is the only community baseball club in Solihull.
- ◀ The Club fields two senior teams.
- ◀ It operates from Martson Green Recreation Ground where there is a purpose-built diamond on site which is of good quality.

Gaelic football

- ◀ There are two GAA clubs in Solihull; John Mitchel's GAA and St Brendan's GAA.
- ◀ Both field a senior men's team and numerous junior boys' teams, whilst John Mitchel's GAA also provides teams for female participants.
- ◀ Solihull is also home to Páirc na hÉireann, which is deemed to be the principal Gaelic sports facility in the West Midlands.
- ◀ The future of Páirc na hÉireann could be in doubt due to the creation of a new dual carriage way as part of the M42 J6 development.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure demand continues to be met.
- ◀ Ensure appropriate mitigation should Páirc na hÉireann be permanently lost.
- ◀ Sustain quality and seek improvements, where possible.

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Tennis

Summary

- ◀ A total of 137 tennis courts are identified across 26 sites, with 97 courts available for community use across 20 sites.
- ◀ In addition to outdoor courts, indoor courts are also provided at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ Sharman's Cross, the home of Solihull Arden TC, has been allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review; however, it is recognised that any development would need to retain or relocate the Club and its facilities.
- ◀ The majority of courts are managed by clubs, in part due to the large number of clubs serviced and due to club sites generally providing more courts than council, school and private sites.
- ◀ In addition to macadam courts, there are 49 artificial turf and four clay courts.
- ◀ There are 55 courts serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparatively high number compared to most other local authorities.
- ◀ Of courts that are available for community use, 67 are assessed as good quality, 14 are assessed as standard quality and 16 are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are eight clubs identified, the majority of which field teams in the Birmingham Area Tennis League, the Metropolitan Summer League the Spring Tennis League and the Warwickshire Tennis League.
- ◀ The Solihull Parks Tennis League also caters for demand albeit individuals enter rather than clubs/teams.
- ◀ The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members; any club that is exceeding such membership figures may require access to additional courts or additional floodlighting.
- ◀ As non-club courts are considered to have spare capacity, emphasis should be on growing the recreational game.

Scenarios

Recommended capacity

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. Any club that is exceeding such membership figures may therefore require access to additional courts or additional floodlighting.

Informal tennis

The LTA has recently set up an initiative to change the way in which people access council courts. Instead of providing free access, some local authorities are now securing their courts as per a membership scheme that allows members access through the use of an access control system following payment of an hourly court hire or annual subscription. The LTA is working in partnership with ClubSpark and CIA Fire and Security to provide this, allowing courts to be booked and paid for online. A unique access code is then generated that the user enters at the court gate on a keypad to access the courts.

This is a major improvement to the customer journey and provides clear revenue to reinvest into the courts. It also allows official use of courts to be tracked, thus providing

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data on how often courts are being accessed and by who to build a customer database. Nevertheless, some investment may be required to bring courts up to standard and install the access technology before the initiative can be rolled out.

ClubSpark is also utilised in Solihull at Bentley Heath, Elmdon Knowle, Malvern and Shirley parks. Should this be successful, other venues providing multiple courts should be considered. Possibilities include Castle Bromwich Playing Field and Meriden Park.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of tennis courts, particularly those used by clubs and leagues.
- ◀ Review quality issues relating to poor quality courts and seek improvements, where possible.
- ◀ Review membership details at club sites and support those that are operating above capacity.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at council sites to improve the casual tennis offer.
- ◀ Monitor success of the ClubSpark scheme and seek to expand the offer if it is well-received.

Athletics

Summary

- ◀ There are two synthetic athletic tracks in Solihull, situated at North Solihull Sports Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The athletics track situated at North Solihull Sports Centre is poor quality whilst the track at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is good quality.
- ◀ There is one athletics club in Solihull; Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club, which caters for 582 members.
- ◀ In addition, there is a Park Run event as well as various running groups.
- ◀ Priority should be focused on ensuring the quality at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is sustained and the synthetic track improved when opportunities are available too.
- ◀ North Solihull Centre is not considered to be sustainable through England Athletics guidance and the space could therefore be better utilised to accommodate other sporting provision.
- ◀ Precedence should also be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the Park Run event as well as supporting the various running clubs.

Scenarios

N/A

Recommendations

- ◀ Retain Tudor Grange Leisure Centre for continued athletics use.
- ◀ Sustain quality at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre through appropriate maintenance and explore opportunities to relay the track when appropriate.
- ◀ Consider alternative sporting options to replace the track at North Solihull Sports Centre as it is not considered to be sustainable through England Athletics guidance.
- ◀ Sustain and increase the popularity of the Park Run event.
- ◀ Explore future options in relation to Run Together groups and 3-2-1 routes given that none are currently in place.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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

AIM 1

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

Recommendations:

- a. Protect, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, playing pitches through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Assist in securing tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of pitches especially at education facilities where needed.

Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used playing field 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 96 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.

With numerous playing pitch sites allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review, the above means that any permanent loss must be mitigated appropriately given the findings of the PPS. Whilst this document provides details as to which sites are affected and how mitigation could be achieved, the Mitigation Strategy that has been commissioned will identify specifically what provision is required, what quality improvements could take place as well as identifying where mitigated facilities could be located.

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The protection of facilities does not solely relate to council facilities but also those managed by schools, clubs and the private and commercial sector. In simple terms, all playing pitches are treated the same way, regardless of ownership/management. This means that facilities such as those at Land Rover Sports & Social Club should be mitigated in the same way as council facilities should they be permanently lost.

Should playing pitches be taken out of use for any reason not related to development (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 playing pitches should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, most demand is currently being met and most shortfalls are likely to 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 and NTPs where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

New housing development - where proposed housing development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvements to existing pitches in that area in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. The PPS should be used to help determine what impact the new development will have on the demand for, and capacity of, existing sites, and whether improvement to increase capacity or new provision is required.

The PPS should be used to help inform Development Management decisions that affect existing or new playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. All applications are assessed by the Local Planning Authority on a case by case basis taking into account site specific factors. In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications that affect or prejudice the use of playing field and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.

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

Policy Exception E1:

'A 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 that 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.

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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.

It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger better quality sites (Hub Sites) to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). It is imperative, however, that there is no net loss of pitches and that any replacement provision is made available before existing provision is lost.

HS2 – Where playing pitches are projected to be lost through the creation of HS2 train lines, replacement provision of an equal or greater quantity and quality should be provided in a suitable location unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS).

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

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in Solihull for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure, however, use is not necessarily formalised and relevant organisations should, thus, seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use, such as Grace Academy and Arden Academy Trust.

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

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

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

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Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)⁷. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding and this currently applies to Catherine De Barnes, Dorridge and Marston Green cricket clubs as well as Birmingham Civil Service, Edwardian, Silhillians and Old Yardleians rugby clubs.

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

Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of sport sites to clubs/organisations

Club	Site
<p>Clubs should have Clubmark/FA Charter Standard accreditation award.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy for both players and volunteers.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Club Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a Borough wide significance) but that offer development potential.</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:

⁷ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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- ◀ 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

The Council should adopt a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to take ownership of facilities and it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building.

The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process:

http://archive.sportengland.org/support_advice/asset_transfer.aspx

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

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In Solihull, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school pitch stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. An example of this is Solihull School, which has a vast stock of playing pitches that are generally not community accessible.

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

All secondary schools in Solihull, with exception of St Peter's School, are academies. The curriculum is therefore paramount in relation to their obligations and duties. Such schools are also likely to be more sensitive about liabilities. They are therefore less likely to compromise pitch standards for their own pupils or sustain operational costs that are not covered by hire charges.

Although there is a growing number of academies over which the Council has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver the strategy and

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communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision, particularly for football pitches.

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

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

Community Use: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/accessing-schools/>

Use Our Schools Toolkit: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/>

AIM 2

To **enhance** playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities by working in partnership to improve the quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

- d. Maintain the quality of existing pitches and improve 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 or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Recommendation (d) – Improve quality

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, installing drainage systems and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of local authorities 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).

With such pressures on budgets, however, any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should therefore be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1 or through other means such as reducing unofficial use, addressing overplay and/or creating equipment banks for the pooling of maintenance resources.

Addressing quality issues

Quality in Solihull is variable but generally pitches are assessed as standard quality, with more poor quality pitches in existence than good quality pitches. The only exception to this comes in relation to cricket squares, which are mostly assessed as good 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 pitches is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on pitch quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the pitches tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that pitch 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 playing pitches 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 pitches 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 with, for example, good grass cover, even surfaces, that are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

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

Poor quality refers to pitches 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 (too small) changing rooms, no showers, no running water and 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 the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same applies to women's and girls' demand.

In Solihull, all changing facilities accompanying council sites have been closed due to financial constraints. There are no reports of this having an adverse effect on users.

To prioritise investment into key sites it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to Solihull, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings. For football, the LFFP should be used as a guide to steer investment.

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces: www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/

Addressing overplay

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

The FA, the RFU, the RFL, the ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that a good quality pitch should take, 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.

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Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union ⁸	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Rugby league	Senior pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	60 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	Four matches per day	N/A

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members.

For athletics, no maximum capacity is identified; instead, 200 members are considered to be required to ensure a facility is sustainable.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Play should therefore be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to artificial 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 NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares. Dickens Heath Sports Club, Earlswood Cricket Club, the John Woolman Ground, Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association and Woodbourne Sports Club are amongst sites currently without an NTP and are overplayed.

⁸ The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

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For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the majority of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative. Old Edwardians Sports Club, Camp Hill Rugby Club, Old Yardleians Rugby Club and Silhillians Sports Club would particularly benefit from this.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular; which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality pitches if not properly maintained.

Increasing maintenance

Standard or poor grass pitch quality may not just be a result of unofficial use, overplay or poor drainage. In some instances ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase 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 Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and therefore the quality of pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces.

The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves manage and maintain but can also be used to advise council-maintained sites. In addition, PIP also aims to focus on developing an improved maintenance programme with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites. A number of PIP have recently taken place across Solihull.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaN TIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the IOG. 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 IOG.

At local authority sites in Solihull, maintenance of grass pitches is deemed to be minimal due to budget constraints. As such, if budget restrictions allow, additional work on council pitches should be carried out. This could include sand dressing, weed-killing and/or fertilising pitches (none of which currently takes place) and an improvement in post-season remedial work is also recommended. The Council should work with users and the relevant NGBs (as it has done recently with the FA) to achieve this and to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site-by-site basis.

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

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

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

Partners should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and accompanying ancillary facilities.

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

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

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

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

Recommendation (g) – Secure developer contributions or CIL

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

As previously stated, where such development is located within access of a high quality playing pitch, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further pitch provision or improvement to existing pitches in the locality in order to accommodate additional demand arising from that development. 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 or if new provision is required.

The Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. Please contact Sport England for access to the calculator: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/use-our-school/contact-us/>

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The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator uses team generation rates from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

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

- ◀ Most new developments which create net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or create a new dwelling, are potentially liable for CIL.
- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 Agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

The Solihull Draft Local Plan Review states that it will allocate sufficient land for 15,765 dwellings for the period 2018-2035. This includes proposed additional allocations (6,310 dwellings), the UK Central Hub (2,500 dwellings), remaining Local Plan allocations (1,236 dwellings), existing planning permissions and windfall sites.

Using Sport England's New Development Calculator, it is possible to predict the likely demand generated for playing pitches from proposed housing growth, again using current participation levels and team generation rates. This can be used for overall housing growth and for housing growth on a site-by-site or area-by-area basis (see Part 7).

With numerous existing playing pitch sites allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review, developer contributions will also be required to mitigate the loss of provision.

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AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches where there is current or future demand to do so

Recommendations:

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

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

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own playing pitches whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, 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 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 and NTPs where there is a discrete need, or where there is significant housing growth.

Notwithstanding the above, there remains an isolated need to reconfigure pitches at certain sites, in particular in relation to the lack of dedicated youth 11v11 football pitches.

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

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

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

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

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Whilst transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity is possible in relation to clubs using council facilities, it can be difficult when sites are owned or managed by clubs. There is often a reluctance for such clubs using an overplayed pitch to hire a secondary venue from another club and vice versa, clubs that use a pitch with spare capacity can be reluctant to allow for use from another club. This can be due to multiple factors such as hire costs, operational costs, increased maintenance required and rivalry. As such, any spare capacity identified at a club operated site can commonly only be considered as spare capacity for utilisation by that club, rather than the wider community.

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

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. Main development trends in each sport should be monitored as this could leave to additional future above and beyond what is predicted within the PPS. An example is found with women's and girls' participation, with most NGBs targeting this format of play for growth. Another example is the ongoing Rugby Union World Cup, with any national success likely to lead to more interest in the sport. and their likely impact on facilities; however, it is important to note that these may be subject to change and are not necessarily area specific.

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PART 6: ACTION PLAN

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

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

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a Borough-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action has the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport by sport basis or across the Council area as a whole.

Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the Borough. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates one or more pitches.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority/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.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.

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Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	No changing room access on site or appropriate access to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).

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

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

Additionally, it is considered that some financial investment will be necessary to improve the ancillary facilities at both hub sites and key 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 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 is it anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision. The Action Plan identifies some sites that may be considered suitable for clubs to lease and sites that are already of an interest to existing clubs. Other potential sites should be identified by the Council and the steering group.

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.

Management and development

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

- ◀ Financial viability.
- ◀ Security of tenure.
- ◀ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ◀ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ◀ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.

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- ◀ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities.
- ◀ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ◀ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ◀ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private Hub sites.
- ◀ Football investment programme/3G pitches development (linked to the LFFP) with the FA.

Partners

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

The Council is considered to be a partner within each action so is therefore not referenced.

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/>

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:

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

Aim

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

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Central Analysis Area

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
224	Alderbrook School	B91 1SN	Football	School	One adult, one youth 9v9 and three mini 5v5 pitches which are all assessed as standard quality. All pitches are unavailable for community use as the School wishes to protect quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained through an appropriate maintenance regime.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.			S	L	L
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M1/D0) senior rugby union pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to improve pitch quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L	L
			Tennis		Five non-floodlit poor quality macadam courts.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L	M
225	Alternated Technology Group Stadium (Solihull Moors Football Club)	B91 2PP	Football	Club	A good quality stadia adult pitch which is played to capacity at peak time. Used for Step 1 football. Adjacent land is subject to proposed development.	Ensure that quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L	L
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid and support its capacity increase aspirations.			L	L	H
						Ensure the Club is not directly impacted upon by nearby development.			M	H	M
			3G	A new full size 3G pitch with floodlighting. Good quality.	Ensure quality is sustained, with a sinking fund in place.	FA Club	L		M	L	
					Seek to maximise usage for both training demand and match play.		L		M	L	
					Ensure FA testing takes place every three years so that it can continue to be used for match play.		M		M	L	
230	Barn Lane Recreation Ground	B92 7ND	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that are currently unused by the community.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
									Explore lack of existing demand and utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	S	M
240	Colebrook Recreation Ground	B90 1AF	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that has no identified current use and therefore provides one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance and explore lack of current demand.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
									Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand; or consider rationalisation to create bigger, better quality hub sites.	S	L

⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁰ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
244	Elmdon Heath Recreation Ground	B91 2RD	Football	Council	Five adult and two mini 7v7 pitches assessed as poor quality. Actual spare capacity has been discounted due to quality issues on both pitch types.	Improve pitch quality as per LFFP recommendations and seek to utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.	FA	Key centre	S	H	M
245	Elmdon Park	B92 9EY	Football	Council	An adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L	L
			Tennis		Two non-floodlit poor quality macadam courts.	Assess demand and resurface courts to improve quality if necessary.	LTA		S	L	L
						Consider implementation of Clubspark scheme.			S	L	L
246	Eversfield Preparatory School	B91 1AT	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	ECB School		L	L	L
254	Hillfield Park	B91 3LU	Football	Council	Three adult pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	M	L
262	Langley School	B92 7ER	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch both of standard quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use options given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L
263	Light Hall School	B90 2PZ	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches with minimal actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Provide club users with community use agreements to improve security of tenure.	FA School	Key centre	L	L	L
									S	M	L
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	ECB School		L	L	L
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized (85 x 55 metres) sand based AGP that is floodlit and available for community use. Not currently used for hockey.	Explore opportunities to use the pitch for hockey club training given its large size. Encourage provider to put a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.	FA EH School		S	L	L
264	Lode Heath School	B91 2HW	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Ensure the quality of the pitch is sustained through appropriate maintenance. Ensure no further play without pitch quality improvements. Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.	FA School	Key centre	L	M	L
									L	M	L
									S	M	L
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	ECB School		L	L	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
			Rugby union		A poor quality senior pitch (M1/D0) that is available to the community but unused.	Improve pitch quality through drainage improvements to better cater for curricular activity.	RFU School		S	L	L
			Sand AGP		A standard quality full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Solihull Blossomfield HC. Last resurfaced in 2005.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School		L	H	L
						Seek imminent resurfacing to avoid further quality deterioration.			S	H	M
						Encourage a sinking fund to be put into place.			L	M	L
Provide security of tenure through a community use agreement.	S	H	M								
266	Lyndon Playing Field	B92 7PW	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with three match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	M	L
						Reconfigure some of the pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	M	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	M	L
267	Lyndon School	B92 8EJ	Football	School	Two adult, one youth 9v9 and four mini 7v7 pitches all of standard quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	M	L
268	Malvern Park	B91 3DW	Tennis	Council	Four non-floodlit poor quality macadam tennis courts.	Assess demand and, if required, resurface courts to improve overall quality.	LTA	Local site	S	M	M
						Explore implementation of Clubspark scheme.			S	M	L
276	Olton Jubilee Park	B92 8QJ	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is available for community use but currently unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore lack of current demand.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand; or consider rationalisation of provision to provide bigger, better quality hub sites.			S	L	L
277	Palmer's Rough Recreation Ground	B90 3LH	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			L	L	L
279	Saint Martin's School	B91 3EN	Sand AGP	School	A full size standard quality, floodlit, sand-based AGP that is used by Solihull Blossomfield HC. Last resurfaced in 2010. Management merging with Solihull School.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface, with resurfacing required in the near future.	EH School	Local site	M	H	M
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.			L	H	L
						Provide security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	H	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
280	Shirley Park	B90 2DH	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality and utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch and a poor quality (M1/D0) junior pitch that are used by Camp Hill RUFC. The senior pitch is played to capacity whilst the junior pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	Improve pitch quality in correlation with improved maintenance regime at Camp Hill Rugby Club to alleviate overplay.	RFU Club		S	M	L
						Explore possibilities of providing floodlighting on the sites main pitch to accommodate training demand from Camp Hill RUFC as this will alleviate overplay at Camp Hill Rugby Club.			S	M	M
						Explore future usage by Birmingham Civil Service RUFC given its issues at Land Rover Sports & Social Club.			M	M	L
			Tennis		Four standard quality non-floodlit macadam tennis courts. Clubspark.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and monitor usage.	LTA		L	M	L
286	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Football	Community	One poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality grass cricket square with 16 grass wickets. Played to capacity at peak time.	Ensure that the quality of the cricket square is sustained through appropriate maintenance and seek improvements where possible.	ECB		L	L	L
287	Solihull School	B91 3DJ	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 9v9 and two good quality mini 7v7 pitches that are all unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	School FA	Key centre	L	L	L
						Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.				S	L
			Cricket	Four good quality grass squares that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	School ECB	L		L	L	
					Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.				S	L	L
			Rugby union	Four senior pitches, three junior pitches and three mini pitches which are all standard quality (M1/D1). None of the pitches are available for community use, but they do receive a large amount of curricular use.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	School RFU	L		L	L	
					Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.				S	L	L
			Sand AGP	Two full size sand-based AGPs; one good quality and one standard quality. One is available for community use; however, not during weekends. The other is unavailable due to high levels of curricular and extra-curricular demand. Not currently used by hockey clubs.	Protect both pitches for continued hockey use.	School EH	S		M	L	
					Explore greater community usage and explore potential club demand.				S	M	L
					Ensure security of tenure is provided to users via community use agreements.				S	M	L
					Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.				M	M	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰	
			Tennis		Eight artificial turf courts marked on the AGP in addition to four macadam courts. Courts are not available for community use.	Improve quality of the courts when the AGP is resurfaced and retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	LTA School		S	L	M	
288	Solihull Sixth Form College	B91 3WR	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches which are not available for community use due to quality issues.	Seek to improve pitch quality and explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L	L	
			Cricket		A poor quality standalone NTP that is unavailable for community use.	Explore options to improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	ECB School		S	L	L	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches which are unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Four good quality non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA School		L	L	L	
290	St Peters Catholic School	B91 3NZ	Football	School	Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are standard quality. Site is available for community use but is not used.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Further explore community use options and seek to attract demand.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Seek to improve quality via drainage improvements for curricular and extra-curricular activity. Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		S	L	L	
										L	L	L
292	Land Rover Sports and Social Club	B92 2LN	Football	Commercial	Four adult, one youth 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. All pitch types are played to capacity at peak time. Adult pitch is used for Step 6 football. Subject to potential development as the adjacent plant requires expansion.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost.	FA	Key centre	S	H	H	
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch that is utilised by Birmingham Civil Service RUFC. The pitch has minimal spare capacity but this has been discounted due to quality. Subject to potential development as the adjacent plant requires expansion; the Club has been served with notice to vacate the site.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost. Seek to provide Birmingham Civil Service RUFC with access to alternative provision.	RFU		S	H	H	
										S	H	L
294	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Cricket	Council	One good quality square with 11 grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity at peak time and used by Hampton & Solihull CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Explore opportunities to improve training provision in line with club aspirations.	ECB	Local site	L	M	L	
										S	M	L
			Tennis		Six good quality floodlit artificial turf courts that are used by Solihull Tennis Club.	Ensure that the quality of the courts is sustained for use by the Club.	LTA		L	M	L	

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
295	Tudor Grange Academy	B91 3PD	Football	School	One adult and three mini 7v7 pitches which are all poor quality. Pitches are available for community use but are unused.	Improve pitch quality aligned to 3G development and explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	M	L
			3G		Identified as a potential site for a full size 3G pitch in the LFFP.	Support development of a full size 3G pitch given local shortfalls.	FA School		S	H	H
			Cricket		A standard quality square with eight grass wickets and one NTP. Used by Olton & West Warwickshire CC.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	ECB School		L	L	L
						Ensure security of tenure for Olton & West Warwickshire CC via a community use agreement.			S	L	L
			Rugby union		A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School		L	L	L
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			L	L	L
Tennis	Four standard quality non-floodlit macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	L	L	L					
296	Tudor Grange Leisure Centre	B91 1NB	Football	Commercial	One standard quality adult pitch with minimal actual spare capacity. Used by AFC Solihull, which plays one level below the football pyramid.	Retain spare capacity to protect and work with the Club to achieve appropriate ground grading for Step 7 football should AFC Solihull win promotion.	FA	Key centre	L	L	L
			3G		A poor quality, full size 3G pitch that was installed in 2009. Cannot be used for competitive matches due to quality issues.	Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.	FA		L	H	L
						Resurface pitch to improve quality.			S	H	H
						Seek FA testing so that it can be used to accommodate competitive matches.			S	H	L
			Athletics		A good quality 400-metre track that is certified to host high level competition. Used by Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club.	Sustain quality and explore options for refurbishment given that the track has exceeded its estimated lifespan.	England Athletics		S	H	M
						Support the Club to ensure its facility needs are being met.			L	H	L
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	B91 1DA	Football	Club	A standard quality mini pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Retain for continued use.	FA	Key centre	L	L	L
			Cricket		A good quality square with ten grass wickets that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club		L	M	L
						Ensure no additional usage to avoid overplay or consider installation of an NTP to free up capacity.			L	M	L
Sand AGP	A full size, sand based AGP that is assessed as standard quality following installation in 2010. Used by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club	L	M	L					
Seek resurfacing in the near future to avoid quality deterioration and to retain usage.	M	M		M							

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
						Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.			L	M	L
			Tennis		Seven good quality artificial turf courts that are floodlit and used by West Warwickshire Sports Tennis Club.	Ensure that the quality of the courts is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club		L	M	L
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Cricket	Commercial/ Club	One standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Only minimal spare capacity remains; not enough for an additional team.	Seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares used by clubs and to increase capacity.	ECB Club	Key centre	S	M	L
			Rugby union		One standard (M1/D2) and one poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch. The standard quality pitch is played to capacity whilst the poor quality pitch is overplay by four match equivalent sessions. One pitch is floodlit, whereas the other pitch is part floodlit. The clubhouse facility has a leaking roof causing an issue with mould. Only 21 years remain on the lease agreement.	Improve the second pitch through improved drainage in unison with improved maintenance. Explore opportunities to provide floodlighting on the second pitch so that training demand can be spread, thus alleviating overplay. Alternatively, explore options to provide the Club with a greater number of pitches. Improve clubhouse facilities through repairing the roof and improving the changing rooms. Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.	RFU Club		S	M	M
									S	M	M
									S	M	M
									S	M	M
									S	M	L
303	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 2PE	Football	Club	One standard quality adult pitch that is now unused by the community. Previously used by one team.	Consider losing the pitch to protect cricket quality unless demand can be found.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
			Cricket		One good quality square with 12 wickets and a standard quality square with eight wickets and an NTP. Overplayed by eight match equivalent sessions. Clubhouse on the second square servicing Shirley CC is considered to be poor quality.	Ensure that the quality of both squares is sustained and explore opportunities to improve the quality of the secondary square to good. Explore opportunities to install an NTP on the first square to alleviate overplay on the grass wickets. Consider options to improve clubhouse servicing Shirley CC.	ECB Club		L	M	L
									S	M	L
									S	M	L
304	Widney Junior School	B91 3LQ	Cricket	School	Standard quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	ECB School	Local site	L	L	L
321	Blossomfield Sports Club	B91 3JY	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets that is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions.	Explore opportunities to install an NTP on the square to alleviate overplay on the grass wickets.	ECB Club	Local site	L	M	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
			Tennis		Three macadam, two clay and two artificial turf courts. The macadam courts are assessed as standard quality and are without floodlighting; the remaining courts are floodlit and good quality. Used for club tennis.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure club has enough provision to accommodate its membership.	LTA Club		L	M	L
329	Sharman's Cross	B91 1RQ	Rugby union		Two senior pitches that are disused. Allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation; however, this could potentially be for other sports given lack of rugby demand.	RFU		S	H	M
			Tennis		A total of 13 artificial turf tennis courts that are assessed as good quality and are floodlit. Used for club tennis.	Ensure provision is retained or replaced following proposed development.	LTA		L	H	L
335	Shirley Heath Junior School	B90 3DS	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is available to the community but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
348	Greswold Primary School	B91 2AZ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
350	Haslucks Green Junior School	B90 2EJ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
351	Langley Primary School	B92 7DJ	Football	School	Two poor quality 5v5 pitches which are available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
354	Mill Lodge Primary School	B90 1BT	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
355	Oak Cottage Primary School	B91 1DY	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches which are not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
356	Our Lady of the Wayside School	B90 4AY	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
357	Peterbrook Primary School	B90 1HR	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
358	St Andrew's Catholic Primary School	B92 8QL	Football	School	A standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
360	St Margaret's C of E Voluntary Aided Primary School	B92 7RR	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is not available for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁹	Priority	Cost ¹⁰
364	St Augustine's Primary School	B91 3NZ	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Sustain quality for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
365	Tanworth Lane Sports Ground	B90 4BY	Football	Club	An adult pitch and a youth 11v11 pitch that are both over marked by a 9v9 pitch. Assessed as poor quality and overplayed as a result.	Improve pitch quality to remove overplay	Club FA	Local site	S	M	L
366	Silhill Football Club	B91 1RQ	Football	Club	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed standard quality adult pitches with an over marked youth 9v9 pitch. Pitches are played to capacity.	Sustain quality and seek maintenance improvements in line with PIP recommendations if possible.	Club FA	Local site	S	M	L
374	Camp Hill Rugby Club	B90 2DH	Rugby union	Club	A senior and junior pitch which are both floodlit and assessed as good quality (M2/D1). The junior pitch and a small detached area accommodate all training demand from the Club and is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. The senior pitch is played to capacity at peak time. The Club has ambitions to develop its clubhouse facility to include a function room and a committee room.	Sustain pitch quality in line with pitch quality improvements at Shirley Park.	Club RFU	Local site	L	M	L
						Explore options to alleviate overplay via pitch quality improvements (through improved maintenance), the transfer of demand, or additional floodlighting (potentially at Shirley Park).			S	M	L
						Support the Club in its clubhouse improvement aspirations.			S	M	M
-	Rowood Drive	B92 9LX	Football	Council	Disused youth pitch that is allocated for development in Draft Local Plan Review as an Amber site.	Appropriately mitigate the site, despite its disused status, given local shortfalls of provision.	FA	Local site	S	M	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

North Analysis Area

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
228	Babbsmill Park	B37 6LN	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches that are currently unused. The site has no accompanying changing provision and therefore cannot be used to accommodate adult league matches.	Either reconfigure pitches to accommodate youth and mini football given lack of changing facilities or develop changing facilities to enable use by adult teams.	FA	Local site	S	M	M
232	Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club	B92 9ED	Rugby union	Club	The site contains two senior pitches and one mini pitch, all of which are assessed as standard quality (M1/D1). One senior pitch has one match sessions of spare capacity whilst the other is overplayed by 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week as it accommodates all training demand. The mini pitch is also overplayed, by one match equivalent session. Nearby development could impact on the Club.	Improving quality through improved maintenance and/or the installation of a drainage system to alleviate overplay.	RFU Club	Key centre	S	H	M
						Explore installation of additional floodlighting to spread out training demand.			S	H	M
						Ensure development does not affect the Club negatively.			S	H	L
233	Bluebell Recreation Ground	B37 6SS	Football	Council	Three adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard. Little use recognised; each pitch has actual spare capacity.	Improve pitch quality as per LFFP recommendations.	FA	Local site	L	M	M
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			L	M	L
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9PB	Football	Parish Council	Three adult, one youth 11v11, one mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 all rated as standard quality. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams.	Improve pitch quality and clubhouse as per LFFP recommendations.	FA	Key centre	L	M	L
						Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with 12 grass wickets. Actual spare capacity exists on a Sunday.	Sustain quality of square through appropriate maintenance and seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares in Solihull.	ECB		L	M	L
			Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. Usage levels currently unknown.	Sustain court quality for continued casual use and explore Clubspark implementation.	LTA		L	L	L
235	Catherine De Barnes Cricket Club	B91 2TJ	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with nine grass wickets. Actual spare	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB	Local site	L	M	L

¹¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
					capacity exists on a Sunday. Lease agreement is expiring.	Extend lease agreement to at least 25 years to provide security of tenure.	Club		S	M	L
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	B37 3HW	Football	Club	One adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch all rated as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the youth and mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitch through improving quality to good or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	M	L
						Improve pitch quality as per LFFP recommendations.			L	M	L
238	Chelmsley Wood Squash Club	B37 7NS	Football	Club	One adult pitch, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all rated as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions whilst the mini pitches contain actual spare capacity. Each pitch type contains 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitch through improving quality to good or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	B37 6NU	Football	School	Two adult pitch, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all rated as standard quality. The mini pitches have actual spare capacity remaining, whereas the adult pitches are overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay.	FA School	Hub site	S	M	L
						Consider transfer of demand to 3G pitch.			S	M	L
			3G	A good quality 3G pitch built in 2015. No longer FA approved to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	L	H	L		
					Seek FA testing so that it becomes useable for competitive football and seek to maximise use for this purpose.		S	H	L		
				Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.	S	H	L				
Tennis	Four good quality macadam courts that are floodlit and available for community use.	Sustain court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	L	M	L					
247	Grace Academy	B37 5JS	Football	School	Two adult pitches, one mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all rated as standard quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the mini pitches have actual spare capacity. Adult pitches are solely used by youth 11v11 teams.	Alleviate overplay of adult pitch through improving quality to good or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA School	Key centre	S	M	L
						Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	M	L
						Re-configure adult pitches to better accommodate sole youth 11v11 users.			S	M	L
			Rugby union	One standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for school use.	RFU School	L	L	L		
					Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.		L	L	L		

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
			Sand AGP		The school has a proposal in place to convert its small sized (83 x 53 metres) sand based AGP into a 3G pitch. The current pitch is not used for any hockey based activity. The LFFP also makes this recommendation.	Explore feasibility of conversion and seek to maximise football usage should it go ahead. Seek FA testing so that it can be used for mini and youth matches.	FA EH School		S		H
							S		M	L	
			Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. Unused by the community.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	M	L
248	Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club	B92 0DQ	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with nine grass wickets. Actual spare capacity exists on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Ensure that the quality of the square is sustained through regular maintenance and seek improvements to further increase capacity.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	M	L
			Sand AGP		A full size sand-based AGP that is used by Berkswell & Balsall Common HC and Hampton-in-Arden HC. The pitch is assessed as standard quality albeit over its lifespan having been installed in 2005.	Protect as a hockey suitable pitch given current club usage. Seek imminent refurbishment to avoid quality deterioration and to sustain usage. Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.	EH Club		L	M	L
							S		M	M	
			Tennis		Five good quality artificial courts that are floodlit and utilised by Hampton-in-Arden TC.	Sustain quality for continued club use.	LTA Club		L	M	L
249	Hampton Sports Club	B91 2RX	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch and standard quality youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches. Both the adult pitch and youth 11v11 pitch are overplayed, whilst all remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Adult pitch is used for Step 7 football. Hampton JFC has recently entered into a ten year lease arrangement.	Given that further quality improvements cannot increase capacity, transfer play from the adult pitch to sites with actual spare capacity. Alleviate overplay of the youth 11v11 pitch through improving quality to good or through the transfer of demand. Sustain quality of remaining pitch types through appropriate maintenance. Explore options to extend lease to over 25 years to provide greater security of tenure and to assist in development plans and funding bids. Ensure site allows Hampton FC to progress through the pyramid.	FA Club	Local site	S	M	L
						S	M		L		
						L	M		L		
						S	M		L		
						L	M		L		
252	Heath Park	B37 6SS	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. HS2 may have implications on its future.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure any permanent loss after HS2 development is mitigated.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
						L	H		H		

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
256	John Henry Newman Catholic College	B37 5GA	Football	School	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a mini 7v7 pitch. All pitches are assessed as good quality and all are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Hub site	L	M	L
						Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	M	L
			3G		A good quality 3G pitch built in 2016. FA tested to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School		L	M	L
						Seek FA testing every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive football.			M	M	L
			Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for sustainability.		L	M	L				
Tennis	Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting but are available for community use.	Improve quality of the courts for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	M	L					
257	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)	B91 2RX	Cricket	Club	A standard square with nine grass wickets; overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions. Initial ideas propose relocation of football pitches to site.	Install an NTP to alleviate overplay and explore options to improve quality to provide further capacity.	ECB Club	Local site	M	M	L
						Ensure football and cricket can co-habit land if relocation occurs.			S	H	L
261	Lanchester Park	B36 9LP	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance; or consider rationalisation to create bigger, better quality hub sites.	FA	Local site	L	M	L
265	Lugtrout Lane	B91 2RX	Football	Club	Two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 7v7 pitch rated as standard quality. Allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review, meaning capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure. The initial idea is for provision to be relocated to the North, where Knowle & Dorridge CC is based.	Ensure appropriate mitigation if site is permanently lost; ensure football and cricket can co-habit land if relocated to the North.	FA	Local site	S	H	H
269	Marston Green Football Club	B37 7EL	Football	Club	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all rated as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed, the remaining pitches have no actual spare capacity. Ancillary provision at the site is assessed as poor quality; lease agreement is close to expiry.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay.	FA	Local site	L	M	L
						Explore opportunities to improve quality of ancillary facilities.			S	M	M
						Extend lease agreement to provide greater security of tenure.			S	M	L
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	Football	Parish Council	Three standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. Well used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L	L
						Consider re-configuration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
			Cricket		A standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday. Only six years remain on Marston Green CC's lease agreement.	Sustain quality of square through appropriate maintenance and, if possible, seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares in Solihull.	ECB Club		L	L	L
						Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	M	L
272	Meriden Park	B37 5SD	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure no further usage to avoid creation of overplay.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Assess demand for courts and, if necessary, improve quality for casual use and consider Clubspark implementation.	LTA		S	L	L
274	North Solihull Sports Centre	B37 5LA	Sand AGP	Commercial	A standard quality sand-based AGP built in 2008. No longer used for hockey. A proposal is in place for the pitch to be converted to 3G and this is a recommendation in the LFFP.	Ensure EH remains supportive of conversion.	FA EH	Key centre	S	H	H
						Explore as a potential site for a double 3G to fully alleviate 3G shortfalls in the Analysis Area.			M	H	H
						Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.			S	M	L
			Athletics		A poor quality 400-metre synthetic track with six lanes. Accessed by local schools for a small number of sports days and used for wider school competitions.	Consider alternative sporting options as the track is not considered to be sustainable.	UK Athletics		S	L	L
						Alternatively, explore options to better utilise the track.			S	L	L
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all rated as standard quality. Actual spare capacity discounted due to no security of tenure.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
						Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	L	L
			Rugby union		Two standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches which are available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality of the pitches are sustained for school use.	RFU School		L	L	L
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			L	L	L
			Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts and four poor quality macadam courts. None of the courts are floodlit.	Improve quality of courts for curricular use and sustain good quality courts.	LTA School		L	L	L
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality of the NTP is sustained for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
284	Smiths Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 11v11 pitch which are played to capacity.	Sustain quality for continued community use.	FA	Key centre	L	L	L

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PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP which is available for community use but unused due a lack of demand.	Ensure quality of the NTP is sustained for curricular and extra-curricular use.	ECB School		L	L	L
			Rugby union		One poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Improve quality of the pitch through increased maintenance for curricular use.	RFU School		S	L	L
			Sand AGP		The school has a proposal in place to convert its small sized (83 x 53 metres) sand based AGP into a 3G pitch. The current pitch is not used for any hockey based activity. The LFFP also recommends this due to a lack of existing smaller sized 3G pitches in the locality.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	FA EH School		L	L	L
						Explore feasibility of conversion and seek to maximise football usage should it go ahead.			S	M	H
						Seek FA testing so that it can be used for mini and youth matches.			S	M	L
Tennis	Three poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit but are available for community use, although minimal demand currently exists.	Improve quality of the courts for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L	L					
293	The Pavilions	B37 6BX	Football	Private	One adult, one youth 11v11, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch which are all rated as standard quality. The adult pitch is overplayed, whereas the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities, although the new operator has submitted a planning application to improve and extend them.	Improve pitch quality and clubhouse as per LFFP recommendations.	FA	Key centre	S	H	H
336	St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School	B36 0QE	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained for school use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
341	Kingshurst Primary School	B37 6BN	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Ensure pitch quality is sustained for school use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	L	L	L
353	Marston Green Junior School	B37 7BA	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality for school use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L	L
347	Fordbridge Community Primary School	B37 5EG	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L	L
362	Windy Arbour Primary School	B37 6RN	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹¹	Priority	Cost ¹²
367	Glades Football Club	B91 2RX	Football	Club	One adult pitch, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. All pitches are standard quality except the mini 5v5 pitch which is poor quality. Overplay is evident on all pitch types except on the mini 7v7 where it is played to capacity. Adult pitch is used for Step 7 football.	Improve pitch quality and clubhouse as per LFFP recommendations.	FA Club	Local site	S	H	M
						To fully alleviate overplay, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or consider options to provide the Club with a greater number of pitches.			S	M	L
						Ensure site allows Hampton FC to progress through the football pyramid.			L	M	L
403	Auckland Drive	B36 0QE	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch unused by the community. Allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation if permanently lost; given unsustainability of single pitch site, consideration should be given to rationalisation provided contributions go towards creating a bigger, better quality site in the locality.	FA	Local site	S	H	H
408	Marston Green Lawn Tennis Club	B37 7BS	Tennis	Club	Three standard quality macadam courts and two standard quality artificial courts. The artificial courts are floodlit.	Sustain court quality for continued club use and seek improvements where possible.	LTA Club	Local site	L	M	L

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Rural Analysis Area

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹³	Priority	Cost ¹⁴
226	Arden Academy Trust	B93 0PT	Football	School	Two adult pitches assessed as poor quality with spare capacity discounted as a result. Subject to an allocation in the Draft Local Plan Review, with the School expected to be relocated.	Ensure appropriate facilities are provided as part of the relocation, with consideration given to a full size 3G pitch as per LFFP recommendations.	FA School	Local site	S	H	H
			Rugby union		Three standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches that are available for community use but unused. Subject to an allocation in the Draft Local Plan Review, with the School expected to be relocated.	Ensure appropriate facilities are provided as part of the relocation to satisfy curricular and extra-curricular needs.	RFU School		L	H	L
			Sand AGP		A small sized sand-based AGP.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	FA EH School		L	M	L
			Tennis		Six poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Considered unnecessary as part of the relocation provided a full size 3G pitch is provided.	LTA School		S	H	H
229	Balsall and Berkswell Football Club	CV7 7BN	Football	Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 pitch, two mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Actual spare capacity exists on the mini pitches; all other pitch types are played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality as per LFFP recommendations.	FA Club	Local site	L	M	M
231	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	B93 9AN	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitch and a standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with actual spare capacity. Used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L	L
			Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts which are not floodlit. Clubspark.	Consider reconfiguring one pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			LTA	S	M
236	Chadwick End	B93 0BN	Football	Club	One standard quality adult pitch with 0.5 match sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance; or consider rationalisation to create bigger, better quality hub sites.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.			L	L	L

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

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

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁵	Priority	Cost ¹⁶
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 5NA	Football	Club	The site currently contains two adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 pitches that are assessed as standard. The adult pitch is overplayed. The site is allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review. Early proposals for the creation of a sports hub to offset the provision was not supported by the FA.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost and consider the inclusion of two full size 3G pitches as part of a hub site development, as per LFFP recommendations.	FA Club	Hub site	S	H	H
			Cricket		A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. The square is overplayed by 20 match equivalent sessions per season. Used by Tanworth & Camphill CC, which has aspirations to install additional training nets. The site is allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost and consider the inclusion of two full size 3G pitches, as per LFFP recommendations.	ECB Club		S	H	H
243	Earlswood Cricket Club	B94 6EE	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 11 grass wickets. Overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions per season	Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.	ECB Club	Local site	S	M	L
						Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.			S	M	L
						Ensure quality of cricket square is sustained and if possible improved to limit effects of overplay.			L	M	L
250	Heart of England School	CV7 7FW	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. Available to the community but unused and overplayed.	Improve pitch quality as per LFFP recommendations to alleviate overplay.	FA School	Local site	S	M	M
			Cricket		A poor quality standalone NTP not available for community use.	Assess curricular and extra-curricular needs and replace if necessary.	ECB School		S	M	L
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch that is available for community use but unused. Site has no spare capacity due to quality of surface.	Look to improve quality of the pitch for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		S	L	L
			Tennis		Seven poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	LTA School		L	L	L
					Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L	M	
251	Heart of England School (Holly Lane)	CV7 7FW	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. Both are available to the community and are played to capacity. Allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost and consider securing contributions to improve remaining provision available the School.	FA School	Local site	S	H	L

¹⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁵	Priority	Cost ¹⁶	
253	Highgate United Football Club	B90 1PH	Football	Club	Three adult, one youth 11v11, two mini 7v7 and three mini 5v5 pitches. One of the adult pitches is assessed as good quality and is used for Step 6 football, whilst the 7v7 pitches are assessed as poor quality; the remaining pitches are standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Proposed for development in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost, potentially via the creation of a hub site.	FA Club	Local site	S	H	H	
						Provide the Club with better quality ancillary facilities as part of the mitigation.			S	H	M	
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			S	H	L	
255	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	B94 6HH	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The adult pitch has minimal actual spare capacity; remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Improve pitch quality and clubhouse as per LFFP recommendations.	FA	Local site	L	H	M	
258	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Station Road)	B93 8ET	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 14 grass wickets. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L	
259	Knowle and Dorridge Racquets Club	B93 0PJ	Tennis	Club	Eight good quality artificial turf tennis courts that are floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for continued club use.	LTA Club	Local site	L	M	L	
260	Knowle Football Club	B93 0NU	Football	Trust	A standard quality adult pitch with over markings resulting in significant overplay. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Used for Step 7 football. The Club has aspirations to relocate to an alternative site so that it can increase its pitch stock, and the existing site has been allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation if permanently lost, with more pitches required to satisfy the Club.	FA Club	Local site	S	H	H	
						Consider providing a full size 3G pitch, as per LFFP recommendations.			S	H	H	
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L	L	
273	Meriden Sports Park	CV7 7SP	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed by one match equivalent session.	Alleviate overplay by improving pitch quality to good or through transferring demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	M	L	
			Cricket		A standard quality standalone NTP which is accessed by Heart of England CC.	Ensure that the quality of the NTP is sustained to ensure it can continue to accommodate competitive fixtures.			ECB	L	M	L
					Consider creation of grass wickets to better accommodate the senior cricket activity taking place.	S				M	L	
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	B90 1PW	Football	Club	One adult pitch that is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions. Assessed as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	S	L	L	
						Ensure rugby club continues to provide for football activity.			S	M	L	

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁵	Priority	Cost ¹⁶
			Rugby union		Four standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches. One pitch is floodlit and is overplayed by two match equivalent session due to training demand. The fourth pitch is a dual use football pitch and is also overplayed. The remaining two pitches are played to capacity. Only 16 years remain on a lease agreement that can be cancelled with 12 months' notice. The site has been allocated in the Draft Local Plan Review, with initial plans to relocate the Club to a sports hub not deemed to provide enough mitigation by the RFU.	Explore feasibility of club relocating to Dickens Heath Sports Club, ensuring enough provision is provided to cater for the Club's demand.	RFU Club		S	H	H
				Consider installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch to cater for training demand and to lessen the number of grass pitches required.				S	H	H	
				Ensure security of tenure is provided as part of the relocation as well as adequate ancillary provision.				S	H	H	
281	Shirley Town Football Club	B90 1PH	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch that with actual spare capacity. Allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost, potentially via the creation of a hub site.	FA Club	Local site	L	H	H
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Football	Club	Four adult pitches as well as one youth 9v9 one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Each pitch is played to capacity at peak time.	Improve pitch quality as per LFFP recommendations and in line with PIP report findings.	FA Club	Hub site	S	M	L
						Explore options of football i access to the proposed World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			M	M	L
			Cricket	A standard quality square with four grass wickets that is played to capacity.	Explore opportunities to extend the grass cricket square or install an NTP on site to create additional capacity.	ECB Club	S	L	L		
					Sustain quality of square through appropriate maintenance and, if possible, seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares in Solihull.		L	L	L		
			Rugby union	Four good quality (M2/D1) senior pitches and five standard quality (M1/D1) mini pitches. There is one floodlit senior pitch which is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions per week. The remaining senior pitches have spare capacity and two of those have actual spare capacity amounting to one match equivalent session each. Site earmarked for the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	Consider installation of additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread, thus alleviating overplay.	RFU Club	S	H	M		
					Explore installation of a drainage system to improve quality and therefore increase capacity.		S	M	M		
					Support development a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and ensure it is built to the correct specifications with a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.		S	H	H		
			Sand AGP	A good quality sand-based AGP that was resurfaced in 2009.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club	L	H	L		
Encourage implementation of a sinking fund for long term sustainability.	L	M			L						

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁵	Priority	Cost ¹⁶
289	St Patrick's CE Academy	B94 6DE	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Improve pitch quality for school use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	FA School	Local site	S	L	L
291	The John Woolman Ground	B93 8QA	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square with 13 grass wickets. Site is overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions per season. Dorridge CC has aspirations to have additional practice nets on site. The Club also has aspirations to develop a second square adjacent to its current square so that it can relocate its third team. Only five years remain on the lease agreement.	Improve quality to reduce overplay.	ECB Club	Local site	L	M	L
						Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.			S	M	L
						Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.			S	L	L
						Explore feasibility of creating a second square and support the Club in its training facility aspirations.			S	L	M
						Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	M	L
297	Lavender Hall Park	CV7 7BN	Football	Council	One adult and two mini 5v5 pitches with actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues. Currently unused by the community.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity and to attract usage; or, rationalise site to create bigger, better quality hub sites.	FA	Local site	S	L	L
299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	B90 1PN	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Allocated for development in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost, potentially via the creation of a hub site.	FA Club	Local site	L	H	H
305	Knowle Village Cricket Club	B93 0NX	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 12 grass wickets and one accompanying NTP. Actual spare capacity remains on a Sunday.	Sustain quality of square through appropriate maintenance and, if possible, seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares in Solihull.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
306	Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association	CV7 7GE	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets that is overplayed by 27 match equivalent sessions per season.	Ensure quality of cricket square is sustained and if possible improved to limit effects of overplay.	ECB Club	Local site	L	M	L
						Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.			S	M	L
						Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.			S	L	L
309	Grove Lane	B93 8AR	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with eight grass wickets. Actual spare capacity exists on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore possibility of actual spare capacity being utilised to reduce overplay of nearby squares.			S	L	L

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁷	Priority	Cost ¹⁸
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Football	Club	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. The 5v5 pitch has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity; remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity on the 5v5 pitch through future demand.			S	L	L
						Cricket			Standard quality square with ten grass wickets that is overplayed by 22 match equivalent sessions per season. The Club has aspirations to provide additional cricket nets on site to accommodate its training demand.	Improve quality to reduce overplay.	ECB Club
			Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.		S		M			L	
			Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.		S		L			L	
			Support the Club in its aspirations to provide additional training nets.		S	L	L				
338	Bentley Heath Church of England Primary School	B93 3AS	Football	School	One youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch both assessed as standard quality. Both are available to the community, however, only the 7v7 pitch is in current use.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Explore options to attract increased demand to the site.			S	L	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L	L
339	Dorridge Primary School	B93 8EU	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is used by the community. The School is looking to develop a pavilion to support use by Knowle FC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L
						Provide club users with a community use agreement to secure usage.			L	L	L
						Support the School in its pavilion aspirations.			S	L	M
340	Hockley Heath Academy	B94 6RA	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality for school use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
345	Balsall Common Primary School	CV7 7FS	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is available for community use but unused.	Further explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
346	Cheswick Green Primary School	B90 4HG	Football	School	One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch which is not available for community use.	Improve pitch quality for school use and explore community use aspects to reduce local shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	S	L	L
408	Leafield Athletic Football Club (Tythe Barn Lane)	B94 5NA	Football	Club	One youth 9v9 pitch, two mini 7v7 pitches and one mini 5v5 pitch which are all standard quality. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Tenure is considered unsecure, with the site allocated for in the Draft Local Plan Review.	Ensure appropriate mitigation should the site be permanently lost.	Club FA	Local site	S	H	H
409	Rumbush Lane	B94 5NA	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult football pitches. Leased to Leafield Athletic FC in a 25-year agreement.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance	Club FA	Local site	L	M	L
						Improve drainage and ancillary provision through awarded funding.			S	M	M

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

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

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Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁷	Priority	Cost ¹⁸
412	Knowle Park	B93 9HT	Tennis	Council	Two good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting. Clubspark.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for continued casual use and monitor demand via Clubspark.	LTA	Local site	L	M	L

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PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2035 (in line with the Draft Local Plan Review). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved via teams generation rates 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.

The scenario below shows the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.4 per dwelling, which was identified as the average household size for Solihull in the 2011 population census.

Please note that the scenario can be updated as required over the Local Plan and throughout the lifespan of the PPS to reflect population projections and change in the average household size. They also now include training demand as well as match play demand, in addition to incorporating ancillary facility costs; this was not the case when the PPS was originally complete.

Scenario: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2035)

The Solihull Draft Local Plan Review states that it will allocate sufficient land to ensure sufficient housing land supply to deliver 15,756 additional homes up to 2035. The estimated additional population derived from this housing growth is 37,814 (2.4 people per dwelling).

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2035)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 15,756 dwellings	
	Match demand per week ¹⁹	Training demand ²⁰
Adult football	9.15	85.87 hours
Youth football	19.62	
Mini soccer	14.16	
Rugby union	4.00	4.66 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	-	-
Adult hockey	3.43	10.29 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	1.58	3.61 hours
Cricket	259.36	-

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £7,462,754²¹ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £1,068,035.²² The

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

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

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ancillary provision to support the facilities will be at a cost of £10,782,570, with 67.48 changing rooms required.

In practical terms, the Calculator should be used on specific single developments, or for a group of developments within a similar locality whereby funds could be pooled together from the developers. Experience shows that only housing sites with a significant number of dwellings are likely to generate demand in their own right; however, the cumulative impact of housing across the local authority clearly shows that there will be significant demand generated during the Local Plan period and in the next five years.

A development not generating its own demand does not equate to no contribution being required, its just that the contributions should go towards improving and/or extending existing provision within the locality to accommodate the increased demand. In this instance, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

²¹ Capital cost is based on 2019 second quarter calculations.

²² Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

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

Delivery

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

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

The update of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered.

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

Monitoring and updating

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

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is 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 could be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the steering group. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that would have been built up when developing the PPS. Taking into account the time to develop the PPS this should also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.

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

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

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

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

Alongside the regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships may be to hold annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings could look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with

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implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

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

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education 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 working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports development departments, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

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Checklist

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

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

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

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APPENDIX ONE: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
<p>Sport England</p> <p>The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: https://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/</p>	<p>Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.</p>
<p>Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/</p>	<p>This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.</p>
<p>Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org</p>	<p>The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players.</p> <p>Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project.</p> <p>Projects eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts and floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers).
<p>EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm</p>	<p>LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.</p>
<p>EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)</p>	<p>The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.</p>
<p>National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/</p>	<p>The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus:</p> <p>Young people and hockey.</p> <p>Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.</p>

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Protecting Playing Fields

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

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

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

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

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

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

Strategic Facilities Fund

Facilities are fundamental in providing more people with the opportunity to play sport. The supply of the right facilities in the right areas is key to getting more people to play sport. Sport England recognises the considerable financial pressures that local authorities are currently under and the need to strategically review and rationalise leisure stock so that cost effective and financially sustainable provision is available in the long-term. Sport England

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has a key role to play in the sector, from influencing the local strategic planning and review of sports facility provision to investing in major capital projects of strategic importance.

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

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

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

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

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

Facility capital costs

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

Lifecycle costs

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