



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

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QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	2
PART 2: VISION.....	11
PART 3: AIMS	12
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	13
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS	33
PART 6: ACTION PLAN	50
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS.....	90
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	92
APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	96
APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN.....	102
APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY	106

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Solihull. It has been developed in accordance with Sport England methodology and has been researched by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) under the direction of a steering group led by the Council and including national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). It builds upon a preceding Assessment Report, which was jointly produced together with an assessment report for Birmingham City Council.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ◀ Providing adequate planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports 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 (including baseball and Gaelic football).

In addition, tennis courts and athletics track are also included (the latter is featured in its own assessment report, separate the other sports). It should therefore be noted that for non-pitch sports, 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.

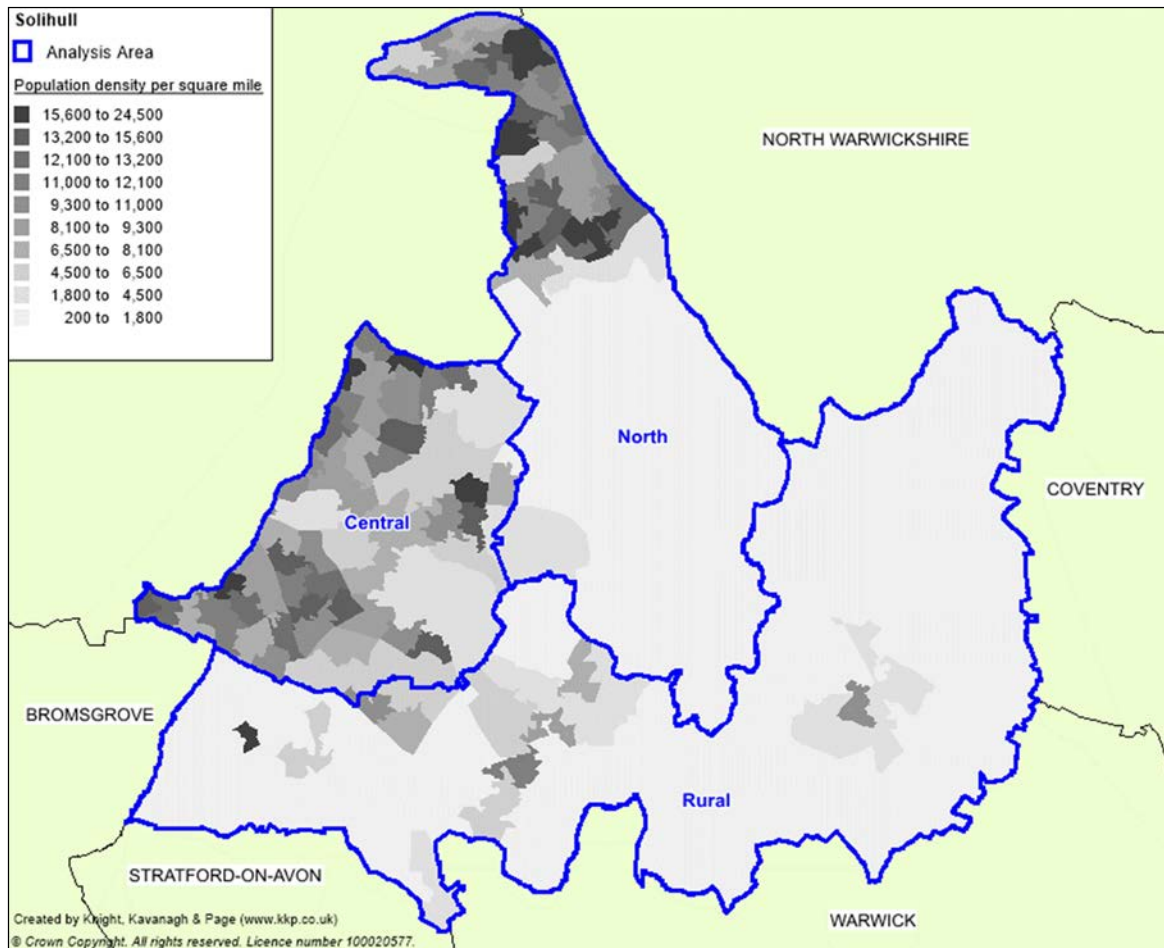
Study area

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 1.1: Solihull analysis area map



SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendation 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 annual monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This should be led by the Council and supported by the Steering Group. As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off, Sport England and 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.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.2: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study 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.

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 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹.

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 73 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 73 and 74 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.

Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

1.3: Headline findings

The following table highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for the main pitch sports in the preceding Assessment Report.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2028) ²
Football (grass pitches)	Solihull ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 3 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 9.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions mini 7v7 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 12 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 9.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 21.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 14 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 16 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
	Central	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 5.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 1.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 4 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 7.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 2 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 7 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 10 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 6 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 9.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 1 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.

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).

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2028) ²
	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 3 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 3.5 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 4.5 match sessions on adult pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 7 match sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 8 match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions on mini 7v7 pitches. ◀ Shortfall of 6 match sessions on mini 5v5 pitches.
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	Solihull	◀ Shortfall of 6.05 full size 3G pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 9.07 full size 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
	Central	◀ Shortfall of 0.93 3G pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 1.64 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
	North	◀ Shortfall of 1.95 3G pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 2.93 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing
	Rural	◀ Shortfall of 3.17 3G pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfall of 3.79 3G pitches. ◀ Pitch/s will require resurface and FA testing.
Cricket	Solihull	◀ Overplay totalling 63 match equivalent sessions.	Shortfalls worsen, four clubs cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.
	Central	◀ Current demand is being met.	Shortfalls are created; Hampton & Solihull CC cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.
	North	◀ Current demand is being met.	Future demand can be met.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2028) ²
	Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Overplay amounting to 10 match sessions at Dickens Heath Sports Club. ◀ Overplay amounting to 19 match sessions at Earlswood Cricket Club. ◀ Overplay amounting to seven match sessions at the John Woolman Ground. ◀ Overplay amounting to 15 match sessions at Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association. ◀ Overplay amounting to 12 match sessions at Woodbourne Sports Club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Shortfalls worsen. ◀ Dorrige, Berkswell and Woodbourne cricket clubs cannot accommodate future demand on current pitch stock.
Rugby union	Solihull	◀ Shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions.	◀ Shortfall of 16.5 match equivalent sessions.
	Central	◀ Shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions.	◀ Shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions.
	North	◀ Shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions.	◀ Shortfall of one match equivalent session.
	Rural	◀ Shortfall of two match equivalent sessions.	◀ Shortfall of three match equivalent sessions.
Rugby league	Solihull	◀ Old Edwardians Sports Club is operating over capacity.	◀ Shortfall will be alleviated following a merger between South Birmingham Hawks RLFC and Birmingham Bulls RLFC.
	Central	◀ Old Edwardians Sports Club is operating over capacity.	◀ Shortfall will be alleviated following a merger between South Birmingham Hawks RLFC and Birmingham Bulls RLFC.
	North	◀ No current demand.	◀ No future demand expected.
	Rural	◀ No current demand.	◀ No future demand expected.
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Solihull	◀ Displaced demand identified by Berkswell & Balsall Common HC.	◀ Latent demand identified by Olton & West Warwickshire HC and Old Silhillians HC.
	Central	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Latent demand identified by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Analysis area	Current picture	Future demand (2028) ²
	North	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Future demand can be met.
	Rural	◀ Current demand is being met.	◀ Latent demand identified by Old Silhillians HC.

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.

The only exception to the above is in the case of sports provision being replaced by a different form of sports provision (e.g. a sand-based AGP being replaced by a 3G AGP) on the assumption that no clubs are left without alternative provision and providing that this is agreed upon by Sport England and the appropriate NGBs.

In the main, there are no pitch surpluses and shortfalls expressed can be met by improving pitch quality to increase capacity. In some instances, however, there may also be a requirement for access to existing unused pitches, such as those located at currently unavailable school sites, pitch re-configuration, the restoration of disused/lapsed pitches (if feasible) or the creation of new provision, particularly in key housing growth areas.

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 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.

For rugby union, the majority of 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 is evidence in the sport by sport recommendations (Part 4) and the Action Plan (Part 6).

Definitions

Pitch capacity

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage but can also be impacted upon by maintenance levels and unofficial use, amongst other factors.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As a guide, the FA, the RFU, the RFL and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). This does not apply to hockey as there is no limit to how often a sand-based AGP can be used, with capacity instead limited by availability and current usage levels. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that similar principles should be followed.

Table 1.2: Capacity of playing pitches

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

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit in respect of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality and in turn their use is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal play. Based on how they tend to be played, this unit for football and rugby union pitches relates to a typical week within the season for sport. For cricket pitches, it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season.

Shortfalls

Shortfalls are expressed in match equivalent sessions rather than converted to pitches. To convert match equivalents into pitches, the number of sessions should generally be halved (to take account of teams playing on a home and away basis) when considering actual match play.

For a full glossary of terms, please refer to Appendix Three.

PART 2: VISION

2.1 Vision

A vision has been set out to provide a clear focus with desired outcomes for the Solihull Playing Pitch Strategy. 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 at all levels of play from grassroots to elite'

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

- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs
- ◀ Ensure that there are 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 aspirations.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 through improving 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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Football – grass pitches

Summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 239 grass football pitches within Solihull across 87 sites, of which, 203 pitches are available for community use across 70 sites.
- ◀ Future development plans may affect pitch provision at Knowle Football Club and Dickens Heath Sports Club. The former is a proposal to relocate the Club, the latter is to lose playing field land, rationalise as a hub site and provide two 3G pitches.
- ◀ Sharman's Cross is classified as disused as it previously provided one adult pitch but no longer does so.
- ◀ In total, 14 pitches are assessed as good quality, 152 as standard quality and 37 as poor quality.
- ◀ Of community available pitches that are serviced by changing provision, six are serviced by good quality facilities, 112 by standard quality facilities and 30 by poor quality facilities.
- ◀ Various clubs report security of tenure issues including Marston Green FC (lease agreement expiring), Kingshurst Sporting FC (lease agreement expires in 2019) and Leafield Athletic FC (due to uncertainty over the ownership of the Pavilions).
- ◀ Six clubs (Solihull Moors, Cadbury Athletic, Highgate United Hampton, Knowle, Smithwood Firs football clubs) play on the football pyramid.
- ◀ Through the audit, 380 teams from within 100 clubs were identified as playing within Solihull consisting of 96 adult teams, 122 youth 11v11 teams, 62 youth 9v9 teams, 50 mini 7v7 teams and 50 mini 5v5 teams.
- ◀ Five clubs express displaced demand that could potentially return to Solihull should needs be met amounting to two adult, two youth and 14 mini teams.
- ◀ Three clubs express latent demand amounting to three adult, 14 youth and 12 mini teams.
- ◀ Of the 15 clubs that quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 39 teams.
- ◀ Team generation rates (2028) predict a growth of five senior men's, 20 youth boys', one youth girls' and 15 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ There are 25.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity identified across 17 sites and 39 pitches.
- ◀ There are 39.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay identified across 14 sites and 36 pitches, most of which occurs on adult pitches.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of all pitch types.
- ◀ Taking into account future demand, the shortfall on each pitch type is exacerbated and the shortfall is considered to be substantial.
- ◀ Due to overall shortfalls, the current level of provision needs to be protected or any loss needs to be mitigated through replacement pitches.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

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.

The majority of overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality increased to good, with the only exceptions being adult pitches at Tanworth Lane Sports Ground, CTC Kinghurst Academy, Hampton Sports Club, Glades Football Club and Knowle Football Club and also a youth 9v9 pitch at Knowle Football Club. For overplay to be alleviated at these sites, new pitches need creating or some demand needs to be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or to the 3G pitch stock.

Please see the table overleaf for a site-by-site breakdown of capacity rating should currently overplayed pitches be improved to good quality. 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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality

Site ID	Site name	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁵	Good quality capacity rating ⁶	Comments
292	Land Rover Sports and Social Club	Commercial	Adult	4	Standard	2	2	Spare capacity would be created.
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
365	Tanworth Lane Sports Ground	Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	2	1	Adult pitch would remain overplayed (by two teams); spare capacity would be created on youth pitches.
			Youth (11v11)	1	Poor	2	1	
			Youth (9v9)	2	Poor	4	2	
366	Silhill Football Club	Sports Club	Adult	2	Standard	2	1	Adult pitches would be played to capacity; spare capacity would be created on 9v9 pitch.
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	
237	Chelmsley Town Football Club	Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	School	Adult	1	Standard	2.5	1.5	Adult pitch would remain overplayed (by three teams); spare capacity would be created on youth pitches.
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
			Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
247	Grace Academy	School	Adult	2	Standard	1	1	Spare capacity would be created.

⁵ Match equivalent sessions

⁶ Match equivalent sessions

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Management	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating ⁷	Good quality capacity rating ⁸	Comments
249	Hampton Sports Club	Sports Club	Adult	1	Good	1	1	Adult pitch would remain overplayed (by one team); spare capacity would be created on youth pitch.
			Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1	
293	The Pavilions	Private	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity would be created.
			Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	
367	Glades Football Club	Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	Adult pitch would remain overplayed (by one team); spare capacity created on remaining pitches.
			Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1.5	0.5	
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1	
			Mini (5v5)	1	Poor	1	3	
226	Arden Academy Trust	School	Adult	2	Poor	0.5	3.5	Spare capacity would be created.
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	Sports Club	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5	Spare capacity would be created.
251	Heart of England School (Holly Lane)	School	Adult	1	Poor	1	1	Spare capacity would be created.
			Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1	2	
260	Knowle Football Club	Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	2	1	Adult and 9v9 pitches would remain overplayed (both by two teams); remaining pitches would be played to capacity.
			Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	3	1	
			Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	2		
			Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2		
273	Meriden Sports Park	Parish	Adult	1	Standard	1		Pitch would be played to capacity.

⁷ Match equivalent sessions

⁸ Match equivalent sessions

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

In addition, 16 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity are currently 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.

Given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches. 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.

Providing security of tenure

Currently, 40.5 match equivalent sessions are played on unsecured pitches throughout Solihull. If such sites were to fall out of use (e.g. Land Rover Sports and Social Club), shortfalls would be significantly exacerbated.

The majority of 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 long-term. Where there is external investment on school sites, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement.

A total of 18 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are discounted at educational sites that are available for community use but unused. Utilising such sites will therefore reduce shortfalls, particularly in relation to mini and youth pitches. The community use aspects at these sites should therefore be further explored to ensure that they are accessible at peak time and affordable.

Should unsecured provision be permanently lost, replacement provision of an equal or greater quantity and quality at a suitable location is required.

Reconfiguring pitches

If youth 11v11 demand was to be transferred away from adult pitches, a surplus of adult match equivalent sessions would be created in each analysis area.

Table 4.2: Capacity if youth 11v11 demand was removed from adult pitches

Analysis area	Current adult capacity (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity (match equivalents)	Youth 11v11 demand on adult pitches (match equivalents)	Current adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)	Future adult capacity if removed (match equivalents)
Central	0.5	4	10	10.5	6
North	0.5	3.5	13.5	14	10.5
Rural	3	4.5	14	11	9.5
Solihull	2	12	37.5	35.5	25.5

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Although some of this spare capacity should be retained as strategic reserve i.e. to help protect/improve quality, there are likely to be opportunities to reconfigure adult pitches to better cater for youth 11v11 demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.

There are currently 87 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing at peak time (Sunday AM in Birmingham), meaning there is a requirement for 44 pitches to accommodate this demand (based on teams playing on a home and away basis). As there are currently 12 youth 11v11 pitches marked out, a shortfall of 32 pitches is noted. This could be alleviated through re-configuring surplus adult pitches, creating new pitches and/or through the transfer of demand to the 3G pitch stock.

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.

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.

Future developments

To fully understand the impact of proposed future developments, please see the Action Plan (Part 6).

Conclusions

If pitch quality, overplay and security of tenure is addressed and if access to existing pitches is maximised, there would be no current requirement for new grass pitch provision over and above developments already proposed, providing that no pitches are permanently lost. That being said, there remains a need at certain sites for pitches to be reconfigured, particularly in relation to a lack of youth 11v11 pitches. Furthermore, proposed housing growth may result in enough future demand existing for an increase in provision, the need for which should be assessed on an individual basis.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore pitch reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity or to sites which are not currently available for community use.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, 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.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities at key sites that are currently serviced by poor provision (e.g. Knowle Football Club and Hockley Heath Recreation Ground).
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ In the longer term, explore opportunities for access to an increased number of 3G pitches to cater for grass pitch shortfalls.

3G pitches

Summary

- ◀ There are currently three 3G pitches in Solihull that are considered to be full size.
- ◀ In addition, there is one smaller sized pitch (the Pavilions) that is generally not suitable for match play but can be used to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Two of the full size 3G pitches (CTC Kinghurst Academy and John Henry Newman Catholic College) are FA or FIFA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ No pitches are World Rugby compliant, although a proposal at Silhillians Sports Club would provide one.
- ◀ The potential development Dickens Heath Sports Club also proposes the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are available for community use, although access is limited during weekdays due to curricular use.
- ◀ All full-size pitches are within their lifespan (ten years), with two assessed as good quality and one (Tudor Grange Leisure Centre) as standard quality.
- ◀ There are eight proposals in place for new full size 3G pitches and two (Grace Academy and Smith's Wood Sports College) in place for a smaller sized pitch. The full size proposals are at the following sites:
 - ◀ Light Hall School
 - ◀ Sharman's Cross
 - ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre
 - ◀ Arden Academy Trust
 - ◀ Dickens Heath Sports Centre (x2)
 - ◀ Knowle Football Club
 - ◀ Silhillians Sports Club
- ◀ All current full size 3G pitches are reported as operating at or close to capacity at desirable times, especially during winter months.
- ◀ 12 teams currently use 3G pitches for matches.
- ◀ 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 is needed given identified overplay of grass pitches.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 42 teams) there is a need for nine full size 3G pitches in Solihull. There are currently three full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of six pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 12 full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of nine pitches⁹.

Alternatively, if every team was to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, the current shortfall remains at six full size 3G pitches and the future shortfall remains at nine full size 3G pitches. This equates to a current shortfall of one pitch in the Central Analysis Area, two in the North Analysis Area and three in the Rural Analysis Area and a future shortfall of two pitches in the Central Analysis Area, three in the North Analysis Area and four pitches in the Rural Analysis Area¹⁰.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA, with 12 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 4.3: Number of teams currently using council pitches

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	29
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	20
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	5
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	5
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	3
Total			62

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.

⁹ All figures are rounded down.

¹⁰ All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.4: 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	29	14.5	4	6	7.25
11v11	20	10	8	20	5
9v9	5	2.5	10	25	0.39
7v7	5	2.5	32	320	0.31
5v5	3	1.5	32	464	0.09

Transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 13 (rounded down from 13.01) full size 3G pitches as the requirements for each pitch type needs to be added together (as peak time is the same). In practice, creating this number of 3G pitches is considered to be unrealistic given that it exceeds the number required to accommodate training demand. 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 4.5: 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 six full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 50 teams playing 5v5 football requiring four pitches (rounded down from 4.16) and 50 teams playing 7v7 football requiring six pitches (rounded down from 6.25). As such, it is considered that there is a current shortfall of three 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 four full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 3.87), meaning a current shortfall of one full size 3G pitch.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 six full size 3G pitches. This would, however, require buy-in from leagues and clubs.

Increases in 3G provision

There are two proposed full size 3G pitches in the Central Analysis Area (Light Hall School and Sharman's Cross), one in the North Analysis Area (North Solihull Sports Centre) and five in the Rural Analysis Area (Arden Academy Trust, Knowle Football Club, Silhillians Sports Club and two at Dickens Heath Sports Club).

Of the above, please note that Arden Academy Trust, Light Hall School and North Solihull Sports Centre are currently sand-based pitches proposed for conversion. The former two are also currently smaller-sized pitches (measuring 85 x 50 and 85 x 55 metres respectively), meaning an extension will be required to make them full size.

Based on training demand, providing all of these would meet the current overall requirement for 3G pitches and reduce the future shortfall from nine 3G pitches to three 3G pitches. This calculation, however, discounts Silhillians Sports Club, which is predominately going to be used for rugby union, as well as the second proposed pitch at Dickens Heath Sports Club, which is also a proposed World Rugby compliant pitch.

Any proposal to create a sports hub at Dickens Heath Sports Club that includes rugby union activity will need to provide a like for like replacement of existing facilities, sufficient tenure for the rugby club and must ensure that the Club and the RFU are consulted and supportive of any potential scheme.

When studying each individual analysis area, current and future demand would be met in the Central and Rural analysis areas, whereas a future shortfall of two pitches would still exist in the North Analysis Area.

The FA Parklife Programme

This is The FA's radical vision to transform the way grassroots football is played in England's towns and cities. The FA, DCMS, Premier League, Football Foundation and Sport England are all working together to significantly improve the provision and quality of football facilities, on a sustainable basis, to drive increased participation levels, quality of experience and more broadly delivering wider social benefits. The main focus of delivery will be around increasing the number of 3G pitches available for competitive play. To be eligible for the project local authorities must have a population of at least 200,000 people.

Solihull did not declare an interest in the programme, but that is not to say that certain principles cannot be implemented e.g. a football hub model.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Silhillians Sports Club has a proposal to provide a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch in the future that will be used to host training demand from Silhillians RUFC. The pitch will also be available to all local community rugby clubs and it is anticipated that this will help to reduce some (not all) of the overplay and lack of suitable training facilities for clubs in Solihull.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◀ Encourage all providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Ensure that CTC Kingshurst Academy and John Henry Newman Catholic College are re-tested every three years to sustain FA certification.
- ◀ Encourage Tudor Grange Leisure Centre to undergo FA testing so that it can accommodate competitive matches.
- ◀ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, particularly in the case of youth 11v11 football given the large number of youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ Identify feasible sites to increase provision of full size 3G pitches to meet training and competitive demand, particularly in areas with identified shortfalls, starting with those already proposed.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◀ Re-examine feasibility of the FA Parklife Programme.

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 non-turf pitches (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 could be restored if required.
- ◀ 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 25 years 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 no specialised indoor centres in Solihull, although it is considered that enough demand exists for one to be provided.
- ◀ There are 19 affiliated clubs that generate 71 senior men's, two senior women's and 85 junior teams.
- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by Castle Bromwich, Earlswood, Lapworth and Tanworth & Camp Hill cricket clubs.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ A total of 11 clubs express future demand equating to an increase of six senior men's, one senior women's and 17 junior teams, whilst team generation rates predict a growth of nine junior boys' teams.
- ◀ There are high levels of South Asian league based demand from leagues such as the LL Cricket League.
- ◀ There is no Last Man Stands (LMS) franchise in Solihull although scope exists for one to be created.
- ◀ There are 13 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets totalling 224 match equivalent sessions per season across the same number of sites.
- ◀ Despite 13 squares showing potential spare capacity, only two are available for further use on a Saturday totalling one square and only eight are available for further use on a Sunday totalling six squares.
- ◀ Five squares are overplayed by 63 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 both now and in the future.
- ◀ For senior cricket, priority should be placed on retaining the current number of grass wicket squares, with spare capacity utilised for future demand expressed by clubs.

Scenarios

Addressing overplay

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain sites with minimal levels of overplay, a reduction in play is recommended to ensure there is no detrimental effect on quality over time. As all overplayed squares in Solihull are without an accompanying NTP, the best solution to alleviate overplay would therefore be to install an NTP *in situ* at the sites as this will allow for the transfer of junior demand away from grass wickets. 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.

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.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

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 18 sites containing 35 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 Yardelians RUFC; however, the RFU reports that any development would need to provide a like for like replacement of existing facilities, sufficient tenure for the Club and must ensure that the Club and the RFU are fully consulted on and supportive of any potential scheme.
- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service RUFC is considered to have unsecure tenure whilst Edwardian, Silhillians and Old Yardleians rugby clubs have less than 25 years remaining on their lease arrangements.
- ◀ Of community available pitches, six are assessed as good quality, 20 as standard and ten as poor.
- ◀ No pitches are considered to have a modern drainage system installed, although Edwardians RUFC has secured Sport England funding that will result in the production of a good quality pitch (D3).
- ◀ Birmingham Civil Service, Camp Hill and Edwardian rugby clubs all report ancillary facility issues. Birmingham Civil Service RUFC only has port-a-cabin provision, Camp

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Hill RUFC states an aspiration for its building to be expanded and Edwardian RUFC reports that its roof leaking.

- ◀ There are six rugby union clubs consisting of 20 senior, 17 junior and 26 mini teams.
- ◀ In addition, University College Birmingham fields a senior men's team within Solihull, at Old Edwardians Sports Club.
- ◀ 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.
- ◀ All six clubs express future demand amounting to six senior and eight junior teams.
- ◀ Despite eight senior pitches displaying potential spare capacity, only five are considered available for further play during the peak period equating to 2.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There are six pitches overplayed across five sites by a combined 13.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overall, there is a shortfall of 11 match equivalent sessions identified on senior pitches to meet current demand and this shortfall worsens to 18 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 and Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, as well as reducing overplay at 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 and Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club, as well as reducing overplay at Shirley Park, Old Edwardians Sports Club, Camp Hill Rugby Club and Silhillians Sports Club albeit not fully.

Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)

Overplay at Old Edwardians Sports Club, Camp Hill Rugby Club and Silhillians Sports Club cannot be fully alleviated through pitch quality improvements. As all three sites are predominately overplayed because of training demand, an increase in the number of floodlit pitches and/or areas available is required. 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.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 Birmingham Civil Service, Edwardian, Silhillians and Old Yardleians rugby clubs by providing lease arrangements with a minimum term of at least 25 years.
- ◀ Support aspirations for ancillary facility improvements relating Birmingham Civil Service, 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 at Old Edwardians Sports Club and Camp Hill Rugby Club to alleviate overplay as a result of concentrated training demand.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore options to provide the clubs with access to a greater number of pitches or to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.
- ◀ Support the development of a World Rugby compliant pitch at Silhillians Sports Club to alleviate overplay of its grass pitches.
- ◀ Consider further installation of floodlighting to better cater for demand from Old Yardleians, Birmingham Exiles and Civil Service RUFC.
- ◀ Assist in the development of a sports hub at Dickens Heath to allow for the relocation of Old Yardleians RUFC providing that it provides like for like replacement of existing facilities, security of tenure and that the RFU and the Club are consulted on and supportive of any potential scheme.
- ◀ If the relocation takes place, access to good quality natural turf pitches and at least two floodlit pitches is a key objective.
- ◀ 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

- ◀ South Birmingham Hawks RLFC is the only club based in Solihull.
- ◀ The Club plays its matches and trains on a rugby union pitch at Old Edwardians Sports Club.
- ◀ The pitch is assessed as standard quality and no issues were raised in relation to the ancillary facilities servicing the site.
- ◀ The Club currently fields one senior men's team; however, it reports that it will merge with Birmingham based Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC ahead of the 2017 season, with matches transferring to Birmingham at Moseley Rugby Club.
- ◀ Once rugby union demand is factored into pitch capacity, Old Edwardians Sports Club is significantly overplayed due to all-year round play.
- ◀ Should the merger of Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC go ahead, the pitch at Old Edwardians Sports Club will no longer be used for rugby league.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

The merger between Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC

Should the merger go ahead, Old Edwardian Sports Club will no longer be required for rugby league activity as all demand will transfer to Moseley Rugby Union Club, in Birmingham. Access should, however, be retained if demand was to return in the future.

Recommendations

- ◀ Support South Birmingham Hawks RLFC in its merger with Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC.
- ◀ If the merger goes ahead, ensure a venue within Solihull remains suitable should demand return in the future.
- ◀ If the merger does not go ahead, ensure continued access to Old Edwardians Sports Club and, where possible, seek to alleviate overplay in line with rugby union recommendations and scenarios.

Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)

Summary

- ◀ There are currently seven hockey suitable AGPs in Solihull, all of which are floodlit and six are available to the community (Solihull School is not).
- ◀ 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 smaller sized pitches at Grace Academy, Arden Academy Trust, Smith's Wood Sports College and Light Hall School are under proposal to be converted to a 3G surface.
- ◀ Heart of England School reports aspirations to develop a full size sand-based AGP in the future, whereas Solihull School is planning to provide a second pitch.
- ◀ There are six full size AGPs currently accessed by hockey clubs, with the remaining pitch not available for community use (Solihull School).
- ◀ Of the full size AGPs, one is assessed as good quality, five as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- ◀ There are six affiliated clubs in Solihull consisting of 23 senior men's, 16 senior women's and 13 junior teams.
- ◀ Displaced demand is expressed by Berkswell & Balsall Common HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC, although the latter reports no intentions on returning to Solihull.
- ◀ Birmingham Wasps HC is imported into Solihull from Birmingham.
- ◀ Berkswell & Balsall Common, Olton & West Warwickshire and Old Silhillians hockey clubs all express latent demand in that they could increase their number of teams if more pitches were available.
- ◀ Participation has increased over the previous three years with two clubs reporting an increase in senior membership and three clubs reporting an increase in junior membership.
- ◀ Berkswell & Balsall Common HC, Old Silhillians HC and Olton & West Warwickshire HC all express future demand.
- ◀ In addition, team generation rates (2028) predict an increase of two junior teams.
- ◀ Calculations suggest that there is a need for at least six full size, floodlit hockey suitable AGPs, however, it is not realistic to aggregate the current stock into an adequate supply of pitches.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ The key issues are to protect or mitigate the six AGPs currently in use by hockey clubs and to find a solution to accommodate remaining expressed displaced, latent and future demand.

Scenarios

Accommodating future, latent and displaced demand

Berkswell & Balsall, Old Silhillians and Olton & West Warwickshire hockey clubs cannot accommodate remaining unmet, latent and/or displaced demand on the AGPs that they currently use and as such require access to alternative provision. The ideal solution would be for the clubs to access Solihull School once community use is allowed following the potential development of a second AGP on site.

Alternatively, if these clubs cannot be accommodated on existing stock, or if they are unwilling to relocate demand, additional provision is required.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

North Solihull Sports Centre is under proposal to be converted to 3G. This is a particular issue as the pitch is used by Birmingham Wasps HC and would therefore leave the Club homeless. Similar to the above scenario, the ideal solution would be for the Club to access Solihull School once community use is allowed following the potential development of a second AGP on site. Alternatively, the Club could be provided for in Birmingham as it is currently imported from there into Solihull.

In addition, all smaller sized hockey suitable AGPs that are provided are under proposal to be converted to 3G; however, no club hockey use currently takes place on these surfaces and therefore no clubs would be adversely affected.

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling greater distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred local authority.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and England Hockey should also be sought prior to any planning application being submitted. It is unlikely that any pitch that is currently in use for hockey purposes in Solihull will gain approval for a 3G conversion.

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

The 3G surface is limited in the range of sport that can be played or taught on it. Those proposing a conversion should take advice from the appropriate sports' governing bodies or refer to Sport England guidance 'Selecting the Right Artificial Grass Surface which can be found on Sport England's website:

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ As a minimum, protect or mitigate the six pitches currently in use by hockey clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that 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.
- ◀ Support Solihull School in its aspiration to create a second AGP and ensure the development is made available to the community together with the existing pitch.
- ◀ If the pitch is provided, seek to maximise usage and explore opportunities for it to cater for unmet, latent and displaced demand.
- ◀ Ensure Birmingham Wasps HC remains provided for if North Solihull Sports Centre is converted to 3G, potentially via Solihull School or via a pitch in Birmingham.
- ◀ 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.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure demand continues to be met.
- ◀ Sustain quality and seek improvements, where possible.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ A total of 137 tennis courts are identified across 26 sites. Of the courts, 97 are available for community use across 20 sites.
- ◀ In addition to outdoor courts, indoor courts are also provided at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ 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, 55 (57%) are assessed as good quality, 22 (22%) are assessed as standard quality and 20 (21%) 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 Birmingham Parks Tennis League also caters for demand albeit individuals enter rather than 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 therefore require access to additional courts or additional floodlighting.

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 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.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Explore feasibility of creating a membership scheme at council courts via an access control system.

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 and accesses Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre is not accessed by the Club and is instead used predominately to host internal sports days in addition to wider school competitions.
- ◀ In addition, there is a Park Run event as well as various running groups.
- ◀ There are no affiliated Run Together groups and no 3-2-1 routes are provided.

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. Ensure, through the use of the Playing Pitch Strategy, that playing pitches are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

land to meet the identified shortfalls. Therefore, based on the outcomes of the PPS, local planning policy should reflect this situation.

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

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

Lapsed and disused – playing field sites that formerly accommodated outdoor sports facilities but are no longer used for formal or informal sports use within the last five years (lapsed) or longer (disused).

Should playing pitches be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future.

This means that land containing 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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 CTC Kinghurst Academy, 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.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)¹¹. 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 be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them attract funding for site developments. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding 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:

- ◀ 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.

¹¹ <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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. The following schools in Solihull currently do not currently allow community use of some or all of their pitch stock:

- ◀ Alderbrook School
- ◀ Eversfield Preparatory School
- ◀ Heart of England School
- ◀ Kingshurst Primary School
- ◀ Lyndon School
- ◀ Oak Cottage Primary School
- ◀ Peterbrook Primary School
- ◀ Solihull Sixth Form College
- ◀ St Augustine's Primary School
- ◀ St Margaret's C of E Primary School
- ◀ Cheswick Green Primary School
- ◀ Greswold Primary School
- ◀ Hockley Heath Academy
- ◀ Langley School
- ◀ Marston Green Primary School
- ◀ Our Lady of the Wayside School
- ◀ Solihull School
- ◀ St Andrews Catholic Primary School
- ◀ St John the Baptist Primary School

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 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. An example of this is evident at Solihull School and the potential community use agreement that will be attached to its aspirations for a second AGP.

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 through improving quality and management of sites

Recommendations:

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

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 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/

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

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 ¹²	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	N/A	N/A
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season		
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four matches per day	N/A	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.

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

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.

¹² 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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 currently without an NTP and are overplayed.

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 and ECB are part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving 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.

At local authority sites in Solihull, maintenance of grass pitches is deemed to be basic. As such, if budget restrictions allow, additional work on council pitches should be carried out. This could include sand dressing, weed-killing, aerating 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 to achieve this and to fully determine the most appropriate pitch improvements on a site-by-site basis.

One method for improving maintenance could be via asset transfer, as highlighted in Objective 1. A common example for cricket is that a club maintains the square and the Council the outfield (rather than the Council maintaining the whole site). Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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/>

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The Playing Pitch Demand Calculator uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. 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 at least 6,522 new additional homes (in addition to the allocation in the original Local Plan) to ensure sufficient housing land supply to deliver 15,029 additional homes in the period 2014-2033. The annual housing land provision target is therefore 791 net additional homes per year (2014-2033).

This housing growth can be delivered through sites with planning permission, suitable deliverable sites identified within the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment, locations proposed for allocation by this policy and unidentified windfall sites, predominately within South Solihull.

Table 5.2: Overview of housing land supply

Summary of housing growth	Capacity
Housing completions	1,385
Sites with planning permission (started)	795
Sites with planning permission (not started)	1,467
Sites identified in land availability assessments	286
Local Plan allocations without planning permission	2,640
Less 10% to sites with planning permission (not started), sites identified in land availability assessments and Local Plan allocations	-439
Windfall housing land supply (2018-2033)	2,250

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Summary of housing growth	Capacity
Local Plan Review proposed sites (new allocations)	6,150
UK Central Hub Area	1,000
Total	15,534

The estimated capacity of 15,534 exceeds the requirement of 15,029 by 505 dwellings, thus representing a margin of 8% and a cautious approach to ensure that the housing requirement figure will be met.

AIM 3

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

Recommendations:

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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. The following table highlights the main development trends in each sport and their likely impact on facilities; however, it is important to note that these may be subject to change and are not necessarily area specific.

Table 5.3: Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults.	Additional need for 3G pitches. Sustain current pitch stock but give consideration to pitch reconfiguration to accommodate youth 11v11 football. Qualitative improvements.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and the FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	Sustain current stock and consideration given to reconfigure pitches if required. Qualitative improvements. Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to further accommodate this demand and ensure FA testing.
	The FA's strategy for Women's and Girls' football: 2017 – 2020 was released in March 2017. One of the major goals of the new the new strategy will be to double participation.	Demand for grass pitches and 3G pitches is likely to increase.
3G pitches	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches will increase for both training and match play purposes.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Requirement for 3G pitches to be FA/FIFA tested to host competitive matches. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface.
Cricket	Demand is likely to remain static for grass wickets for both junior and adult participation.	Sustain current pitch stock. Isolated pockets of demand for access to additional facilities where pitches are operating at capacity. A need to install NTPs and encourage greater use for junior cricket.
	An increase in non-club based play, especially from South Asian communities.	Develop cricket within communities that more commonly play informal formats of the game.
	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish more female teams in every local authority.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
	The development of LMS in the area.	Installation of a new NTP at a central location with adequate transport links.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Rugby union	<p>The RFU work towards achieving the stated outcomes of its National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the RFU National Women and Girls Strategy and the RFU National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth. Further, the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.</p>	<p>Clubs are likely to field more teams in the future. It is important, therefore, to work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and support facility development. In particular, capital improvements are required to the existing natural turf pitches as is improvements to the quality of changing rooms, where appropriate. All clubs should have access to high quality floodlit pitches to support training and match play demand.</p>
	<p>The RFU investment strategy into 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 sites. To achieve this, the RFU is keen to work locally with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest.</p>	<p>Consider requirement for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch given shortfalls identified on grass pitches and level of training demand on grass pitches.</p>
Rugby league	<p>The RFL is working towards growing rugby league participation including through growth at junior clubs, Play Touch rugby league and 9 aside rugby league.</p>	<p>Review the need for dedicated rugby league pitches in the next three years. Seek 3G pitch venues for Play Touch and grass pitches for 9 aside.</p>
Hockey	<p>Current playing level is likely to increase with a 15% growth rate predicted by England Hockey.</p>	<p>Ensure continued use of at least 14 sand-based AGPs to accommodate current and future demand and ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability. 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 the subjected pitch is not required.</p>
	<p>High profile events (Hockey World Cup 2018)</p>	<p>These high profile events aim to raise the profile of the game within England and there will be community events in the build-up within clubs and a promotional programme through clubs and local schools. This will inevitably raise the profile of the game with the aim to increase participation.</p>
	<p>Play Hockey</p>	<p>The launch of Play Hockey and its subsequent website ensures that those wishing to play the game are able to find their local facility and club.</p>

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Tennis	Membership of clubs is expected to increase, whilst casual play is expected to remain static.	Increases in participation can be accommodated through providing additional courts that are floodlit. An increase in casual play can be encouraged through adopting LTA initiatives such as the access control system.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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 strategic 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.

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of Hub Sites are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

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

It may be appropriate to consider rationalization of some existing playing field sites (that are of low value i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment towards creating bigger better quality sites (Hub Sites) in order to develop the hierarchy of sites (see recommendation e). Identification of these potential sites should be carried out in partnership with the Steering Group and, in particular, the NGB for that particular sport.

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

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

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

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

It is also possible that sites could be included in this tier which are not currently hired or leased to a club, but have the potential to be leased to a suitable club. NGBs would expect the facility to be transferred in an adequate condition that the club can maintain. In the longer term, the Club should be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the facilities.

Management and development

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

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

Action plan columns

Partners

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

Site hierarchy tier

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 be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Costs

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

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

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 included relate to delivery times and are not priority based.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CENTRAL ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	7	6	0.5	0.5	-	4.5	4
Youth pitches 11v11	-	2	-	2	-	5	7
Youth pitches 9v9	-	5.5	-	5.5	-	2	7.5
Mini pitches 7v7	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	0.5	2
Mini pitches 5v5	-	-	-		-	3	3

- ◀ There is currently 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on adult pitches; however, there is a future shortfall of four match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of two match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 5.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and a future shortfall of two match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Mini 5v5 pitches are currently played to capacity; however, a shortfall is evident when accounting for future demand equating to three match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches at Land Rover Sports and Social Club, on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches at Tanworth Lane Sports Ground and on adult and youth 9v9 pitches at Silhill Football Club.
- ◀ There are 20 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are 13 providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ There is current training demand for two full size 3G pitches and future training demand for three full size 3G pitches, of which there is currently one (Tudor Grange Leisure Centre).
- ◀ There are proposals to create full size 3G pitches at Light Hall School and Sharman's Cross.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Sustain quality of changing facilities to ensure none become poor quality.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Seek FA testing of Tudor Grange Leisure Centre so that it can be used for competitive matches, thus maximising its capacity.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are built to FA/RFU specifications and are certified to allow for match play.
- ◀ Ensure that all 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are 12 grass wicket cricket squares (of which eight are available for community use) and five standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares available for community use, four are assessed as good quality and four are assessed standard quality (none are assessed as poor quality).
- ◀ Hampton & Solihull CC expresses an aspiration for additional practice nets to be installed at its site.
- ◀ For senior cricket, actual spare capacity is identified at Old Edwardians Sports Club on Sundays, whereas no squares are overplayed.
- ◀ Hampton & Solihull CC cannot accommodate its expressed future demand at sites it currently uses due to no actual spare capacity existing on a Saturday or a Sunday.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain good quality squares through appropriate maintenance.
- ◀ Review issues affecting standard quality squares and seek improvements where possible.
- ◀ Support Hampton & Solihull CC in aspirations for training facility improvements.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs accessing secondary venues have secure tenure arrangements to ensure long-term access.
- ◀ Explore options that enable Hampton & Solihull CC to grow as planned through access to an alternative square.

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are ten senior, and two junior rugby union pitches available for community use.
- ◀ In addition, Sharman's Cross previously provided a second senior pitch before a stand was setup for spectators.
- ◀ Seven senior pitches are assessed as poor quality as is one junior pitch.
- ◀ Edwardian RUFC has only 23 years remaining on its lease of Old Edwardians Sports Club (via Old Edwardians Sports Club LTD).
- ◀ Camp Hill RUFC reports an aspiration to extend its clubhouse extension so that it can provide a function room, a committee room and new RFU compliant changing rooms.
- ◀ Edwardian RUFC reports that its clubhouse is poor quality due to a leaking roof and wants to ensure its changing rooms meet RFU standards.
- ◀ Spare capacity exists on senior pitches at the Land Rover Sports and Social Club and at Camp Hill Rugby Club although not at peak time.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ One senior pitch at Shirley Park is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions and two senior pitches at Old Edwardians Sports Club are overplayed by 4.5 and 2.5 match equivalent sessions respectively.
- ◀ Overall, there is a current shortfall of 7.5 match equivalent sessions on senior pitches and a future shortfall of 12.5 match equivalent sessions.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality to reduce shortfalls through installing drainage systems and/or improving maintenance, particularly at poor quality and overplayed sites.
- ◀ Consider installation of additional floodlighting at Old Edwardians Sports Club to spread out training demand and to alleviate overplay of current training pitch.
- ◀ Explore options to provide Edwardian RUFC with access to more pitches to fully alleviate overplay at Old Edwardians Sports Club.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unavailable pitches for curricular and extra-curricular use and explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Support Camp Hill RFC in its aspiration to develop its clubhouse facility.
- ◀ Make improvements to the clubhouse at Old Edwardians Sports Club in relation to the leaking roof.
- ◀ Seek to provide greater security of tenure to Edwardian RUFC by extending its lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years.
- ◀ Protect the pitches at Sharmans Cross following development proposals or re-provide the provision elsewhere within the locality.

Rugby League

Summary

- ◀ There is one rugby union pitch that is used for rugby league by South Birmingham Hawks RLFC at Old Edwardians Sports Club.
- ◀ There are plans for the Club to merge with Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC ahead of the 2017 season and this will result in all demand transferring to Birmingham.

Recommendations

- ◀ Support Birmingham Hawks RLFC in its merger with Birmingham Bulldogs RLFC.
- ◀ Retain the option for the Club to return to Solihull should provision be required in the future.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are four full size hockey suitable AGPs, three (Lode Heath School, Saint Martin's School and West Warwickshire Sports Club) of which are available to the community and used by hockey clubs (Solihull School is not).
- ◀ Solihull School is assessed poor quality, the remaining three pitches are all assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Solihull School has plans to create a secondary full sized AGP at the school site and this will enable both to be available for community use.
- ◀ Olton & West Warwickshire HC cannot accommodate its future demand at West Warwickshire Sports Club as the pitch is used to capacity.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure all pitches are protected for hockey use.
- ◀ Support Solihull School in the creation of its second AGP and ensure that both pitches become available for community use.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place at all sites for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for all clubs through community use or long-term lease agreements.
- ◀ Explore options to enable Olton & West Warwickshire HC to fulfil its growth plans.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 54 tennis courts available for community use.
- ◀ There are nine poor quality courts located at Alderbrook School (five), Elmdon Park (two) and Malvern park (two).

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites with poor quality surfaces.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

Athletics

Summary

- ◀ There is a 400-metre synthetic track located at Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.
- ◀ The track is assessed as good quality albeit the surface is 16 years old and has exceeded its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ It is accessed by Solihull & Small Heath Athletics Club.
- ◀ It is certified to host high level competition and is accompanied by jumping pits, a throwing cage and a covered stand that can accommodate 576 people.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain track quality and explore options to carry out refurbishment when appropriate.
- ◀ Support Solihull & Small Athletics Club to ensure its needs are being met.

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵
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
						Explore community use options to reduce local shortfalls.			S	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
			Tennis		Five non-floodlit poor quality macadam courts.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	M
225	Alternated Technology Group Stadium (Solihull Moors Football Club)	B91 2PP	Football	Club	A good quality stadia adult pitch and a standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Neither pitch provides actual spare capacity. Adult pitch is used for Step 1 football and the Club is in the process of a funding bid to increase capacity.	Ensure that quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid and support its capacity increase aspirations.			L	H
230	Barn Lane Recreation Ground	B92 7ND	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
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
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
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 quality of pitches to provide actual spare capacity and then seek to maximise usage.	FA	Key centre	S	M
245	Elmdon Park	B92 9EY	Football	Council	A poor quality adult pitch that currently has no identified use.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and explore options to attract demand to the site.	FA	Local site	S	L
			Tennis		Two non-floodlit poor quality macadam courts.	Assess demand and resurface courts to improve quality should it be necessary.	LTA		S	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
			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

¹⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁵ (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 ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵
254	Hillfield Park	B91 3LU	Football	Council	Three poor quality adult pitches which are played to capacity.	Seek to improve quality to create additional capacity and to avoid future overplay.	FA	Local site	S	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
263	Light Hall School	B90 2PZ	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches with minimal actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Key centre	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
			Sand AGP		A smaller sized (85 x 55 metres) sand based AGP that the School plans to convert into a full size 3G pitch. Floodlit and available to the community.	Explore feasibility of 3G conversion given local shortfalls and ensure it is not detrimental to hockey activity. Should the conversion take place, seek FA testing so that it can host competitive matches. Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	FA EH School		S	M
									S	L
									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	L
L									L	
S									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			
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 and extra-curricular activity.	RFU School	S	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. Seek imminent resurfacing to avoid further quality deterioration and to retain usage. Ensure a sinking fund is in place. Provide security of tenure through a community use agreement.	EH School	L	L			
						S	M			
	L	L								
266	Lyndon Playing Field	B92 7PW	Football	Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with 3.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity. Used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Reconfigure some of the pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users. Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	FA	Local site	L	L
									S	L
									S	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁴	Cost ¹⁵
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	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	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
						Utilise actual spare capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			S	L
277	Palmers Rough Recreation Ground	B90 3LH	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Ensure no further play occurs without quality improvements to avoid overplay.			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.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH School	Local site	L	L
						Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure a sinking fund is in place for long term sustainability.			L	L
						Provide security of tenure through a community use agreement.			S	L
280	Shirley Park	B90 2DH	Rugby union	Council	A standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitch and a poor quality (M1/D0) junior pitch that are used by Camp Hill RUFC. Both pitches are 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	Local site	S	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	
			Tennis			Four standard quality non-floodlit macadam tennis courts.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.		LTA	L
286	Solihull Municipal Club	B91 3LE	Football	Community	One poor quality adult pitch that is over marked by a youth 9v9 pitch. Unused, with actual spare capacity discounted due to quality issues.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
			Explore lack of demand.			S			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

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁶	Cost ¹⁷
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. Explore community use options in line with the AGP being made available.	School FA	Key centre	L	L
						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. Explore community use options in line with the AGP being made available.	School ECB		L	L
						S			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. Explore community use options of the grass pitches in line with the AGP being made available.	School RFU		L	L
						S			L	
			Sand AGP		A poor quality AGP which is in need of resurfacing having not been resurfaced since its 1995 installation. Unavailable for community use. The School also has a proposal to develop an additional full size hockey AGP on site that will result in both being made available to the community.	Seek to resurface existing pitch as a hockey suitable surface. Support the School in its aspirations to develop a second AGP and seek to maximise its usage via the community. Ensure security of tenure is provided to users via community use agreements. Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	School EH		S	M
									S	H
									S	L
									L	L
			Tennis		Eight artificial turf courts marked on the AGP in addition to four macadam courts. Courts are not available for community use but are floodlit.	Improve quality of the courts when the AGP is resurfaced and retain for curricular and extra-curricular activity.	LTA School		S	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.
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		
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		
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		

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

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

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ¹⁸	Cost ¹⁹
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.	School FA	Local site	L	L
					Further explore community use options and seek to attract demand given local shortfalls.	S			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.	School RFU		S	L
					Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	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. Adult pitches are overplayed by two match equivalent sessions; the 9v9 pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions. Adult pitch is used for Step 6 football. The 7v7 pitch is played to capacity. All pitches have unsecure tenure due to commercial management. Undergone PIP.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	L
					Provide security of tenure to clubs via a community use agreement.	S			L	
					Ensure site allows for Cadbury Athletic FC to progress through the football pyramid.					
			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 poor quality.	Seek to improve the quality of the pitch through drainage improvements in unison with improved maintenance.	RFU		S	L
					Provide security of tenure to Birmingham Civil Service RUFC via a long-term lease agreement (minimum 25 years)	S			L	
					Seek to floodlit pitch to enable year-round training and match play opportunities.	S			M	
					Improve quality of ancillary facilities available to the Club.	S			M	
294	Tippetts Field	B91 2PF	Cricket	Council	One good quality square with 11 grass wickets. Played to capacity at peak time and used by Hampton & Solihull CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB	Local site	L	L
					Explore opportunities to improve training provision in line with club aspirations.	S			L	
					Explore opportunities that enable Hampton & Solihull CC to grow as planned via use of alternative venues.	L			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	L

¹⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

¹⁹ (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 ²⁰	Cost ²¹
295	Tudor Grange Academy	B91 3PD	Football	School	One adult and three mini 7v7 pitches which are all poor quality. Pitches are unavailable for community use due quality issues.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use aspects given local shortfalls.	FA School	Key centre	S	L
			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
						Ensure security of tenure for Olton & West Warwickshire CC via a community use agreement.			S	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
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			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					
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 quality.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure ground grading is suitable for Step 7 football should AFC Solihull achieve promotion.			L	L
			3G		A standard quality, full size 3G pitch that was installed in 2009.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA		S	L
						Seek FA testing so that it can be used to accommodate competitive matches.			S	M
			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.			L	L
		Support the Club to ensure it needs are being met.								
298	West Warwickshire Sports Club	B91 1DA	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with ten grass wickets that is played to capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	L
						Ensure no additional usage to avoid overplay.			L	L
			Sand AGP		A full size, sand based AGP that is assessed as standard quality following installation in 2007. Used by Olton & West Warwickshire HC.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club		L	L
						Seek resurfacing in the near future to avoid quality deterioration and to retain usage.			M	M
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	L		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	L					

²⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²¹ (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 ²²	Cost ²³
302	Old Edwardians Sports Club	B90 3PE	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square with ten grass wickets. Actual spare capacity exists on Sundays.	Seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares used by clubs.	ECB Club	Key centre	S	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity to accommodate future demand.			L	L
			Rugby union		Two poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitches that are overplayed by a seven match equivalent sessions. Pitches are used by Edwardians RUFC, University College Birmingham and South Birmingham Hawks RLFC. One pitch is floodlit, whereas the other pitch is part floodlit. The clubhouse facility has a leaking roof causing an issue with mould. Only 23 years remain on the lease agreement.	Improve first team pitch to D3 following Sport England funding.	RFU Club		S	M
						Improve the second pitch through improved drainage in unison with improved maintenance.			S	L
						Explore opportunities to provide floodlighting on the second pitch so that training demand can be spread, thus alleviating overplay.			S	M
						Alternatively, explore options to provide the Club with a greater number of pitches.			S	M
						Improve clubhouse facilities through repairing the roof and improving the changing rooms.			S	M
						Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	L
						Retain rugby league demand should it be required.			L	L
303	Moseley Cricket Club	B90 2PE	Football	Club	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Ensure that the quality of the pitch is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
			Cricket			One good quality square with 12 wickets and a standard quality square with eight wickets. Both squares are played to capacity. Clubhouse 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.	ECB Club
					Explore opportunities to install an NTP on site to create additional capacity on the grass wickets.		S		L	
					Consider options to improve clubhouse servicing Shirley CC.	S	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
321	Blossomfield Sports Club	B91 3JY	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 11 grass wickets. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
			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.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA Club		L	L

²² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²³ (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 ²⁴	Cost ²⁵
329	Sharman's Cross	B91 1RQ	3G	Council	A proposal for a full size 3G pitch.	Explore feasibility of providing the development and seek to maximise usage if it goes ahead via FA testing.	FA RFU	Key centre	S	H
					If this replaces the rugby union pitch, explore World Rugby testing to mitigate loss, although it would not be a priority site for the RFU.				S	L
			Rugby union		Two poor quality (M0/D1) senior pitches that are unused by the community.	Improve pitch quality and explore community utilisation; or, re-provide the pitches in the locality should they be permanently lost for housing development.	RFU		S	L
			Tennis		A total of 13 artificial turf tennis courts that are assessed as good quality and are floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA		L	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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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

²⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁵ (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 ²⁶	Cost ²⁷
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
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
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. All pitches are poor quality and each are significantly overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and seek the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity to fully alleviate it.	Club FA	Local site	S	L
366	Silhill Football Club	B91 1RQ	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitches with one over marked by a 9v9 pitch. Pitches are overplayed by a total of three match equivalent sessions. Site has undergone PIP.	Improve pitch quality to good to alleviate overplay or seek the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	Club FA	Local site	S	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	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	L
						Support the Club in its clubhouse improvement aspirations.			S	M

²⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²⁷ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NORTH ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ²⁸	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	8	7	0.5	0.5	1	3	3.5
Youth pitches 11v11	1.5	3	1	2.5	1	6.5	10
Youth pitches 9v9	2	1.5	1	0.5	2.5	3	6
Mini pitches 7v7	1	2	3.5	4.5	1	4	9.5
Mini pitches 5v5	1	-	3.5	2.5	-	4	6.5

- ◀ There are currently 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on adult pitches; however, there is a future shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of six match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches and a future shortfall of 9.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches, and a future shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on pitches at Chelmsley Town Football Club, CTC Kinghurst Academy, Grace Academy, Hampton Sports Club, the Pavilions and Glades Football Club.
- ◀ There are 27 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are three providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ Changing provision servicing Marston Green Football Club and the Pavilions is rated as poor quality.
- ◀ There is current training demand for four full size 3G pitches and future training demand for five full size 3G pitches, of which, there are currently two (CTC Kinghurst Academy and John Henry Newman Catholic College).
- ◀ There is a proposal to create a full size 3G pitch at North Solihull Sports Centre

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.
- ◀ Improve quality of changing provision at Marston Green Football Club and the Pavilions.

²⁸ In match equivalent sessions

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Ensure 3G pitches at CTC Kinghurst Academy and John Henry Newman Catholic College remain on the FA pitch register via testing every three years.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of sites to increase 3G pitch stock, first and foremost via North Solihull Sports Centre, and ensure that sustainable, robust business plans are in place.
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are built to FA/RFU specifications and are certified to allow for match play.
- ◀ Ensure that all current and future 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are five grass wicket cricket squares, all of which are available for community use, in addition to two standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares, four are standard quality and one is good quality (Catherine de Barnes Cricket Club).
- ◀ Catherine de Barnes CC expresses an aspiration for additional practice nets to be installed at its site.
- ◀ There are no squares identified as being overplayed.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by Hampton Village CC and Marston Green CC can be accommodated on the current pitch stock.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain good quality square situated at Catherine de Barnes Cricket Club.
- ◀ Review issues affecting standard quality squares and seek improvements where possible.
- ◀ Support Catherine de Barnes CC in its aspiration to secure new training facilities on site.
- ◀ Ensure that current actual spare capacity located at Hampton In Arden Sports Ltd and Marston Green Recreation Ground is able to be accessed in the future to accommodate future growth aspirations by Hampton Village CC and Marston Green CC respectively.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are six senior pitches and one mini pitch available for community use.
- ◀ One senior pitch is poor quality (Smiths Wood Sports College); the remaining pitches are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Birmingham Exiles RUFC reports no issues with security of tenure or ancillary provision.
- ◀ Birmingham Exiles RUFC has future demand aspirations of one senior team.
- ◀ One senior pitch at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week due to it accommodating all training demand.
- ◀ In contrast, there is 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity on another senior pitch on site.
- ◀ Overall, there is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on senior pitches and a future shortfall of one match equivalent session.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve quality of pitches at Birmingham Exiles Rugby Club through the installation of a drainage system and improved maintenance to alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Explore installation of additional floodlighting to spread out training demand.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unused pitches and unavailable pitches at educational sites for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There are two full size hockey suitable AGPs situated at Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club and North Solihull Sports Centre.
- ◀ Both pitches are rated standard quality; Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club was resurfaced in 2005, Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club was resurfaced in 2008.
- ◀ North Solihull Sports Centre has a proposal in place to convert its pitch into a 3G surface despite being accessed by Birmingham Wasps HC.
- ◀ Berkswell & Balsall Common HC exports the majority of its demand to the University of Warwick, which is a particular issue as the University is relaying its AGPs and wants to host an “elite” club at its new facility.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure Hampton-in-Arden Sports Club is protected for hockey use and provide refurbishment in the near future given the age of the current surface.
- ◀ Ensure Birmingham Wasps HC remains provided for via an alternative AGP if the proposed conversion of North Solihull Sports Centre goes ahead (possible via a venue in Birmingham).
- ◀ Seek to relocate Berkswell & Balsall Common HC in Solihull following its notice to leave the University of Warwick.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are in place at all sites for long-term sustainability.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Pursue security of tenure for all clubs through community use or long-term lease agreements.

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 25 tennis courts available for community use.
- ◀ There are nine poor quality courts located at John Henry Newman Catholic College (four), Mariden Park (two) and Smith's Wood Sports College (three).

Recommendations

- ◀ Explore opportunities to improve court quality at sites with poor quality surfaces.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

Athletics

Summary

- ◀ There a 400-metre synthetic track located at North Solihull Sports Centre.
- ◀ The track is assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ It is not accessed by any clubs and is instead predominately used by local schools.

Recommendations

- ◀ Consider alternative sporting options as the track is not considered to be sustainable.

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ²⁹	Cost ³⁰
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
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 1.5 match sessions of spare capacity. The remaining senior pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent session per week as it accommodates all training demand.	Improving the quality of the training pitch through improved maintenance and/or the installation of a drainage system to alleviate overplay.	RFU Club	Local site	S	M
						Consider similar improvements on other pitches to increase capacity.			M	L
						Explore installation of additional floodlighting to spread out training demand.			S	M
233	Bluebell Recreation Ground	B37 6SS	Football	Council	Three adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all assessed as standard. Both the youth 9v9 and the mini 7v7 pitch are unused. The adult pitches contain 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Ensure quality of pitches is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of play from overplayed sites or via future demand.			L	L
234	Castle Bromwich Playing Fields	B36 9PB	Football	Parish Council	Four adult, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch all rated as standard quality. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Adult pitches are used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	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, if possible, seek to improve quality to good in line with the majority of other squares in Solihull.	ECB		L	L
			Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain court quality for continued casual use.	LTA		L	L
235	Catherine De Barnes Cricket Club	B91 2TJ	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with nine grass wickets. Actual spare capacity exists on a Sunday. Only two years remain on the lease agreement.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
						Extend lease agreement to at least 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	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	L
						Sustain quality of remaining pitches.			L	L

²⁹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁰ (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 ³¹	Cost ³²
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. Each pitch type contains 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Explore opportunities to utilise actual spare capacity to reduce current and future shortfalls.			L	L
239	CTC Kinghurst Academy	B37 6NU	Football	School	One adult pitch, one youth 9v9 pitch, two mini 7v7 and two mini 5v5 pitches all rated as standard quality. The 5v5 pitches have minimal capacity remaining, whereas the remaining pitch types are all overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay.	FA School	Hub site	S	L
						Transfer play to sites with actual spare capacity to fully alleviate overplay.			S	L
						Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	L
			3G		A good quality 3G pitch built in 2015. FA approved to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School		L	L
						Seek FA testing every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive football.			M	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	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	I					
247	Grace Academy	B37 5JS	Football	School	Two adult pitches and two mini 7v7 pitches all rated as standard quality. The adult pitches are overplayed by one match equivalent session per week, whereas the mini pitches are played to 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	L
						Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	L
						Re-configure adult pitches to better accommodate sole youth 11v11 users.			S	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
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			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.	Explore feasibility of conversion and seek to maximise football usage should it go ahead.	FA EH School		S	H
						Seek FA testing so that it can be used for mini and youth matches.			S	L
			Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		S	L

³¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³² (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 ³¹	Cost ³²
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.	ECB Club	Key centre	L	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 a hockey suitable pitch.	EH Club		L	L
						Seek imminent refurbishment to avoid quality deterioration and to sustain usage.			S	M
			Tennis		Five good quality artificial courts that are floodlit and utilised by Hampton-in-Arden TC.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.	LTA Club		L	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 by one match equivalent session per week. 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.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
						Alleviate overplay of the youth 11v11 pitch through improving quality to good or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
						Sustain quality of remaining pitch types through appropriate maintenance.			L	L
						Explore options to extend lease to over 25 years to provide greater security of tenure and to assist in development plans and funding bids.			S	L
						Ensure site allows Hampton FC to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
252	Heath Park	B37 6SS	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with one match equivalent session of actual spare capacity. Under threat from HS2 development.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.			L	L
						Ensure any permanent loss after HS2 development is mitigated.			L	H

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³³	Cost ³⁴
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 and a mini 5v5 pitch. All pitches are assessed as good quality and all are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.	FA School	Hub site	L	L
									S	L
			3G		A good quality 3G pitch built in 2016. FA tested to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Seek FA testing every three years so that it remains suitable for competitive football. Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.	FA School		L	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	L	L					
257	Knowle & Dorridge Cricket Club (Lugtrout Lane)	B91 2RX	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with nine grass wickets. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and 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		L	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.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.			L	L
265	Lugtrout Lane	B91 2RX	Football	Club	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, two mini 7v7 pitches and one mini 7v7 pitch all rated as standard quality. Both the youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 are played to capacity, whilst remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Ensure no additional play on the youth pitches to avoid future overplay, or ensure that any additional demand is met by quality improvements.			L	L
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 played to capacity, the remaining pitches have no actual spare capacity. Ancillary provision at the site is assessed as poor quality. Lease agreement is close to expiry. Undergone PIP.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Ensure no additional play on the adult pitch to avoid future overplay, or ensure that any additional demand is met by quality improvements.			L	L
						Explore opportunities to improve quality of ancillary facilities.			S	M
						Extend lease agreement to provide greater security of tenure and to assist in development plans and funding bids.			S	L

³³ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁴ (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 ³³	Cost ³⁴
270	Marston Green Recreation Ground	B37 7ER	Football	Parish Council	Three standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity at peak time. Well used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Key centre	L	L
						Consider re-configuration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.			S	L
			Cricket		A standard quality square with eight grass wickets. Played to capacity on both a Saturday and a Sunday. Only eight 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
						Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	L
272	Meriden Park	B37 5SD	Football	Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Assess demand for courts and, if necessary, improve quality for casual use.	LTA		S	L
274	North Solihull Sports Centre	B37 5LA	Sand AGP	Commercial	A standard quality sand-based AGP built in 2008 and accessed by Birmingham Wasps HC. A proposal is in place for the pitch to be converted to 3G.	If the 3G conversion takes place, ensure Birmingham Wasps HC is provided for elsewhere.	FA EH	Local site	S	H
						Explore as a potential site for a double 3G to fully alleviate 3G shortfalls in the Analysis Area.			M	H
						If the above is not possible, protect the AGP as hockey suitable or mitigate the loss.			S	L
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
			Athletics		A poor quality 400-metre synthetic track with six lanes. Accessed by local schools for 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
						Alternatively, explore options to better utilise the track.			S	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁵	Cost ³⁶
278	Park Hall Academy	B36 9HF	Football	School	Two adult, two youth 11v11 and five youth 9v9 pitches all rated as standard quality. Both the adult pitches and youth 11v11 pitches contain actual spare capacity, whereas the youth 9v9 pitches are unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA School	Local site	L	L
						Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through transferring demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.			L	L
						Seek to provide users with security of tenure via a community use agreement.			S	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
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			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
			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
283	Smiths Wood Playing Field	B36 0UE	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is currently unused.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore lack of current demand.	FA	Local site	L	L
									Seek to utilise actual spare capacity through transferring demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	L
284	Smiths Wood Sports College	B36 0UE	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches which are currently unused by the community despite being available.	Retain for school use and explore lack of community demand.	FA	Key centre	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
			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
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			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.	Explore feasibility of conversion and seek to maximise football usage should it go ahead.	FA EH School		S	H
						Seek FA testing so that it can be used for mini and youth matches.			S	L
Tennis	Three poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit but are available for community use.	Improve quality of the courts for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	L					

³⁵ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁶ (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 ³⁵	Cost ³⁶
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 and youth 11v11 pitches are both overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, whereas the mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Used by Kingshurst Sporting FC, which is concerned over its future once new leaseholders are established.	Alleviate overplay through improving quality to good or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.	FA	Key centre	S	L
						Explore opportunities to improve the ancillary provision on site.			S	M
						Provide a resolution to security of tenure issues that safeguard the sporting future of the site.			S	L
						Should the above not be possible, mitigate any eventual loss of playing field.			S	H
			3G		A small sized (30 x 30 metres) 3G pitch used to accommodate training demand for mini teams from Sporting Kinghurst FC.	Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability and to retain community usage.	FA	L	L	
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
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
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
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
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
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.	Reduce overplay through improving pitch quality to good.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
						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	L
						Ensure site allows Hampton FC to progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
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	L

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

RURAL ANALYSIS AREA

Football

Summary

Analysis area	Supply and Demand assessment (match equivalent sessions)						
	Actual spare capacity ³⁷	Overplay	Exported demand	Current total	Latent demand	Future demand	Total
Adult pitches	1.5	4.5	-	3	0.5	1	4.5
Youth pitches 11v11	-	0.5	-	0.5	2	4.5	7
Youth pitches 9v9	0.5	4	-	3.5	2	2.5	8
Mini pitches 7v7	2.5	-	-	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Mini pitches 5v5	1	-	3.5	2.5	-	4	6.5

- ◀ There is a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions on adult pitches and a future shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 0.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches and a future shortfall of seven match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 3.5 match equivalent sessions on youth 9v9 pitches and a future shortfall of eight match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a current spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 7v7 pitches, however, there is a future shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions identified.
- ◀ There is a current shortfall of 2.5 match equivalent sessions on mini 5v5 pitches and a future shortfall of 6.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Overplay is evident on pitches at Arden Academy Trust, Dickens Heath Sports Club, Heart of England School (Holly Lane), Knowle Football Club and Meriden Sports Park.
- ◀ There are 28 youth 11v11 teams (u13s-u16s) playing on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are two providers that currently do not allow for community use of some or all of their pitches.
- ◀ Changing provision servicing Highgate United Football Club, Hockley Heath Recreation Ground and Knowle Football Club is rated as poor quality.
- ◀ There is current and future training demand for three full size 3G pitches, of which, none are currently provided.
- ◀ There are proposals for four full size 3G pitches (Arden Academy Trust, Dickens Heath Sports Club (x2) and Knowle Football Club).

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay, reduce shortfalls and increase future capacity.
- ◀ Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- ◀ Transfer youth 11v11 demand from adult pitches to youth 11v11 pitches and use resultant spare capacity on adult pitches to determine pitch reconfiguration.

³⁷ In match equivalent sessions

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Improve quality of changing provision at Highgate United Football Club, Hockley Heath Recreation Ground and Knowle Football Club.
- ◀ Ensure continued security of tenure for clubs with lease arrangements in place and explore suitability of other, large, development-minded clubs that could be appropriate for asset transfer.
- ◀ Pursue implementation of community use agreements at currently unsecure sites, particularly in relation to educational facilities.
- ◀ Explore feasibility of sites to create and increase full size 3G pitch stock.
- ◀ Consider proposals at Knowle Football Club and Arden Academy Trust together given close proximity (it is likely that only one is required).
- ◀ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are built to FA specifications and are certified to allow for match play.
- ◀ Ensure that all future 3G pitches have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Maximise usage of 3G pitches, particularly for match purposes, to alleviate pressure on grass pitches.

Cricket

Summary

- ◀ There are nine grass wicket cricket squares, all of which are available for community use, in addition to three standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Of the grass wicket squares, three are assessed as good quality and six are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Knowle Village CC has aspirations to install an NTP on site to accommodate training demand.
- ◀ Dorridge, Heart of England, Tanworth & Camp Hill and Woodbourne cricket clubs all have aspirations to install additional practice nets.
- ◀ There are five squares overplayed (Dickens Health Sports Club, Earlswood Cricket Club, The John Woolman Ground, Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association and Woodbourne Sports Club).
- ◀ Future demand expressed by Berkswell, Dorridge and Woodbourne cricket clubs cannot be accommodated on each respective home site.
- ◀ For junior cricket, spare capacity for an increase in demand is considered to exist as no NTPs are at capacity or overplayed.

Recommendations

- ◀ Sustain good quality squares situated at Knowle & Dorridge, Berkswell and Hockley Heath cricket clubs.
- ◀ Review issues affecting standard quality squares and seek improvements where possible.
- ◀ Support clubs with aspirations to acquire additional training facilities.
- ◀ Explore options to alleviate overplay through the installation of NTPs and/or through the transfer of demand.
- ◀ Explore opportunities to enable Berkswell, Dorridge and Woodbourne cricket clubs to realise future growth plans via access to alternative provision.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Rugby union

Summary

- ◀ There are 12 senior pitches and five mini pitch available for community use.
- ◀ All senior pitches located at Silhillians Sports Club are assessed as good quality; all senior pitches located at Old Yardleians Rugby Club are assessed as standard quality.
- ◀ Old Yardleians RUFC has only 18 years remaining on a lease agreement that can be ended with 12 months' notice.
- ◀ One senior pitch at both Old Yardleians Rugby Club (two match equivalent sessions) and Silhillians Sports Club (three match equivalent sessions) are overplayed due to midweek training demand.
- ◀ In contrast, there is minimal actual spare capacity split across four pitches at both sites.
- ◀ Overall, there is a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions on senior pitches and a future shortfall of four match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ A proposal is in place for the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G at Silhillians Sports Club.

Recommendations

- ◀ Install additional floodlighting at Old Yardleians Rugby Club to alleviate overplay.
- ◀ Support the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch at Silhillians Sports Club to alleviate its overplay and explore usage by other clubs.
- ◀ Consider installation of drainage systems at both sites to improve quality and to increase capacity in unison with improved maintenance.
- ◀ Provide Old Yardleians RUFC with greater security of tenure by extending its lease arrangement to a minimum of 25 years and removing a break clause.
- ◀ Alternatively, explore feasibility of Old Yardleians RUFC transferring demand to Dickens Heath Sports Club, providing that the development offers a like for like replacement of existing facilities, security of tenure for the Club and that the Club and the RFU are consulted on and supportive of any potential scheme.
- ◀ Retain and improve currently unused pitches and unavailable pitches at educational sites for curricular and extra-curricular use and further explore community use aspects to reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.

Hockey

Summary

- ◀ There is one full size hockey suitable AGP, situated at Silhillians Sports Club.
- ◀ The pitch was resurfaced in 2009 and is good quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure the AGP at Silhillians Sports Club is protected for continued hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Explore options to enable Old Silhillians HC to fulfil future growth aspirations.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Tennis

Summary

- ◀ There are 18 tennis courts available for community use.
- ◀ Of the courts, 14 are assessed as good quality and four are assessed as standard quality.

Recommendations

- ◀ Improve ancillary provision servicing council courts to maximise usage.
- ◀ Ensure that all courts in active use are retained and ensure that they all receive adequate maintenance to prevent quality deteriorating.
- ◀ Further explore club membership and ensure demand can be accommodated at club's operating above the LTA threshold (40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 members per floodlit court).

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ³⁸	Cost ³⁹
226	Arden Academy Trust	B93 0PT	Football	School	Two adult pitches assessed as standard quality and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions through curricular use.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to create actual spare capacity that can be utilised by the community.	FA School	Local site	S	L
			Rugby union		Three standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches that are available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for school use.	RFU School		L	L
			Sand AGP		A small sized sand-based AGP with a proposal for a full size 3G conversion.	Explore 3G feasibility together with the proposal at Knowle Football Club given close proximity. It is likely that only one will be required.	FA School		S	H
						Should the development go ahead, seek FA testing for competitive matches.			S	L
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			L	L
			Tennis		Six poor quality macadam courts that are not floodlit.	Seek to improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School		L	L
229	Balsall and Berkswell Football Club	CV7 7BN	Football	Club	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 pitch and two mini 7v7 pitches assessed as good quality and a standard quality mini 5v5 pitch. All pitch types are played to capacity at peak time. FF funded.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
231	Bentley Heath Recreation Ground	B93 9AN	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity at peak time. Used by youth 11v11 teams.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Consider reconfiguring one pitch to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.				S
			Tennis		Two standard quality macadam courts which are not floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for continued casual use.	LTA		L	L
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.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
									Utilise actual spare capacity through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or via future demand.	

³⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

³⁹ (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 ⁴⁰	Cost ⁴¹
242	Dickens Heath Sports Club	B94 5NA	Football	Club	A proposal is in place is for two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch to be provided; however this would result in an overall loss of playing pitch space. The site currently contains one standard quality adult pitch and a standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is over marked by a mini 7v7 pitch. The youth 9v9 is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, the remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time.	Support the development proposal providing that it is of a benefit to sport.	FA Club	Key site	S	H
						If the development does not occur, alleviate overplay of the youth 9v9 pitch via quality improvements or through the transfer of demand to sites with actual spare capacity.			S	L
						If the development does occur, ensure new pitches are provided to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.			S	H
						Ensure adequate ancillary facilities service the development.			S	H
			3G	There is a proposal to create two full sized 3G pitches on site as part of its redevelopment. This would include one stadia 3G pitch and one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	Explore feasibility of providing the 3G pitches to reduce shortfalls.	FA RFU Club	S	H		
					Ensure pitches are constructed to FA/RFU specifications and seek relevant testing.		S	L		
					Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability.		L	L		
			Cricket	A standard quality square with ten grass wickets. The square is overplayed by ten match equivalent sessions per season. Used by Tanworth & Camphill CC, which has aspirations to install additional training nets.	Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.	ECB Club	S	L		
					Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.		S	L		
					Ensure quality of cricket square is sustained and if possible improved to limit effects of overplay.		L	L		
			Rugby union	The creation of a sports hub may involve the re-location of Old Yardelians RUFC.	Ensure any relocation provides the Club with a like for like replacement of existing facilities, security of tenure and that the Club and the RFU are consulted on and supportive of any potential scheme.	RFU	S	H		
			243	Earlswood Cricket Club	B94 6EE	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 11 grass wickets. Overplayed by 19 match equivalent sessions per season	Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.	ECB Club
Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.	S	L								
Ensure quality of cricket square is sustained and if possible improved to limit effects of overplay.	L	L								

⁴⁰ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴¹ (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 ⁴²	Cost ⁴³
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. Pitches have severe drainage issues and are played to capacity through school use.	Improve pitch quality via drainage improvements to create actual spare capacity that can be utilised by the community.	FA School	Local site	S	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	L
			Rugby union		A poor quality (M1/D0) senior pitch which is available for community use but unused. Site has no actual spare capacity due to quality of surface.	Look to improve quality of the pitch for curricular and extra-curricular use.	RFU School		L	L
						Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			S	M
Tennis	Seven poor quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Improve court quality for curricular and extra-curricular use.	LTA School	S	M					
251	Heart of England School (Holly Lane)	CV7 7FW	Football	School	One adult and one youth 9v9 pitch assessed as poor quality. Available to the community but unused. Pitches have severe drainage issues and are overplayed through school and community use.	Improve pitch quality via drainage improvements to create actual spare capacity that can be utilised by the community.	FA School	Local site	S	L
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; the 7v7 pitches are assessed as poor quality. The remaining pitches are standard quality. The 5v5 pitches have minimal actual spare capacity; remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Adult pitch used for Step 6 football.	Improve poor quality pitches and sustain standard and good quality pitches.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
						Explore opportunities to improve ancillary provision at the Club.			S	M
						Utilise actual spare capacity on 5v5 pitches via future demand.			S	L
						Explore options to provide dedicated youth 11v11 pitches.			S	L
						Ensure club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
255	Hockley Heath Recreation Ground	B94 6HH	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch all assessed as standard quality. The 9v9 pitch has minimal actual spare capacity; remaining pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local site	L	L
						Explore opportunities to improve ancillary provision at the Club.			S	M
						Utilise actual spare capacity on 9v9 pitch via future demand or through the transfer of demand from overplayed sites.			S	L
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
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	L

⁴² Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴³ (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 ⁴²	Cost ⁴³
260	Knowle Football Club	B93 0NU	Football	Trust	A standard quality adult pitch that is over marked by 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches and as a result is significantly overplayed. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities, with the roof recently damaged beyond repair. Adult pitch is used for Step 7 football. The Club has aspirations to relocate to an alternative site so that it can increase its pitch stock.	Given significant overplay, support the Club in its relocation aspirations and ensure any development provides a sufficient number of pitches.	FA Club	Local site	S	H
						Ensure any development also provides good quality ancillary facilities as well as security of tenure.			S	H
						Ensure the Club can progress through the football pyramid.			L	L
			3G		The Club has aspirations to develop a full sized 3G pitch on site.	Explore feasibility of aspiration given local 3G shortfalls and determine its need together with the 3G proposal at Arden Academy Trust given close proximity. It is likely that only one will be required.	FA Club	S	H	
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	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	L
						Consider creation of grass wickets to better accommodate the senior cricket activity taking place.			S	L
275	Old Yardleians Rugby Club	B90 1PW	Football	Club	One adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA Club	Local site	S	L
			Rugby union		Four standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches. One pitch is floodlit and is overplayed by two match equivalent session per week due to training demand. The fourth pitch is a dual use football pitch and is played to capacity. The remaining two pitches are deemed to have minimal actual spare capacity. Only 18 years remain on a lease agreement that can be cancelled with 12 months' notice.	Explore feasibility of the Club relocating to Dickens Heath Sports Club.	RFU Club		S	H
						Should the above not occur, consider installation of additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread across a greater number of pitches, thus alleviating overplay.			S	M
						Explore installation of a drainage system to improve quality and therefore increase capacity in unison with improved maintenance.			S	M
						Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years and remove break clause to provide improved security of tenure.			S	L
281	Shirley Town Football Club	B90 1PH	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L

**SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Timescales ⁴⁴	Cost ⁴⁵
282	Silhillians Sports Club	B93 9LW	Football	Club	Three adult pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and four mini 7v7 pitches assessed as standard quality. Adult pitches are played to capacity at peak time, youth 9v9 pitches have 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity available and the mini 7v7 pitches have 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity available. Undergone PIP. Ancillary provision is Football Foundation funded.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Key site	L	L
						Utilise actual spare capacity through future demand or, in the case of the 9v9 pitches, through the transfer of play from overplayed sites.			L	L
						Explore options for 3G provision on site depending on impact of potential World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			M	H
			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	
						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	
			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 three 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. A proposal is in place for the creation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	Consider installation of additional floodlighting so that training demand can be spread across a greater number of pitches, thus alleviating overplay.	RFU Club	S	M	
						Explore installation of a drainage system to improve quality and therefore increase capacity.		S	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	
			Sand AGP		A good quality sand-based AGP that was resurfaced in 2009.	Protect as a hockey suitable surface.	EH Club	L	L	
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.		L	L	
Explore options to enable Old Silhillians HC to fulfil future growth aspirations.	M	L								
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

⁴⁴ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁵ (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 ⁴⁶	Cost ⁴⁷
291	The John Woolman Ground	B93 8QA	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square with 13 grass wickets. Site is overplayed by seven 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 seven years remain on the lease agreement.	Ensure quality of cricket square is sustained and if possible improved to limit effects of overplay.	ECB Club	Local site	L	L
						Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.			S	L
						Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.			S	L
						Explore feasibility of creating a second square and support the Club in its training facility aspirations.			S	M
						Extend lease agreement to a minimum of 25 years to provide greater security of tenure.			S	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.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local site	S	L
299	Wychall Wanderers Football Club	B90 1PN	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA Club	Local site	L	L
						Consider re-configuration of one of the pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 demand.			S	L
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
306	Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports Association	CV7 7GE	Cricket	Club	A good quality square with 12 grass wickets that is overplayed by 15 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	L
						Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.			S	L
						Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.			S	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
						Explore possibility of actual spare capacity being utilised to reduce overplay of nearby squares.			S	L

⁴⁶ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁷ (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 ⁴⁸	Cost ⁴⁹
322	Woodbourne Sports Club	B94 5LW	Football	Club	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. The 7v7 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
						Utilise actual spare capacity on the 7v7 pitch through future demand.			S	L
						Cricket			Standard quality square with ten grass wickets that is overplayed by 12 match equivalent sessions per season. The Club has aspirations to provide additional cricket nets on site to accommodate its training demand.	Ensure quality of cricket square is sustained and if possible improved to limit effects of overplay.
			Explore options to install an NTP on site to alleviate overplay.		S		L			
			Alternatively, transfer demand to sites with actual spare capacity or to currently unused school sites.		S		L			
			Support the Club in its aspirations to provide additional training nets.		S	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
						Explore options to attract increased demand to the site.			S	L
						Pursue security of tenure for users via community use agreements.			S	L
339	Dorridge Primary School	B93 8EU	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity. 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
						Ensure any additional usage is met by pitch quality improvements.			L	L
						Support the School in its pavilion aspirations.			S	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
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
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
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. All pitch types are played to capacity at peak time. Serviced by poor quality changing facilities. Tenure is considered unsecure, with the site allocated for housing in the Local Plan.	If provision is lost, ensure it is replaced to an equal or better quantity and quality in a suitable location and ensure the Club remains provided for.	Club FA	Local site	S	H
						Alternatively, secure long-term security of tenure at the site via a lease agreement (minimum 25 years).			S	L

⁴⁸ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

⁴⁹ (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 ⁴⁸	Cost ⁴⁹
409	Rumbush Lane	B94 5NA	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult football pitches that are played to capacity at peak time. Funding has been received from the Football Foundation and Sport England to improve drainage and ancillary facilities. Expected to be completed ahead of next season. Leased to Leafield Athletic FC in a 25-year agreement.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance	Club FA	Local site	L	L
						Improve drainage and ancillary provision through awarded funding.			S	M
						Ensure continued security of tenure for Leafield Athletic FC.			L	L
412	Knowle Park	B93 9HT	Tennis	Council	Two standard quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance for continued casual use.	LTA	Local site	L	L

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2033 (in line with the Local Plan). 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 TGRs in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. 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 scenarios 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.

Scenario 1: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Local Plan period (2033)

The Solihull Draft Local Plan Review states that it will allocate sufficient land to ensure sufficient housing land supply to deliver 15,029 additional homes up to 2033. The estimated additional population derived from this housing growth is 36,070 (2.4 people per dwelling). This equates to 47.83 match equivalent sessions across the sports.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2031)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	13.93 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	13.67 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	10.34 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	3.65 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	1.12 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	236.77 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £4,725,514⁵⁰ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £884,631.⁵¹

⁵⁰ Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁵¹ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenario 2: Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth over the next five years

The annual housing land provision target identified in the Draft Local Plan is 791 net additional homes per year (2014-2033), meaning 3,955 new homes are expected to be built over the next five years (to 2022). This equates to a population growth of 9,492 (2.4 people per dwelling), which equates to 12.59 match equivalent sessions across the sports.

Table 7.2: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2022)

Pitch Sport	Estimated demand by sport (2030)
Adult football	3.67 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	3.60 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	2.72 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	0.96 match equivalent sessions per week
Hockey	0.29 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	62.31 match equivalent sessions per season

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £1,243,543⁵² and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £232,795.⁵³

Conclusions

The tables above show that over the next five years, and up to 2033, demand will be generated for each pitch sport to a lesser or greater extent. This position is indicative and does not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

Experience shows that only housing sites with 600 dwellings or more 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.

The Council could consider using CIL to obtain contributions to priority sites, or pooling S106 contributions from major housing schemes to invest in priority sites. In either case, the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs should inform the playing fields that most require investment.

⁵² Capital cost is based on 2016 second quarter calculations.

⁵³ 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 production of this Strategy should be regarded as the beginning of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach.

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

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on 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 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.

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches will likely to have changed over the three years. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

National context

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- *Communities*
- *Casual*
- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*
 - *Community programmes*
 - *Our environments*
 - *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game's revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

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

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

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

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

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

England Hockey Facilities Strategy

Vision

Helping every hockey club in England to work towards having appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission

More, better, happier players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

There will be 3 key objectives for the facilities strategy to help to retain existing players and attract new players into the game:

- ◀ Protect: To safeguard existing hockey provision.
- ◀ Improve: To improve the existing facilities stock both at grassroots and elite level.
- ◀ Develop: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.

England Hockey Club Strategy

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

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

The Rugby Football League Facility Strategy

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

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

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

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information and more detail on the framework please go to:

<http://www.lta.org.uk/about-the-lta/structure-vision>

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment
Sport England 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/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation - The Grant Match Scheme www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org	The Grant Match Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 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).
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
EH Capital Investment Programme (CIP)	The CIP fund is for the provision of new pitches and re-surfacing of old AGPs. It forms part of EH's 4 year Whole Sport's Plan.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of our chosen areas of focus: Young people and hockey. Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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.

APPENDIX THREE: GLOSSARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOLIHULL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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