



# **CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORT STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

**OCTOBER 2022**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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Cert Num: 6543-QMS-001

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 3G    | Third Generation (artificial turf)                |
| AGP   | Artificial Grass Pitch                            |
| BAFA  | British American Football Association             |
| BC    | Bowls Club  |
| BCGBA | British Crown Green Bowling Association           |
| BFA   | Birmingham County FA                              |
| CFA   | County Football Association                       |
| DCMS  | Department for Culture, Media and Sport           |
| ECB   | England and Wales Cricket Board                   |
| EH    | England Hockey                                    |
| EN    | England Netball                                   |
| FA    | Football Association                              |
| FC    | Football Club                                     |
| FF    | Football Foundation                               |
| FIFA  | Fédération Internationale de Football Association |
| FPM   | Facilities Planning Model                         |
| GAA   | Gaelic Athletic Association                       |
| GMA   | Grounds Management Association                    |
| HC    | Hockey Club                                       |
| JFC   | Junior Football Club                              |
| KKP   | Knight, Kavanagh and Page                         |
| LFFP  | Local Football Facilities Plan                    |
| LTA   | Lawn Tennis Association                           |
| NFFS  | National Football Facilities Strategy             |
| NGB   | National Governing Body                           |
| NHS   | National Health Service                           |
| NPPF  | National Planning Policy Framework                |
| PPS   | Playing Pitch Strategy                            |
| PPOSS | Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy          |
| PQS   | Performance Quality Standard                      |
| RFL   | Rugby Football League                             |
| RFU   | Rugby Football Union                              |
| RLFC  | Rugby League Football Club                        |
| RUFC  | Rugby Union Football Club                         |
| SCB   | Staffordshire Cricket Board                       |
| SFA   | Staffordshire County FA                           |
| TC    | Tennis Club                                       |
| U     | Under   |

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

A Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) has been commissioned by the Black Country authorities of Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall, together with the Black Country Consortium, to assess playing pitch and outdoor sport facility needs across the individual local authority areas. The output is provision of four separate needs assessments and strategies across the aforementioned authorities as well as one additional overarching framework.

This report provides the Strategy for Wolverhampton. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing playing pitch and accompanying ancillary facilities up to 2039, in line with the previously proposed Black Country Plan. However, it must be noted four separate local plans are now to be developed instead, with Wolverhampton's expected to cover the period to 2040.

The PPOSS has been developed to provide:

- ◀ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ◀ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
- ◀ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ◀ A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a site-by-site basis.

The Strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the Strategy
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date

This report represents Stage D of the process, with stages A-C covered in the preceding Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the study is complete. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is regularly kept up to date.

A PPOSS delivers the evidence required to ensure that sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future outdoor sport requirements. Its robust evidence base should inform and be implemented into planning policy and other relevant corporate strategies to enable local policies, planning and sport development criteria to work efficiently and effectively. It is capable of:

- ◀ Providing a clear framework for all playing pitch and outdoor sport providers, including the public, private and third sectors.
- ◀ Clearly addressing the needs of all identified sports within the area, picking up on particular local demand issues.
- ◀ Addressing issues of population growth and major growth/regeneration areas.
- ◀ Addressing issues of cross boundary facility provision.

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- ◀ Addressing issues of accessibility, quality and management with regard to facility provision.
- ◀ Standing up to scrutiny at a public inquiry as a robust study.
- ◀ Supporting funding applications.
- ◀ Providing realistic aspirations which are implementable within the local authority's budgetary position and procurement regime.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends several priority projects for Wolverhampton which should be realised over the Local Plan period. It provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, this strategy will help to identify and secure potential partners and possible sources of external funding which can assist.

Partner organisations have a vested interest in ensuring that existing playing pitches, outdoor sports facilities and ancillary provision are protected and enhanced. As such, many of the objectives and actions within this document need to be delivered and implemented by a wide range of bodies such as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), sports organisations and education establishments. In many instances, the Council will not be the agency which delivers these actions or recommendations as the PPOSS is not just for the Council to act upon. It applies to/for all the stakeholders and partners involved.

## Scope

A wide range of playing pitch and outdoor sports and associated facilities have been agreed for inclusion in the PPOSS in Wolverhampton and across all four Black Country authorities. In full, the study covers:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Athletics                          | ◀ Bowls  |
| ◀ Cricket                            | ◀ Cycling                                      |
| ◀ Football (including 3G pitches)    | ◀ Golf   |
| ◀ Hockey (sand/water based AGPs)     | ◀ Netball                                      |
| ◀ Rugby union (including 3G pitches) | ◀ Rugby league (including 3G pitches)          |
| ◀ Tennis                             | ◀ Water sports (e.g. sailing and water skiing) |

In addition, other grass pitch sports are included where identified as having a presence.

## Study area

The study area for the Wolverhampton PPOSS is the City of Wolverhampton Council boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas have been used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. For this purpose, Wolverhampton is split into the following five areas:

- ◀ Bilston
- ◀ Central & South
- ◀ North
- ◀ Tettenhall
- ◀ Wednesfield

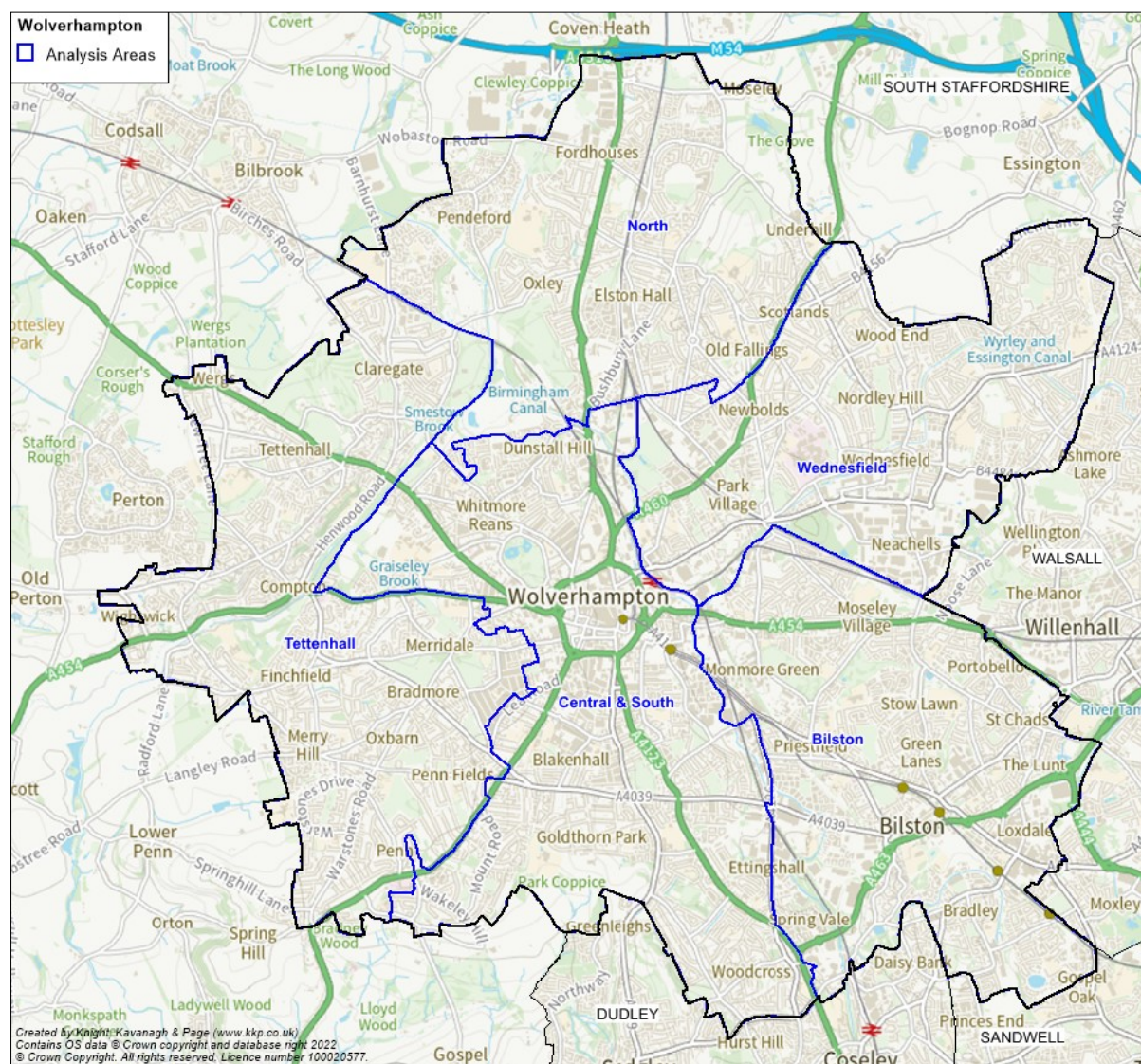
These are shown in the figure overleaf.

NB: A number of sites that fall just outside of the Wolverhampton boundary have also been included in the analysis as they are considered to be key sites that form part of the supply that services Wolverhampton residents. Such inclusion also allows for cross boundary issues to be further highlighted and the potential for co-ordinated working with neighbouring authorities.



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Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



## 1.1: Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings identified for the pitch sports included in the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

| Sport                          | Analysis area | Pitch type  | Current supply/<br>demand balance<br>(match equivalent<br>sessions) | Future supply/<br>demand balance<br>(match equivalent<br>sessions) |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---|--|
| Football<br>(grass<br>pitches) | Bilston       | Adult       | Spare capacity of 1   | At capacity  |
|                                |               | Youth 11v11 | Spare capacity of 1   | Spare capacity of 0.5  |
|                                |               | Youth 9v9   | Spare capacity of 1   | Spare capacity of 1  |
|                                |               | Mini 7v7    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                                |               | Mini 5v5    | At capacity   | At capacity  |

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| Sport                                      | Analysis area   | Pitch type  | Current supply/<br>demand balance<br>(match equivalent<br>sessions) | Future supply/<br>demand balance<br>(match equivalent<br>sessions) |
|--|-----------------|-------------|---|--|
|  | Central & South | Adult       | Shortfall of 0.5  | Shortfall of 0.5   |
|  |                 | Youth 11v11 | Spare capacity of 0.5   | Shortfall of 1   |
|  |                 | Youth 9v9   | Spare capacity of 0.5   | Spare capacity of 0.5  |
|  |                 | Mini 7v7    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Mini 5v5    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  | North           | Adult       | Spare capacity of 3.5   | Spare capacity of 3  |
|  |                 | Youth 11v11 | Shortfall of 1  | Shortfall of 2.5   |
|  |                 | Youth 9v9   | Spare capacity of 8   | Spare capacity of 8  |
|  |                 | Mini 7v7    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Mini 5v5    | Spare capacity of 2.5   | Spare capacity of 2.5  |
|  | Tettenhall      | Adult       | Shortfall of 4  | Shortfall of 4.5   |
|  |                 | Youth 11v11 | Spare capacity of 1   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Youth 9v9   | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Mini 7v7    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Mini 5v5    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  | Wednesfield     | Adult       | Shortfall of 4.5  | Shortfall of 5   |
|  |                 | Youth 11v11 | At capacity   | Shortfall of 1   |
|  |                 | Youth 9v9   | Spare capacity of 2   | Spare capacity of 2  |
|  |                 | Mini 7v7    | At capacity   | Shortfall of 0.5   |
|  |                 | Mini 5v5    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  | Outside         | Adult       | Spare capacity of 3   | Spare capacity of 2.5  |
|  |                 | Youth 11v11 | Spare capacity of 1   | Spare capacity of 1  |
|  |                 | Youth 9v9   | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Mini 7v7    | Spare capacity of 2   | Spare capacity of 2  |
|  |                 | Mini 5v5    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
| Football<br>(3G<br>pitches) <sup>[2]</sup> | Bilston         | Full size   | Shortfall of 0.5  | Shortfall of 0.5   |
|  | Central & South |             | Shortfall of 1  | Shortfall of 1   |
|  | North           |             | Shortfall of 0.5  | Shortfall of 0.75  |
|  | Tettenhall      |             | Shortfall of 0.75   | Shortfall of 1.25  |
|  | Wednesfield     |             | Shortfall of 0.75   | Shortfall of 1.25  |
| Cricket                                    | Bilston         | Saturday    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Sunday      | Spare capacity of 12  | Spare capacity of 12   |
|  |                 | Midweek     | Spare capacity of 18  | Spare capacity of 18   |
|  | Central & South | Saturday    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Sunday      | Spare capacity of 36  | Spare capacity of 36   |
|  |                 | Midweek     | Spare capacity of 54  | Spare capacity of 36   |
|  | North           | Saturday    | Shortfall of 5  | Shortfall of 5   |
|  |                 | Sunday      | Spare capacity of 7   | Spare capacity of 7  |
|  |                 | Midweek     | Spare capacity of 7   | Spare capacity of 7  |
|  | Tettenhall      | Saturday    | Spare capacity of 24  | Spare capacity of 24   |
|  |                 | Sunday      | Spare capacity of 48  | Spare capacity of 48   |
|  |                 | Midweek     | Spare capacity of 84  | Spare capacity of 84   |
|  | Wednesfield     | Saturday    | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Sunday      | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  |                 | Midweek     | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|  | Outside         | Saturday    | Shortfall of 44   | Shortfall of 44  |

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

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| Sport              | Analysis area   | Pitch type | Current supply/<br>demand balance<br>(match equivalent<br>sessions) | Future supply/<br>demand balance<br>(match equivalent<br>sessions) |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------|---|--|
|                    |                 | Sunday     | Shortfall of 44   | Shortfall of 52  |
|                    |                 | Midweek    | Shortfall of 44   | Shortfall of 50  |
| Rugby union        | Bilston         | Senior     | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                    | Central & South |            | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                    | North           |            | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                    | Tettenhall      |            | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                    | Wednesfield     |            | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                    | Outside         |            | Shortfall of 3  | Shortfall of 3.5   |
| Rugby league       | Wolverhampton   | Senior     | No demand so no provision required                                  | No demand so no provision required                                 |
| Hockey (sand AGPs) | Wolverhampton   | Full size  | Sufficient supply.  | Sufficient supply.   |

For non-pitch sports, quantitative shortfalls can be more difficult to determine, with capacity guidance differing and with focus often away from formal club activity. The current and future picture for each sport is therefore instead summarised in the table below.

*Table 1.2: Quantitative headline findings (non-pitch sports)*

| Sport            | Current picture  | Future picture   |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>Tennis</b>    | Club demand is being met, although the recreational offer requires improvement.  | Future club demand can be met, although the recreational offer requires improvement.   |
| <b>Netball</b>   | The good quality courts provided at WV Active Aldersley adequately service the Wolverhampton City Netball League and Back to Netball sessions. Whilst there is a large quantity of other netball courts provided, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand.                   | The good quality courts provided at WV Active Aldersley adequately service the Wolverhampton City Netball League and Back to Netball sessions. Whilst there is a large quantity of other netball courts provided, the large majority are serving no purpose outside of curricular and extra-curricular demand.                   |
| <b>Bowls</b>     | Three sites are operating above the recommended capacity threshold, whilst no sites are operating below the required membership to be sustainable.   | Three sites are operating above the recommended capacity threshold, whilst no sites are operating below the required membership to be sustainable.   |
| <b>Athletics</b> | Existing supply is sufficient to meet demand.  | Provision for athletics remains sufficient on the basis quality improvements are undertaken, when needed, in the future.   |
| <b>Cycling</b>   | Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is remains sufficient to accommodate requirements.  | Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is remains sufficient to accommodate requirements.  |
| <b>Golf</b>      | With three golf clubs in Wolverhampton, and four facilities just outside of the City boundary, supply is reasonable for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses, Par 3 courses and driving ranges all being supplied. This suggests that all types of golfers can be catered for. | With three golf clubs in Wolverhampton, and four facilities just outside of the City boundary, supply is reasonable for the area, particularly given the variance of the facilities with standard-hole courses, Par 3 courses and driving ranges all being supplied. This suggests that all types of golfers can be catered for. |



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| Sport               | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Water sports</b> | Outdoor water facilities within Wolverhampton are catered for through the use of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal. Given the areas landlocked location, and available facilities within the other Black Country regions, supply is able to be catered for.  | Outdoor water facilities within Wolverhampton are catered for through the use of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal. Given the areas landlocked location, and available facilities within the other Black Country regions, supply is able to be catered for.  |
| <b>Other sports</b> | Given baseball/softball use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection.<br><br>The provision of an over marked and undersized Gaelic football pitch at Aldersley High School is insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club. | Given baseball/softball use of Colton Hill High School and the expanding demand for baseball in the region, the provision requires protection.<br><br>The provision of an over marked and undersized Gaelic football pitch at Aldersley High School is insufficient to meet the demand from St Mary's Gaelic Football Club. |

## Conclusions

From a quantitative perspective, the existing position for each sport is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the creation of shortfalls for new pitch types in some areas where demand is currently being met, as well as the exacerbation of existing shortfalls. Some level of current and/or future shortfall is identified for all football pitch types, 3G pitches, cricket squares and rugby union pitches.

Where demand is being met, this does not necessarily equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered to be a solution to overcoming current or future shortfalls. There is a resultant need to protect all existing outdoor sport provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

For the most part, the shortfalls identified can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, re-configuration, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a shortfall of 3G pitch that can likely only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, particularly at sites managed by the Council, an increase in such provision could also help reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can reduce overplay and aid pitch quality improvements.

It should also be noted that, for rugby union and for cricket, most shortfalls are situated outside of Wolverhampton, most commonly in South Staffordshire. In such instances, cross-authority working is recommended to alleviate the capacity issues.

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## PART 2: VISION

### Vision

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

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

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## PART 3: AIMS

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

### AIM 1

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

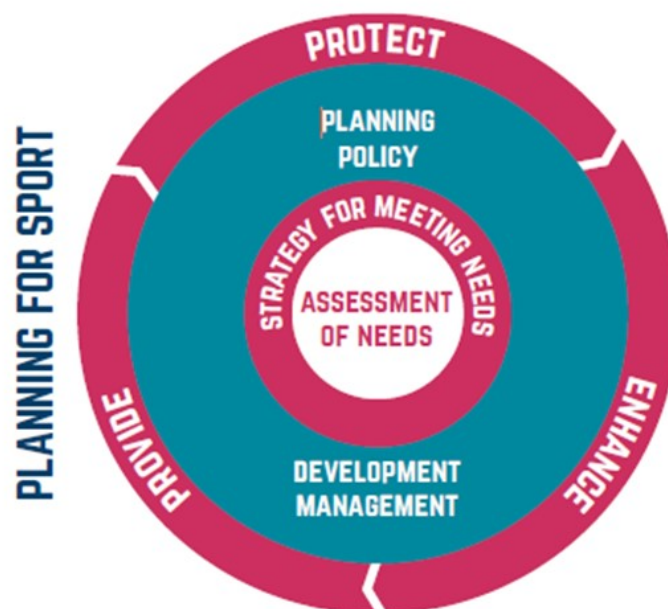
### AIM 2

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

### AIM 3

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

Figure 3.1: Sport England themes



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

## PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

### 4.1: Football – grass pitches

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- ✦ **Actual spare capacity totals 40 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in Wolverhampton, which is a significant amount.**
- ✦ **A total of 18 pitches across 11 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 23 match equivalent sessions per week.**
- ✦ **There is a current shortfall of adult match equivalent sessions, whilst some capacity exists on youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ✦ **After factoring in future demand, shortfalls on adult pitches are exacerbated and a shortfall emerges on youth 11v11 pitches. There is a sufficient capacity on the remaining pitch types.**
- ✦ The audit identifies a total of 203 grass football pitches within Wolverhampton across 106 sites, with 137 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 58 sites.
- ✦ As a breakdown, there are 63 adult, 23 youth 11v11, 28 youth 9v9, 18 mini 7v7 and five mini 5v5 pitches that are available for community use.
- ✦ Lapsed/disused pitches are identified at the former Northcote School, Wolverhampton United Football Club, City of Wolverhampton College playing fields, the former school St Lukes Junior School playing fields, Goodrich (now Collins) Stafford Road and John Harpers Playing Fields on Hawkswell Drive.
- ✦ Wolverhampton United FC is expected to come back into formal use with NPV FC set to be the main user of the site.
- ✦ The Council and schools are the predominant supplier of football pitches.
- ✦ There are 65 community available pitches assessed as standard quality, with 57 assessed as poor and just 15 assessed as good.
- ✦ Quality of ancillary provision is an issue at sites such as East Park, Fowlers Playing Field, Cottage Ground and Bilston Town Football Club.
- ✦ Through the audit and assessment, 253 teams from within 87 clubs are identified as playing within Wolverhampton, consisting of 86 adult, 147 youth and 20 mini teams.
- ✦ There is a trend of significant growth across Wolverhampton in recent years.
- ✦ There are high levels of imported and exported demand, with a large number of teams playing in neighbouring authorities due to the close proximity of the boundary between Wolverhampton, South Staffordshire, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.
- ✦ No club reports unmet demand in that it has teams that are unable to play due to a lack of pitch provision.
- ✦ A total of 11 clubs expresses latent demand in that they could field more teams if more pitch capacity was available to them.
- ✦ Based on population growth, an increase of five adult and 12 youth teams is projected (to 2039), whilst 11 clubs report aspirations to grow by a combined total of 33 teams.

#### *Scenarios*

##### *Improving pitch quality*

In total there are 17 pitches overplayed in Wolverhampton across 10 sites, with overplay equating to 22 match equivalent sessions per week. Improving quality of such provision (i.e., through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity at the sites and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

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To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights the current levels of overplay that would be alleviated if quality improved to good at each site. As a reminder, the capacity rating for each type and quality rating is:

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

*Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality (match equivalent sessions)*

| Site ID | Site name                     | Pitch type    | No. of pitches | Current quality | Current capacity rating <sup>1</sup> | Good quality capacity rating <sup>2</sup> |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3       | Bantock Park                  | Adult         | 2              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 3.5                                       |
| 7       | Bilbrook Junior Football Club | Adult         | 1              | Standard        | 2                                    | 1   |
|         |                               | Adult         | 1              | Poor            | 3                                    | 1   |
|         |                               | Youth (9v9)   | 1              | Poor            | 2                                    | 1   |
| 9       | Bilston Town FC               | Adult         | 1              | Standard        | 0.5                                  | 0.5                                       |
| 15      | Colton Hills Community School | Youth (11v11) | 2              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 5.5                                       |
| 33      | Heath Town Park               | Adult         | 1              | Poor            | 3                                    | 1   |
| 34      | Highfields School             | Adult         | 1              | Poor            | 6                                    | 4   |
| 36      | Hilton Road Playing Fields    | Adult         | 1              | Standard        | 0.5                                  | 0.5                                       |
| 110     | Wolverhampton Cricket Club    | Adult         | 1              | Poor            | 0.5                                  | 1.5                                       |
| 112     | Wolverhampton United FC       | Adult         | 2              | Standard        | 1.5                                  | 0.5                                       |
| 117     | WV Active Aldersley           | Adult         | 3              | Poor            | 1.5                                  | 4.5                                       |

As seen, most overplayed pitches could accommodate current demand if quality improved to good. The only sites that would continue to accommodate some level of overplay are Bilbrook Junior Football Club, Heath Town Park and Highfields School (all other pitches would have some form of spare capacity).

Given the above, some play at Bilbrook Junior Football Club, Heath Town Park and Highfields School could be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity or to an existing or additional 3G pitches. Alternatively, if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration at the sites could also be considered.

Overall, only seven match equivalent sessions of overplay would remain across Wolverhampton, compared to 22 match equivalent sessions currently, and this would also only exist on four adult pitches. The impact this would have on the supply and demand balance across the City is shown in the table below, with all shortfalls being alleviated apart from on adult pitches.

<sup>1</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>2</sup> Match equivalent sessions



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Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand

| Pitch type  | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                  |               |                    |                 |
|-------------|---|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|             | Current actual spare capacity               | Current overplay | Current total | Potential overplay | Potential total |
| Adult       | 17.5  | 19               | 1.5           | 7                  | 12              |
| Youth 11v11 | 4.5   | 2                | 2.5           | -                  | 2.5             |
| Youth 9v9   | 13.5  | 2                | 11.5          | -                  | 11.5            |
| Mini 7v7    | 2   | -                | 2             | -                  | 2               |
| Mini 5v5    | 2.5   | -                | 2.5           | -                  | 2.5             |

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 for competitive matches, which can not only alleviate overplay of grass pitches but can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

## Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)

As improving the quality of all overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. To that end, the LFFP identifies one site for grass pitch improvements that is in need of investment and that is key for football across Wolverhampton.

The table below identifies what the impact would be on the supply and demand balance of pitches at this site if quality was improved to good.

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

| Site ID | Site name                     | Pitch type | Number of pitches | Quality  | Current capacity rating | Good capacity rating |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 107     | Windsor Avenue Playing Fields | Adult      | 1                 | Standard | 1.5                     | 2.5                  |
|         |                               | Adult      | 5                 | Poor     | 2.5                     | 12.5                 |

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 11 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity (equating to six match sessions in the peak period). The impact improvements would have on the current supply and demand balance is shown in the table below, with spare capacity created on adult pitch types (other pitch types are unaffected as only adult provision is in place at the site).

Table 4.4: Impact on current supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|------------|---|-----------------|
|            | Current total                               | Potential total |
| Adult      | 1.5   | 5.5             |

The impact is similar when factoring in future demand.

Table 4.5: Impact on future supply and demand if quality improved at LFFP sites

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|------------|---|-----------------|
|            | Future total                                | Potential total |
| Adult      | 3   | 2               |

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As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPOSS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. Given that Windsor Avenue Playing Fields has significant quality issues identified in the PPOSS, and given the number of pitches provided, it remains a recommendation to improve the site and it should therefore be retained with the LFFP.

In addition, additions to the LFFP should also be sought given the quality issues and shortfalls evidenced across Wolverhampton. In that regard, the following sites should be considered given the number of pitches supplied and the quality/overplay issues identified:

- ♦ Bantock Park - Two adult pitches
- ♦ Bilbrook Junior Football Club – Three adult pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch
- ♦ Heath Town Park – One adult pitch
- ♦ Highfields School – One adult pitch

The impact of also improving these sites is shown in the table below. Note that at present the LFFP only accounts for one site (Windsor Avenue Playing Field) which accommodates six adult pitches. Inclusion of the above sites would see a reduction of overplay equating to seven match sessions of these sites, improving the City's overall supply vs demand balance.

*Table 4.6: Impact of adding pitch improvement sites to the LFFP (adult pitches)*

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                      |
|------------|---|----------------------|
|            | Existing LFFP total                         | Potential LFFP total |
| Adult      | 5.5   | 12.5                 |

*Table 4.7: Impacting of adding pitch improvement sites to LFFP (youth 9v9 pitches)*

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                      |
|------------|---|----------------------|
|            | Current total                               | Potential LFFP total |
| Youth 9v9  | 11.5  | 13.5                 |

## Loss of sites without secure tenure

The table below identifies the total amount of demand that would need to be replaced if access was to be lost at all existing sites with unsecure tenure. This amounts to 30 match equivalent sessions of demand.

*Table 4.8: Summary of demand at unsecure sites*

| Site ID | Site name                      | Analysis area   | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |             |           |          |          |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|
|         |                                |                 | Adult                                       | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9 | Mini 7v7 | Mini 5v5 |
| 15      | Colton Hills Community School  | Central & South | -   | 2.5         | -         | -        | -        |
| 16      | Coppice Performing Arts School | Wednesfield     | 0.5   | 0.5         | -         | -        | -        |
| 23      | East Park Academy              | Bilston         | -   | 0.5         | -         | -        | -        |
| 34      | Highfields School              | Tettenhall      | 7   | -           | -         | -        | -        |
| 56      | Ormiston New Academy           | North           | 4   | -           | 0.5       | -        | -        |
| 57      | Ormiston SWB Academy           | Bilston         | 1   | -           | 0.5       | -        | -        |
| 69      | Smestow School                 | Tettenhall      | -   | 1.5         | 0.5       | -        | -        |
| 81      | St Matthias School             | Bilston         | 0.5   | -           | 0.5       | 0.5      | -        |

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| Site ID      | Site name                             | Analysis area   | Demand<br>(match equivalent sessions per week) |             |            |            |          |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|------------|------------|----------|
|              |                                       |                 | Adult  | Youth 11v11 | Youth 9v9  | Mini 7v7   | Mini 5v5 |
| 86           | St. Edmund's Catholic Academy         | Central & South | 1  | 0.5         | 0.5        | -          | -        |
| 90           | Tettenhall College                    | Tettenhall      | -  | 0.5         | -          | -          | -        |
| 93           | The King's CE School                  | Tettenhall      | 0.5  | 0.5         | -          | -          | -        |
| 95           | The Royal Wolverhampton School        | Central & South | 0.5  | -           | -          | 0.5        | -        |
| 97           | The Wolverhampton Grammar School      | Tettenhall      | 0.5  | -           | 0.5        | -          | -        |
| 103          | Wednesfield High Academy              | Wednesfield     | -  | 1           | 0.5        | 1.5        | -        |
| 104          | Wednesfield High School Sports Centre | Wednesfield     | 0.5  | 0.5         | -          | -          | -        |
| <b>Total</b> |                                       |                 | <b>16</b>                                      | <b>8</b>    | <b>3.5</b> | <b>2.5</b> | <b>0</b> |

If access to these sites was lost, it would have a significant impact on the overall supply and demand analysis of football pitches across Wolverhampton, as indicated in the table below. Shortfalls would become evident on youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches where they currently do not exist.

*Table 4.9: Summary of supply and demand comparison without unsecure sites*

| Pitch type  | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |          |               |               |       |
|---|---|----------|---------------|---------------|-------|
|   | Actual spare capacity                       | Overplay | Current total | Future demand | Total |
| <b>Current supply and demand</b>                              |   |          |               |               |       |
| Adult   | 17.5  | 19       | 1.5           | 1.5           | 3     |
| Youth 11v11   | 4.5   | 2        | 2.5           | 3.5           | 1     |
| Youth 9v9   | 13.5  | 2        | 11.5          | 3.5           | 8     |
| Mini 7v7  | 2   | -        | 2             | 1.5           | 0.5   |
| Mini 5v5  | 2.5   | -        | 2.5           | 6.5           | 4     |
| <b>Supply and demand excluding sites with unsecure tenure</b> |   |          |               |               |       |
| Adult   | 17.5  | 35       | 17.5          | 1.5           | 19    |
| Youth 11v11   | 4.5   | 10       | 5.5           | 3.5           | 9     |
| Youth 9v9   | 13.5  | 5.5      | 8             | 3.5           | 4.5   |
| Mini 7v7  | 2   | 2.5      | 0.5           | 1.5           | 2     |
| Mini 5v5  | 2.5   | -        | 2.5           | 6.5           | 4     |

Based on this information, it is important to attempt to secure tenure at these sites in order ensure current and future pitch shortfalls are minimised, although it is noted that this may not be possible at all venues. Priority should be placed at sites with the highest demand, or with the most provision.

Whilst not always possible, creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the longer-term. Where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. Furthermore, external investment would likely be dependent on security of tenure being provided, with a lack of security of tenure a barrier to securing such funding.

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## *Providing access to unavailable/unsecure sites*

Currently, 66 pitches across 49 sites are unavailable for community use in Wolverhampton. The table below shows the impact if all these pitches were opened to the community through secure usage agreements. Of these 66 pitches, 50 are either standard or good quality and therefore can theoretically contribute to the supply and demand balance. Note that the training ground and stadia of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC are discounted from these figures below due to these being unrealistic to access.

*Table 4.10: Impact on current supply and demand by opening unavailable sites*

| Pitch type  | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
|             | Current total                               | Potential total |
| Adult       | 1.5   | 2.5             |
| Youth 11v11 | 2.5   | 12.5            |
| Youth 9v9   | 11.5  | 23.5            |
| Mini 7v7    | 2   | 10              |
| Mini 5v5    | 2.5   | 6.5             |

As seen in the table above, overplay of adult pitches would be alleviated and additional capacity would be generated on remaining pitch types.

Whilst not always possible, opening sites to the community and creating community use agreements between providers and users would ensure that such demand continues to be provided for in the longer-term. As mentioned above, where there is external investment on sites e.g., by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure community use as part of the funding or approval agreement. Note that opening up facilities will add an increase level of demand onto existing provision and this should be monitored to ensure sites have sufficient capacity for both curricular and any level of community demand.

This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking changes to provision that requires planning permission as, via planning consent, the Council can seek a community use agreement.

In addition to sites that are unavailable for community use, there are 48.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity discounted due to tenure issues, of this 32.5 match equivalent sessions are on pitches which are good or standard quality. Gaining secure access to these would reduce overplay of adult pitch types and create capacity on the remaining pitches.

*Table 4.11: Impact on current supply and demand through securing access to unsecure sites*

| Pitch type  | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
|             | Current total                               | Potential total |
| Adult       | 1.5   | 8.5             |
| Youth 11v11 | 2.5   | 8.5             |
| Youth 9v9   | 11.5  | 22.5            |
| Mini 7v7    | 2   | 6.5             |
| Mini 5v5    | 2.5   | 3.5             |

Shortfalls on adult pitches would remain alleviated in the future, with just shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitch types remaining.

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*Table 4.12: Impact on future supply and demand through securing access to unsecure sites*

| Pitch type  | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
|             | Future total                                | Potential total |
| Adult       | 4   | 6               |
| Youth 11v11 | 3   | 3.5             |
| Youth 9v9   | 11.5  | 22.5            |
| Mini 7v7    | 2   | 6.5             |
| Mini 5v5    | 2.5   | 3.5             |

As it is not deemed possible to gain secured access to all provision, sites that are currently unavailable but that provide a large quantity of pitches should be a priority.

### *Reintroducing lapsed/disused sites*

A total of three sites are disused or lapsed in Wolverhampton. A further two at Northcote School and St Lukes Junior School meet this criterion but are not included in this scenario as compensation for the loss of provision at each site has already been agreed. The three sites, are listed in the table below:

*Table 4.13: Lapsed/disused provision*

| Site name                                   | Lapsed/disused | Pitch type | Number of pitches |
|---|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| John Harpers Playing Field                  | Lapsed         | Adult      | 1                 |
| City of Wolverhampton College Playing Field | Disused        | Adult      | 2                 |
|   |                | Youth 9v9  | 2                 |
| Goodrich (now Collins)                      | Disused        | Adult      | 2                 |

As seen in the table above, reinstating lapsed/disused pitches would provide an additional five adult, and two youth 9v9 pitches. There would no change to the supply of youth 11v11 or mini pitch types (notwithstanding opportunities for reconfiguration).

*Table 4.14: Impact on current supply and demand through reinstating lapsed/disused pitches*

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|------------|---|-----------------|
|            | Current total                               | Potential total |
| Adult      | 1.5   | 3.5             |
| Youth 9v9  | 11.5  | 13.5            |

The table above shows that reintroducing lapsed/disused football pitches in Wolverhampton would alleviate current shortfalls on adult pitches and create additional capacity on youth 9v9 pitches.

When considering future demand, the anticipated shortfall would also be alleviated. There would be no change to the position on youth 9v9 pitches.

*Table 4.15: Impact on future supply and demand through reinstating lapsed/disused pitches*

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|------------|---|-----------------|
|            | Future total                                | Potential total |
| Adult      | 4   | 1               |
| Youth 9v9  | 11.5  | 13.5            |



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## Unmarked pitches

In Wolverhampton there are two sites which could theoretically accommodate an increase in the number of marked pitches that they currently provide, with these previously hosting more provision. Both Bantock Park and Claregate Playing Field could provide one additional adult pitch (or adult pitch equivalent).

Quality of both sites is currently poor and therefore these will not reduce the existing shortfalls identified without quality improvements also taking place (as any spare capacity will be discounted due to the quality issues). Providing one standard/good quality adult pitch on each site would create two additional match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity.

Further to the above, there are three sites which do not already accommodate football provision but could do so moving forward. These are:

- ◆ Hickman Park
- ◆ Greenway Playing Fields
- ◆ Woodcross Lane Open Space

None of the sites have changing rooms or parking facilities and to that end would be unsuited to adult football. They may however provide a resource for mini and youth football in the future if needed.

## Future demand

In the proceeding Assessment Report, future demand derived from population growth has been considered to determine the future supply and demand of pitches, with club aspirations not included as these are thought to be less likely to be achieved.

However, this scenario considers the impact such aspirations would have if the growth predicted by clubs was to be realised.

*Table 4.16: Incorporating future demand expressed by clubs into supply and demand analysis*

| Pitch type  | Match equivalent sessions per week   |                                       |  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|             | Current future supply/demand balance | Additional future demand (from clubs) | Potential future supply/demand balance |
| Adult       | 1.5                                  | 1.5                                   | 3                                      |
| Youth 11v11 | 2.5                                  | 3.5                                   | 1                                      |
| Youth 9v9   | 11.5                                 | 3.5                                   | 8                                      |
| Mini 7v7    | 2                                    | 1.5                                   | 0.5                                    |
| Mini 5v5    | 2.5                                  | 6.5                                   | 4                                      |

If clubs' future demand aspirations are realised, there will be an increased level of shortfalls on adult pitch types and new shortfalls on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitches. Capacity on youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches would also be reduced.

When compared to growth derived from team generation rates (population changes), both forecasts predict shortfalls on adult and youth 11v11 pitches. Only club aspirations forecast shortfalls on mini 5v5 pitches. In both sets of data there is a sufficient supply of youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches.

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### *Providing changing rooms*

As there is a shortfall of adult pitches on both now and in the future, it is important to distinguish what opportunities are available for this pitch type to resolve capacity issues, outside of pitch improvements. For adult football, in most league competitions, there is a requirement that changing rooms are provided for home vs away teams. There are several key sites with adult pitches in Wolverhampton which do not provide such provision and are these are unable to be used for competitive adult football. This scenario explores what benefits would be created through the development of changing rooms.

The sites fitting this criterion are:

- ❖ Bee Lane Playing Field (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Dixon Street Playing Fields (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Heath Town Park (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Northwood Park (two adult pitches)
- ❖ Springvale Park (one adult pitch)
- ❖ Tettenhall Upper Green (one adult pitch)

Providing changing rooms at all of these sites would create an additional seven match sessions of theoretical capacity. The overall impact of this can be seen in the table below.

*Table 4.17: Impact of providing new changing rooms on adult pitches*

| Pitch type | Demand (match equivalent sessions per week) |                 |
|------------|---|-----------------|
|            | Current total                               | Potential total |
| Adult      | 1.5   | 5.5             |

Providing changing rooms at these sites provides the same benefit as pitch improvements on adult pitches (as identified in Table 4.2, Table 4.3 and Table 4.4).

On this basis, its not recommended that any available capital resource is spent on the development of changing rooms (when the similar results can be gathered through pitch improvements). However, where there are wider opportunities to develop provision, at larger sites, where higher usage outcomes can be ascertained i.e. at Northwood Park then this could be considered.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ Protect existing quantity of pitches, including lapsed and disused provision, until all demand is being met (unless replacement provision meets Sport England requirements and is agreed upon and provided).
- ❖ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes (taking account of any short term disruption in maintenance due to Covid-19) to ensure they are of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ❖ Use the LFFP as a guide to determine suitable sites for grass pitch investment and update the priority projects within it following this study.
- ❖ Utilise the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to assist in the improvement and ongoing maintenance of provision.
- ❖ Consider pitch re-configuration where capacity of one pitch type can be used to reduce shortfalls of another, and where it can better accommodate what demand is received.
- ❖ Consider creation of additional pitches at sites where the space allows and if the demand exists.

- Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed to alternative sites with spare capacity (or 3G provision), or to sites which are not currently available for community use, including sites which are currently disused/lapsed subject to the feasibility of reinstating provision at each site.
- Work to accommodate exported, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- Look to secure tenure for those clubs accessing unsecure sites. The key sites for this are Colton Hills Community School, Highfields School. Ormiston New Academy and Ormiston SWB Academy.
- Seek to gain access to sites not currently available for community use, particularly where a large quantity of pitches is provided, such as Aldersley High School.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer.
- Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

### 4.2: Third Generation turf (3G) pitches

#### *Assessment Report summary*

- Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches to meet the identified shortfalls for football training demand.**
- Meeting the 3G pitch shortfall for training will also help alleviate grass pitch shortfalls and quality issues, providing that the transfer of play is pursued as and when more pitches are established.**
- In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated.**
- There are four full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, of which all are floodlit.
- Two are available to the community at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy and two are not at Heath Park School and Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.
- There are also eight smaller sized 3G pitches across six sites, all of which are floodlit and available for community use apart from a pitch at Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton, which is neither.
- Bilston Town FC and Highfields School both have aspirations to develop 3G pitches, whilst Wolverhampton Olympic FC has plans to convert a disused tennis court into a smaller sized 3G AGP.
- The full size 3G pitches at City of Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chad Catholic School are currently FIFA/FA approved and can therefore host competitive matches, as is the smaller sized pitch at The Way Youth Zone.
- The full-size pitch at Heath Park Academy is not accredited and though it is good quality it will not be available for competitive match play unless it undergoes accreditation. This is the same for the pitch at the Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground.

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- None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant, although there is no current known use for this purpose in the City.
- The pitch at the City of Wolverhampton College is at the end of its lifespan, as are the smaller sized pitches Coppice Performing Arts School and Ormiston NEW Academy will also require resurfacing.
- All remaining pitches are assessed as good quality.
- The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current community activity being football-based.
- With 253 football teams currently playing in Wolverhampton, there is a calculated shortfall of 3.2 full size 3G pitches to meet training needs.
- When accounting for future demand for an additional 50 teams (based on population increases and latent/future demand expressed by clubs), the shortfall increases to 4.5 pitches.
- There are currently 43 football teams using the 3G pitch stock for matches; whilst the number needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- No demand has been identified from other sports for access to 3G provision.

## Scenarios

### Accommodating football training demand

As evidenced in the preceding Assessment Report, in order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for 6.25 full size 3G pitches, meaning a current shortfall of 3.5. How this is split on an analysis area basis can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.18: Current demand for 3G pitches by analysis area

| Analysis area        | Current number of teams | 3G requirement <sup>3</sup> | Current number of 3G pitches | Current shortfall |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bilston              | 57                      | 1.5                         | 1                            | 0.5               |
| Central & South      | 38                      | 1                           | 0                            | 1                 |
| North                | 66                      | 1.75                        | 1.25                         | 0.5               |
| Tettenhall           | 45                      | 1                           | 0.25                         | 0.75              |
| Wednesfield          | 45                      | 1                           | 0.25                         | 0.75              |
| <b>Wolverhampton</b> | <b>251</b>              | <b>6.25</b>                 | <b>2.75</b>                  | <b>3.5</b>        |

Potential site options to alleviate this shortfall are identified in the table below. Note this table is a starting point for discussion and should be updated as part of the Stage E process.

| Analysis area   | Current shortfall | Site ID | Site name                      |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Bilston         | 0.5               | 9       | Bilston Town FC (Stadia Pitch) |
|                 |                   | 23      | East Park Academy              |
|                 |                   | 81      | St Matthias School             |
| Central & South | 1                 | 15      | Colton Hills Community School  |
|                 |                   | 77      | St Judes C of E Academy        |
|                 |                   | 86      | St Edmunds Catholic Academy    |
| North           | 0.5               | 1       | Aldersley High School          |
|                 |                   | 7       | Bilbrook Junior Football Club  |

<sup>3</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25

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| Analysis area | Current shortfall | Site ID | Site name                |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Tettenhall    | 0.75              | 49      | Moreton School           |
|               |                   | 56      | Ormiston New Academy     |
|               |                   | 34      | Highfields High School   |
|               |                   | 62      | Penn Fields School       |
|               |                   | 69      | Smestow School           |
| Wednesfield   | 0.75              | 103     | Wednesfield High Academy |
|               |                   | 112     | Wolverhampton United FC  |

After factoring in future demand (defined through population increases), the overall shortfall increases to 4.5 full size pitches, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.19: Future demand for 3G pitches in Wolverhampton for affiliated football team training*

| Analysis area        | Future number of teams | 3G requirement <sup>4</sup> | Current number of 3G pitches | Future shortfall |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Bilston              | 60                     | 1.5                         | 1                            | 0.5              |
| Central & South      | 41                     | 1                           | 0                            | 1                |
| North                | 70                     | 2                           | 1.25                         | 0.75             |
| Tettenhall           | 48                     | 1.5                         | 0.25                         | 1.25             |
| Wednesfield          | 48                     | 1.5                         | 0.25                         | 1.25             |
| <b>Wolverhampton</b> | <b>267</b>             | <b>7.5</b>                  | <b>2.75</b>                  | <b>4.5</b>       |

As seen, all analysis areas have a current and future shortfall. They should all therefore be the focus for providing new provision, with a focus on those with a shortfall of at least one full pitch (Central & South, Tettenhall and Wednesfield analysis areas).

### *Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)*

The LFFP for Wolverhampton identifies one full size 3G pitch project for Highfield School which is in the Tettenhall Analysis Area. This is for the creation of one full size pitch and should continue to be pursued given the shortfall identified.

Notwithstanding the above, the table below shows that the LFFP requires review based on the PPOSS findings. This is because a shortfall will remain in all areas, even if the pitch at Highfield School is delivered.

*Table 4.20: Impact of delivering current LFFP 3G projects (based on future demand requirement)*

| Analysis area        | Potential 3G requirement | Current number of 3G pitches | Potential shortfall | No. of proposed pitches | Shortfall if delivered |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bilston              | 1.5                      | 1                            | 0.5                 | -                       | 0.5                    |
| Central & South      | 1                        | 0                            | 1                   | -                       | 1                      |
| North                | 2                        | 1.25                         | 0.75                | -                       | 0.75                   |
| Tettenhall           | 1.5                      | 0.25                         | 1.25                | 1                       | 0.25                   |
| Wednesfield          | 1.5                      | 0.25                         | 1.25                | -                       | 1.25                   |
| <b>Wolverhampton</b> | <b>7.5</b>               | <b>2.75</b>                  | <b>4.5</b>          | <b>1</b>                | <b>3.75</b>            |

<sup>4</sup> Rounded to the nearest 0.25



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### *Moving council match play demand to 3G pitches*

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

*Table 4.21: Number of teams currently using council pitches*

| Pitch type   | Pitch size | Peak period | No. of teams |
|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Adult        | 11v11      | Sunday AM   | 33           |
| Youth        | 11v11      | Sunday AM   | 13           |
| Youth        | 9v9        | Sunday AM   | 4            |
| Mini         | 7v7        | Sunday AM   | 1            |
| Mini         | 5v5        | Sunday AM   | 1            |
| <b>Total</b> |            |             | <b>52</b>    |

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

*Table 4.22: 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand*

| Format | No. of teams at peak time | No. of matches at peak time | 3G units required per match | Total 3G units required | 3G pitches required |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Adult  | 33                        | 16.5                        | 32                          | 588                     | 8.25                |
| 11v11  | 13                        | 6.5                         | 32                          | 208                     | 3.25                |
| 9v9    | 4                         | 2                           | 10                          | 20                      | 0.31                |
| 7v7    | 1                         | 0.5                         | 8                           | 4                       | 0.06                |
| 5v5    | 1                         | 0.5                         | 4                           | 2                       | 0.03                |

A total of 12 (rounded up from 11.90) 3G pitches would be required to accommodate all matches currently played on council pitches. As there are currently only 2.75 full-size 3G pitches provided, this represents a significant shortfall.

As a considerable shortfall would also remain even if 3G training shortfalls were alleviated, it is not thought to be feasible to accommodate all demand from council pitches on the 3G provision.

This is because creating more 3G pitches than are required to meet training demand would result in stock that is unsustainable (as midweek usage would not be sufficient for the pitches to be economically viable). It would also be unrealistic for a local authority to manage such an increase in specialist provision.

An alternative to utilising 3G pitches for the transfer of demand from grass council pitches is the transfer of particular formats of play.

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### *Moving formats of play demand to 3G pitches*

The FA is particularly keen on enabling 3G match usage for mini teams given the high volume of matches that can be played at one time. The table below therefore tests a scenario to permit all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches within Wolverhampton based on a programme of play at current peak time (Sunday AM).

*Table 4.23: 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 mini 5v5 and mini 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 21 teams playing mini 5v5 football requiring three pitches (rounded up from 2.65) and 34 teams playing mini 7v7 football requiring three pitches (rounded up from 2.83). It is therefore not considered feasible that all mini football could be accommodated on the existing 3G stock at this time, although it could if the requirement for training demand is met.

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football.

*Table 4.24: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches*

| Time        | AGP     | Total games/teams |
|-------------|---------|-------------------|
| 10am – Noon | 2 x 9v9 | 2/4               |
| Noon – 2pm  | 2 x 9v9 | 2/4               |
| 2pm – 4pm   | 2 x 9v9 | 2/4               |

Three full size pitches would be required to accommodate all existing youth 9v9 demand. This could therefore also be met if the requirement for training demand is met and it is not far from being met on the current stock.

There is also a possibility that, if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Saturday (or all mini demand), all three formats could transfer to 3G provision. Six full size pitches would be required to enable this. It is noted that it would be unrealistic for most councils to fund provision to meet this level of shortfall solely

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the 'performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that 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.

There is no World Rugby compliant 3G provision within Wolverhampton, meaning none of the existing 3G pitches can be used to accommodate contact rugby training activity and match play.

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Shortfalls at Wolverhampton RUFC are not significant enough to warrant a compliant 3G pitch, with existing shortfalls able to be eradicated through other solutions. Therefore, the future delivery of a pitch should not be a priority for the RFU.

### ***Recommendations***

- ✦ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ✦ To alleviate identified competitive and training demand shortfalls, look to create additional 3G provision in all analysis areas.
- ✦ Carry out feasibility work on suggested site options for providing new 3G pitches with the relevant County FA's and the Football Foundation as well as Sport England and other relevant NGBs.
- ✦ Ensure that any new 3G pitches have community use agreements in place.
- ✦ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches.
- ✦ Ensure that all other full size and larger smaller sized pitches remain on the FA register are re-tested when required to sustain certification.
- ✦ Ensure all current and future providers have in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards.
- ✦ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are priced competitively against the cost of hiring grass pitches and are aimed at local grassroots clubs.

### **4.3: Cricket pitches**

#### ***Assessment report summary***

- ✦ **There is both a current and future shortfall of provision to accommodate Saturday cricket.**
- ✦ **Overall spare capacity exists in relation to Sunday and midweek cricket, although shortfalls exist at the sites included that are outside of Wolverhampton.**
- ✦ In total, there are 13 grass cricket squares in Wolverhampton, with 11 available for community use (unavailable provision is located at Wolverhampton Grammar School).
- ✦ In addition, squares outside of Wolverhampton at Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club, Springhill Cricket Club and Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club are included due to their close proximity to the Wolverhampton boundary.
- ✦ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at five sites and there are standalone NTPs at 15.
- ✦ All clubs have secure tenure arrangements.
- ✦ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares identifies five as good quality, seven as standard quality and one as poor quality (at Claregate Park).
- ✦ Springvale CC previously had an aspiration to expand its social space and its changing rooms, the Club has been playing home matches at Elford and Penn CC whilst its home venue was being renovated. New changing rooms and club house were completed in 2022.
- ✦ Whilst the provision servicing Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC requires modernisation.
- ✦ Four clubs report a demand for new, improved, or additional training facilities (Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs).
- ✦ There are eight clubs in Wolverhampton which collectively provide 29 senior men's, three senior women's and 29 junior teams (including Old Wulfrunians, Springhill and Wightwick & Finchfield cricket clubs).

- ◀ Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton and Springhill cricket clubs report that demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst Fordhouses CC reports a decline in senior participation.
- ◀ Similarly, Wightwick & Finchfield has also seen a decline of one senior and two junior teams due to the impacts of Covid. Though it feels it can recover these teams in the 2022 season.
- ◀ Fordhouses, Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall, Wightwick & Finchfield and Wolverhampton cricket clubs in Wolverhampton form part of the All-Stars initiative, whilst three clubs (Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and Springhill cricket clubs) are running Dynamo's sessions.
- ◀ One club takes part in women's softball activities (Wolverhampton CC).
- ◀ In addition to affiliated activity, Chance to Shine Street activity and Last Mans Stands operate weekly sessions in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Future demand for one senior men's and one junior teams is predicted via population growth, whilst six clubs indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to five senior men's, two senior women's and seven junior teams.

### **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. In Wolverhampton, overplay is identified at Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club, Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club and Springhill Cricket Club, with all three squares assessed as standard quality.

Improving the quality of the square at Old Wulfrunians CC from standard quality to good quality would alleviate all overplay and create spare capacity equating to eight match equivalent sessions per season.

In contrast, overplay at Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club and Springhill Cricket Club would remain, albeit reduced. Improving the quality of the square at Wightwick & Finchfield CC would reduce overplay from 28 match sessions a season to 16 match sessions per season, whilst the same approach at Springhill CC would reduce overplay from 12 match sessions to four.

Neither Wightwick & Finchfield and Springhill cricket clubs currently have an NTP installed. As such, installing one on these sites at each site would enable the transfer of demand from the grass wickets, particularly for junior teams. It could therefore further relieve any capacity issues.

#### *Accommodating future demand*

##### *Junior demand*

Of the six clubs that express aspirations to increase their number of junior teams, five (Fordhouses CC, Penn CC, Springvale CC, Whitmore Reans CC and Wolverhampton CC) have capacity to do so on their current facility stock. However, Springhill CC is unable to accommodate an increase in demand at its home venue, although the installation of an NTP, as referenced above, would allow for the growth to be suitably accommodated.

### *Senior demand*

Five clubs indicate a desire to field additional senior teams (playing either Saturday or Sunday) and of these, only Wolverhampton CC has theoretical capacity to do so on their current facility stock.

Fordhouses CC, Penn CC, Springvale CC and Whitmore Reans CC can accommodate an increase of senior demand outside of peak time, on Sundays, but not on Saturdays without needing to access an alternative site. Quality improvements would not provide a capacity benefit for accommodating this demand, with an increase in Saturday cricket being a programming issue, rather than a capacity issue.

For clubs which aspire to develop further Saturday cricket teams, the feasibility of using the recently installed NTPs at Council sites should be considered by all relevant partners, although this would be subject to the level of play and league rules. If grass wickets are required, new provision may be needed.

### **Recommendations**

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ✦ Improve quality at sites assessed as standard and ensure quality is sustained at sites assessed as good. Improvements would theoretically solve overplay issues at Old Wulfrunians CC.
- ✦ Address overplay via quality improvements, an increase in NTPs accompanying grass wickets and increased utilisation of existing NTPs.
- ✦ Work to accommodate future senior demand through partnership engagement around Council owned NTPs throughout the City.
- ✦ Pursue improved security of tenure for clubs without ownership or a long-term lease arrangement in place, such as for Wolverhampton CC at Tettenhall College.
- ✦ Improve the changing facilities where there is a need to do so. Currently, Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC requires modernisation.
- ✦ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities.
- ✦ Continue to support ECB initiatives such as All Stars and Dynamos and ensure unaffiliated demand and recreational cricket is provided for.
- ✦ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g., through ball-strike issues).
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e., via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.
- ✦ Consider pooling S106 receipts to strategically provide new provision to meet future theoretical shortfalls for Saturday peak time cricket.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.



## 4.4: Rugby union - grass pitches

### *Assessment Report summary*

- ✦ Overplay of 4.5 match equivalent sessions is identified at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, although one pitch has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ For the five school sites located within Wolverhampton, whilst no demand exists, they are not considered to provide any actual spare capacity due to poor quality.
- ✦ The site also has actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions, caused by one of the senior pitches being used for first team fixtures only.
- ✦ Wolverhampton Rugby Club has a current shortfall of three match equivalent sessions per week, largely down to midweek training pressures.
- ✦ When factoring in future demand, the shortfall increases to six match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There are four school sites containing a total of three senior pitches and one junior rugby pitch within Wolverhampton, all of which, are available for community use.
- ✦ Each of the five pitches within Wolverhampton across as many sites have been assessed as poor quality.
- ✦ Wolverhampton RUFC has security of tenure outside of the City, through freehold ownership of its site.
- ✦ The site consists of three senior, two junior and two mini pitches.
- ✦ No affiliated rugby union demand is located in Wolverhampton.
- ✦ Wolverhampton RUFC are based just over the border, in South Staffordshire, but are considered to be a Wolverhampton club.
- ✦ In total, Wolverhampton RUFC field three senior men's, one senior women's, seven junior boys', and six mini teams.
- ✦ The Club trains on its dedicated training area, as well as on two of its senior pitches that are floodlit.
- ✦ Future demand is expressed by Wolverhampton RUFC for a fourth senior men's team as well as a junior girls' team.
- ✦ Team generation rates forecast the growth of an additional junior boys' team.

### *Scenarios*

#### *Improving pitch maintenance and drainage*

Maintenance and drainage solutions are an integral method in improving pitch quality at rugby union sites, ensuring that pitches can accommodate demand through the season. Currently, there are two overplayed pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, equating to 4.5 match equivalent sessions of overplay per week.

The table below looks at what capacity benefits would be seen if maintenance at the site was undertaken to an M2 specification and pipe drainage (D2) was installed on each overplayed pitch.

*Table 4.25: Improving drainage on overplayed rugby union pitches*

| Site ID | Site name                | No. of pitches | Current quality | Current capacity rating | Improved quality | New capacity rating |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 157     | Wolverhampton Rugby Club | 1              | M1/D1           | 2                       | M2/D2            | 0.75                |
|         |                          | 1              | M1/D1           | 2.5                     | M2/D2            | 1.25                |

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Improving the baseline maintenance regime and improving the onsite drainage package on the two senior pitches would leave overplay remaining on site equating to two match equivalent sessions per week.

An improved drainage offer to D3 on both pitches would further reduce overplay by 0.5 match equivalent sessions, although a total of 1.5 match equivalent session would remain. As such, all overplay cannot be alleviated through quality improvements alone.

### *Increased levels of floodlighting*

Wolverhampton Rugby Club has one senior and two junior pitches on site with capacity for further use. Providing floodlighting on some of this provision would enable training demand to be spread across more areas, which, in collaboration with quality improvements, would fully alleviate overplay. There are 2.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity across the three pitches, with overplay able to be reduced to 1.5 match equivalent sessions via quality improvements.

### **Recommendations**

- ✦ Protect the pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- ✦ Continue to develop strong relationships between Wolverhampton Rugby Club and local schools and protect the school-based pitches for this purpose and to meet curricular and extra-curricular demand.
- ✦ Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay, foremostly through improved maintenance and drainage at Wolverhampton Rugby Club.
- ✦ Work to increase the overall supply of floodlighting at Wolverhampton Rugby Club to reduce concentrated midweek training demand pressures.
- ✦ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ✦ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ✦ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby union provision, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ✦ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby union provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

## **4.5: Rugby league – grass pitches**

### **Assessment Report summary**

- ✦ **As no demand has been identified within Wolverhampton, there is no need at this time for any provision to be established.**
- ✦ **Focus should be placed on ensuring that any demand that does exist can be accommodated within clubs outside of Wolverhampton.**
- ✦ **Should any aspirations come forward in the future for the reformation of Wolverhampton RLFC (or an alternative club), this may need to be revisited.**
- ✦ There are no rugby league pitches in Wolverhampton.
- ✦ The closest provision is provided in Bromsgrove.
- ✦ No current demand has been identified for rugby league in Wolverhampton.
- ✦ The area was formerly home to Wolverhampton RLFC; however, this club has recently folded.

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- Locally, Telford Raiders RLFC has been awarded a grant of £6,314 to contribute towards kit and equipment to create new junior teams, with Wolverhampton being one focus area.

### **Recommendations**

- Ensure any current and future demand within Wolverhampton can be sufficiently accommodated at rugby league clubs in neighbouring authorities.

### **4.6: Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

- Current supply of AGPs within Wolverhampton can accommodate the existing demand for hockey within the City.**
- There is a need for all of the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton.**
- There are five full size hockey suitable AGP's in Wolverhampton, provided at Ormiston SWB Academy, The Royal Wolverhampton School, Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley (x2).
- All five pitches are floodlit and available to the community.
- There is one smaller size pitches, at Colton Hills Community School which is not large enough to accommodate some form of hockey demand.
- All pitches are good or standard quality.
- There are four affiliated hockey clubs identified as playing within Wolverhampton (Dudley Ladies, Wolverhampton, Finchfield and Old Wulfrunians hockey clubs).
- These four hockey clubs provide 24 teams, consisting of 16 senior men's, six senior women's and two junior teams.
- Dudley Ladies HC previously accessed The Dell Stadium, in Dudley, before its conversion to 3G in 2016 (imported demand).
- All clubs express future demand, although this is not quantified.
- Walking Hockey takes place at WV Active Aldersley
- A large proportion of usage for the hockey suitable AGP's in Wolverhampton is from other activities, most notably in terms of football, whether that be through formal training or via informal social use.

### **Scenarios**

#### **Requirement for hockey suitable AGPs**

There is a need for all the existing pitches to be protected for hockey in Wolverhampton. This is evidenced through existing competitive play as well as unquantified latent and future demand from clubs that may need to maximise use to existing provision, including access to the currently unused pitch at WV Aldersley.

If a pitch was to be lost, or become unusable, a replacement facility would be required to ensure there is no displacement of Wolverhampton based clubs to neighbouring authorities, where there is already established shortfalls.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect all sand-based AGPs for continue hockey use.
- ◀ Ensure all hockey suitable AGPs have a sinking fund in place for their eventual refurbishment.
- ◀ Ensure security of tenure for clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site hockey provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

### **4.7: Tennis courts**

#### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◀ **No club sites have known capacity issues.**
- ◀ **As no non-club courts are identified as having any capacity issues, precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.**
- ◀ There are 125 tennis courts identified in Wolverhampton across 28 sites. Of the courts, 74 are categorised as being available for community use at 17 sites compared to 51 that are unavailable at 12 sites.
- ◀ Most courts are operated by schools, although only 34% of these are available for community use.
- ◀ The majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 106 being of this type.
- ◀ Of the courts, 51 are assessed as good quality, 51 as standard quality and 26 as poor quality.
- ◀ There are six tennis clubs in Wolverhampton, with Wolverhampton TC being a particularly large club.
- ◀ Future demand is expressed by three clubs and amounts to 230 additional members (170 senior and 60 junior).
- ◀ Clubspark is utilised at numerous sites in Wolverhampton, although not at any sites operated by the Council

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

No clubs in Wolverhampton are currently known to be facing any capacity issues. As such, there is no requirement for any increased or enhanced provision.

#### *Increasing participation*

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

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 a fob system following payment of a small yearly fee. Not only does this deter unofficial use of courts but it also allows official use to be tracked, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed. In addition, it provides income generation that can go towards ongoing maintenance of the courts.

The LTA and Government have also in 2021 announced a £30 million package to refurbish more than 4,500 public tennis courts in poor or unplayable condition at more than 1,500 venues in the most deprived parts of the UK<sup>5</sup>.

The LTA has identified Wolverhampton Cricket Club, WV Active Aldersley, Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club, Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club and Woodfield Social & Sports Club as key sites across Wolverhampton for the development of informal tennis. In order to facilitate this demand, it is likely that floodlights would have to be provided, where not already the case, in addition to quality improvements and the potential provision or improvement of supporting ancillary facilities.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are (or could be) well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create a year-round recreational tennis option to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA (e.g., Clubspark) to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.

### **4.8: Netball courts**

#### ***Assessment Report summary***

- ◀ **The supply of netball courts in Wolverhampton is considered to be sufficient to meet demand.**
- ◀ **Priority should be placed on protecting the provision at WV Active Aldersley for continued and long-term netball use.**
- ◀ **There also remains a need to ensure programmes provided by England Netball have suitable provision from which to be run and that curricular and extra-curricular needs are being met.**
- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across Wolverhampton, with 69 identified across 19 sites; however, only 35 courts at 10 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ All but seven outdoor netball courts in Wolverhampton are operated by a school (the remaining courts are operated by the Council at WV Active Aldersley and by a club Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club).
- ◀ Most outdoor netball courts have a macadam surface, with 68 being of this type (the remaining one court has an artificial surface).

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-package-to-refurbish-4500-public-tennis-courts-in-deprived-parts-of-uk-announced>

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- ✦ A total of 63 netball courts are over marked, with the only standalone courts provided at Pine Green Academy and Tettenhall College.
- ✦ Only 29 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, although this represents a high percentage than the national rate.
- ✦ 20 courts are assessed as good quality, 48 as standard quality and three as poor quality; of the community available courts, 15 are rated as good quality, with 20 being standard and none being poor.
- ✦ The Wolverhampton Netball League uses WV Active Aldersley as a central venue for all matches.
- ✦ The Club currently caters for 52 teams within five divisions.
- ✦ Back to Netball sessions have been run, mainly at WV Active Aldersley.
- ✦ No other initiatives are identified within the City.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ✦ Protect quantity of courts.
- ✦ Ensure continued use of WV Active Aldersley by the Wolverhampton City Netball League and ensure that quality is sustained.
- ✦ Seek to improve poor quality courts across Wolverhampton.
- ✦ Explore options to increase floodlighting.
- ✦ Open discussions with sites providing a large number of courts to determine whether provision could be opened for community use.
- ✦ Look to continue and expand the use of courts for England Netball initiatives such as Back to Netball and Walking Netball.
- ✦ Facilitate improved engagement between England Netball and schools.

## **4.9: Bowling greens**

### **Assessment Report summary**

- ✦ **No clubs are operating below the level of membership required to ensure sustainability.**
- ✦ **Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn Bowls club are all operating above the recommended capacity threshold; however, none of these report any capacity issues.**
- ✦ There are 21 crown green bowls greens in Wolverhampton provided across 18 sites.
- ✦ There are four disused green, provided at Newhampton Inn Bowling Club, Oaklands BC, Goodrich (now Collins) Aerospace and Chubb BC and there are three lapsed greens at Rolls Royce Sports Ground, The Summer House and Severn Trent.
- ✦ Of clubs which responded to consultation requests, three own their greens, two have lease arrangements in place and three rent their greens.
- ✦ Overall, 18 greens are assessed as good quality, two as standard quality and one as poor quality.
- ✦ Ashmore Park is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.
- ✦ 13 greens are serviced by floodlighting, which is a comparably high number.
- ✦ There are 18 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton.
- ✦ Where membership is known, across nine clubs, there are a total of 718 members.
- ✦ The average membership across the responsive clubs is 56.



- ◀ Despite a national trend of declining membership, only four of the clubs that responded to consultation report that membership has decreased in recent years, although a number of clubs have also folded.
- ◀ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2039), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◀ Only Express & Star, Ashmore Park and Wednesfield Conservative bowls clubs report future demand to increase membership, with this collectively equating to 17 senior and 14 junior members.
- ◀ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away, suggesting that there is no latent or unmet demand.

### **Scenarios**

#### *Accommodating demand*

Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn bowls clubs are all currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold. Whilst none of these clubs report any capacity issues, demand requires monitoring to ensure that this remains the case.

#### *Unused provision*

With four unused greens and with no clubs requiring additional access, consideration could be given to repurposing or developing those that are not needed. Alternatively, they could be held as strategic reserve should there be any growth in demand or the formation of new clubs.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Retain existing quantity of in use greens and, as a minimum, sustain quality.
- ◀ Ensure demand from Express & Star, Pavilion CES and Penn bowls clubs can continue to be accommodated.
- ◀ Assist clubs, where possible, with any future ancillary provision improvements
- ◀ Support clubs with plans to increase membership so that growth can be maximised.
- ◀ Ensure that any potential development of greens considered as disused/lapsed are mitigated in line with planning policy.

## **4.10: Cycling tracks**

### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◀ **Wolverhampton features a high demand for cycling as evidenced by the several dedicated clubs across the area.**
- ◀ **Sites such as WV Active Aldersley and the two cycle speedway tracks should continue to be well maintained to ensure the area continues to be serviced by good quality facilities.**
- ◀ Wolverhampton is serviced by several cycling facilities across the area.
- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks located at East Park and Ashmore Park.
- ◀ WV Active Aldersley features an asphalt track with a 22.5° banking
- ◀ Finally, Wolverhampton is also serviced by pump tracks at Bilston Pump Park and Hilton Road Playing Fields.
- ◀ There are several local clubs which offer opportunities for recreational and competitive cyclists across the City, with membership relatively high. Clubs such as Wednesfield

Aces, Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club and East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club all represent cycling clubs across Wolverhampton.

- ◆ HSBC Go-Ride is being implemented in Wolverhampton via East Park Wolves CSC, Wednesfield Aces CSC and the Wolverhampton Wheelers as well as School-based delivery.
- ◆ Finally, Let us play cycling sessions are delivered to people with disabilities aged 5 to 19 at WV Active Aldersley.

### **Scenarios**

#### *British Cycling Recommendations*

The British Cycling 2022 Commonwealth Games Needs Assessment provides a recommendation to investigate options for covering the tracks at Halesowen and Aldersley Velodromes with a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet the competition and training. In relation to Wolverhampton, this is specific to the WV Aldersley

### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Look to continue and expand British Cycling programmes such as HSBC UK Go-Ride and HSBC UK Breeze.
- ◆ Ensure any current and future demand for dedicated facilities within Wolverhampton can be sufficiently accommodated at WV Active Aldersley, the two-cycle speedway track or similar sites or alternatively in neighbouring authorities.

#### **4.11: Athletics tracks**

##### ***Assessment Report summary***

- ◆ **The supply of dedicated athletics facilities is sufficient to meet demand.**
- ◆ **Priority should be placed on supporting activity being accommodated by the various running clubs in Wolverhampton and the events that are being held.**
- ◆ There are two purpose-built athletics tracks, a 400-metre track WV Active Aldersley and a 200-metre track at The King's Church of England School.
- ◆ The track at WV Active Aldersley is floodlit and available for community use; the track at The King's Church of England School is neither.
- ◆ Both facilities are assessed as standard quality.
- ◆ Four clubs as well as a few programmes have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Wolverhampton with only Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club having a requirement for a purpose-built facility.
- ◆ Wolverhampton and Bilston Athletics Club has a waiting list in place for some sessions, although this is due to a lack of coaches rather than a lack of facilities.
- ◆ Park Run is held each week at West Park and East Park, with a junior Park Run held at Wednesfield Park.
- ◆ Annual events in Wolverhampton include the Wolverhampton Half Marathon & 10K.
- ◆ Heathfield Park Runners forms part of the Run Together initiative.
- ◆ Most clubs express an aspiration to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.

## **Scenarios**

N/A

## **Recommendations**

- ◆ Ensure the track and supporting facilities at the WV Active Aldersley and at The King's Church of England School are retained and remain in adequate condition.
- ◆ Work to secure community access to the facility at The Kings School as a potential secondary offer for the region, particularly for recreational demand or a facility providing a safe option for youth activity.
- ◆ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◆ Continue to increase participation both within affiliated clubs and the wider running market, signposting potential club members from the likes of Parkrun events and other health initiatives.

## **4.12: Golf courses**

### **Assessment Report summary**

- ◆ **Supply of golf provision in Wolverhampton is relatively high and well varied.**
- ◆ **Demand is also seemingly high, with most of the sites operating at a demand level that is closely aligned to the national average.**
- ◆ **With significant latent demand also identified, emphasis should be placed on protecting the facilities that are provided and to maximise usage across the sites to ensure continued sustainability.**
- ◆ There are currently seven golf sites servicing Wolverhampton (including four facilities outside of the City, close to the boundary).
- ◆ Five provide a standard 18-hole courses one provides a nine hole course and whilst 3 Hammers provides an 18-hole Par 3 course.
- ◆ There are dedicated driving ranges within Wolverhampton at South Staffordshire, Wergs and Perton Park golf clubs as well as 3 Hammers.
- ◆ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Wergs Golf Club, Perton Park Golf Club and Penn Golf Club are members clubs and a proprietary course exists in the form of 3 Hammers (there are no municipal courses provided).
- ◆ Oxley Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club, Perton Golf Club and Penn Golf Club operate above the national average membership pricing figure, whilst Wergs Golf Club operates slightly below it.
- ◆ In terms of quality, it is good across Wolverhampton with no significant issues identified at any of the sites.
- ◆ Pay and play is likely highest at 3 Hammers due to the nature of the provision.
- ◆ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 3.85%, which would represent an increase of members across the clubs, although relatively minimal.
- ◆ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Oxley Park Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.

## **Scenarios**

N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- ◆ Retain all existing golf provision unless separate needs assessments are completed that evidence that a facility can be lost or reduced without it impacting upon demand.
- ◆ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◆ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.

### **4.13: Water sports**

#### ***Assessment Report summary***

- ◆ **Despite not having a large outdoor water sports facility like that provided elsewhere within the Black County, Wolverhampton still features three clubs each participating in different outdoor water sports.**
- ◆ **Continued access to the canals in Wolverhampton should be ensured.**
- ◆ Staffordshire and Worcester Canal provides facilities that are compatible with a number of water sports and other water-related activities.
- ◆ Scuba diving also takes place in a location bordering the City; however, this utilises indoor provision.
- ◆ Wolverhampton Canoe Club utilises Staffordshire and Worcester Canal, a canal running through Wolverhampton, for its sessions.
- ◆ Wolverhampton Boat Club utilise the Shropshire Union Canal for their three times a week boating sessions.
- ◆ Chillington Divers partake in scuba diving and snorkelling sessions within Codsall Leisure Centre in South Staffordshire.

### ***Scenarios***

N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- ◆ Ensure existing provision is retained and supporting facilities remain of sufficient quality.
- ◆ Support clubs to maximise demand and fully utilise the unique facilities offered.

### **4.14: Other grass pitch sports**

#### ***Assessment Report summary***

- ◆ **There are no existing American football facilities within Wolverhampton and with no demand existing it should not be seen as a priority.**
- ◆ **The baseball provision at Colton Hills High School requires protection, with an agreement required to secure use for Wolverhampton Baseball Club.**
- ◆ **St Marys Gaelic Football Club aspires to develop a dedicated home venue. It is current based at Aldersley High School. Provision at the site is undersized for competitive play.**
- ◆ There are no dedicated American football pitches within Wolverhampton.
- ◆ There is one baseball/softball diamond in Wolverhampton, located at Colton Hills (Academy).

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- ◀ There are no dedicated Gaelic football pitches provided in the City, with St Mary's Gaelic Football Club utilising an overmarked football pitch at Aldersley High School which is undersized.
- ◀ There is no current American football demand within Wolverhampton following the disbandment of Wolverhampton Outlaws a number of years ago.
- ◀ Wolverhampton Baseball Club uses Colton Hills High School, whereas the site is also used by Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club (imported demand).
- ◀ St Mary's Gaelic Football Club fields a senior men's team and a small junior section, utilising Aldersley High School.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Support aspirations from St Marys Gaelic Football Club for a dedicated home venue with sufficient provision to be established. In the interim, support the Club with ensuring the facility stock at Aldersley High School is sufficient for competitive need.
- ◀ Ensure baseball/softball demand can continue to be accommodated at Colton Hills High School.
- ◀ Support any new increases in sports which are not currently played in the City or ensure demand can be appropriately catered for in neighbouring authorities.

## 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 playing pitch facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

### AIM 1

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

#### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities 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.

#### **Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that outdoor sport facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

The PPOSS shows that all existing playing field and outdoor sport sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls now and in the future. As such, all provision requires protection or replacement until all identified shortfalls have been overcome. This includes lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites as there is a requirement for such provision to help meet and alleviate the identified shortfalls.

When shortfalls are evident, provision can only be permanently lost when the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed as a result of no shortfalls existing, or unless replacement provision is provided and agreed upon by all stakeholders. NPPF paragraph 99 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.

The PPOSS should be used to help inform development management decisions that affect existing or new playing pitch provision and accompanying 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 used within the last five years and will use the PPS to help assess that planning application against its Playing Fields Policy.



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Sport England will oppose the loss of playing field unless it complies with one of more of the following policy exceptions:

### *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 the remaining Sport England policy exceptions.

### *Policy Exception E2*

‘The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use’.

### *Policy Exception E3*

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- ✦ Reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- ✦ Result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- ✦ Reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain quality;
- ✦ Result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- ✦ Prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site’.

### *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.

### *Policy Exception E5*

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

Lapsed and disused sites should also be protected from development or replaced in accordance with Sport England’s policy exceptions as they currently provide a solution to reducing identified shortfalls. Any disused/lapsed playing fields are included within the Action Plan together with a recommendation in relation to bringing the site back into use or to mitigate the loss on a replacement site to address the shortfalls identified.

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It may be appropriate to consider rationalisation of certain low value playing pitch sites (i.e. one/two pitch sites with no changing provision) to generate investment in creating bigger and better venues (hub sites). It is vital, however, that there is no net loss of facilities and that replacement provision is in place and available for use prior to existing provision being lost.

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

A number of education sites are being used in the City for competitive play, predominately for football. The following schools are already used for community use at varying levels but have no secure community usage:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| ◀ Ormiston NEW Academy          | ◀ Ormiston SWB Academy                 |
| ◀ City of Wolverhampton College | ◀ Smestow School                       |
| ◀ Colton Hills Community School | ◀ St Edmunds Catholic Academy          |
| ◀ Highfields School             | ◀ St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy |
| ◀ Oak Meadow Primary School     | ◀ Wednesfield High Academy             |

Not having fully formalised usage presents a risk for those clubs using these sites as community use could technically be terminated at any time. Securing community use at such as will help to create additional pitch capacity and could help to address deficiencies as demonstrated within the Football Scenarios.

Further partnership working with NGBs should be carried out to encourage schools to put in place community use agreements including access to changing provision where required.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as the Active Black Country and 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 any agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced significant public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, the Council should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing 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 that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can be improved and sites developed.

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

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All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>6</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

Each club interested in leasing a council 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   |
|--|--|
| Clubs should have NGB accreditation award.<br>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.<br>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.<br>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.<br>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards. | Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a City-wide significance) but that offer development potential.<br>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.<br>Sites should acquire capital investment to improve or be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site. |

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

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

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

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain to improve security of tenure and aid the attraction of funding; clubs with fewer than 25 years remaining on a lease agreement are unlikely to be eligible for external funding.

### **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 Wolverhampton, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools to open up provision is also an issue, especially at some private schools and academies.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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, as well helping to reduce identified shortfalls. It is, however, common for school provision not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites.

In some instances, facilities are unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities 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.

Although there are 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, relevant NGBs have a role to play in supporting the Council to deliver upon this recommendation and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are provided in major new residential developments, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the potential for facility provision to be made within the developments, if appropriate. An example of this is ensuring the provision of adult, youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students, or multi-use provision such as court that can accommodate both tennis and netball activity.

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Active Black Country 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.

## **AIM 2**

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

### **Recommendations:**

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

### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

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

With such pressures on budgets, any wide-ranging direct investment into pitch quality is challenging and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

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

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

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. For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'good', 'standard' or 'poor' quality. However, 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).

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

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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 (thus reducing capacity issues).

In addition, without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised, especially by adults and female users who have more of a requirement. 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 also applies to women's and girls' demand.

For football, The FA has a Pitch Improvement Programme aimed at improving the standard of grass pitches across the Country. For provision included in the programme, clubs can utilise the services of the Football Foundation's PitchPower app to carry out a free on-site assessment of their pitches. This then provides the Grounds Management Association (GMA) with the detail needed to create a personalised, informative report to advise on how improvements can be made. Clubs then receive bespoke advice and support to help with any future actions, funding applications and equipment, with clubs getting access to discounted rates for machinery and consumables through local partnerships.

The tool is available across mobile apps and desktop and is open to access by all providers, including clubs, schools and local authorities. Following a PitchPower report, organisations can work towards the recommended dedicated maintenance regime identified to improve the quality of their pitches. Applicants are required to submit a PitchPower assessment for each of their pitches as a condition of a grant funding application for Football Foundation grass pitch investment, such as the Grass Pitch Maintenance fund.

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

Specifically for tennis, the LTA has secured a £22 million investment fund to be put into public tennis courts across Britain, together with an £8.5 million investment from the LTA. This will see thousands of public park tennis courts that are in poor or unplayable condition improved for the benefit of the local communities. The LTA is working with the Council to access the funding for improvements in Wolverhampton.

For the 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/](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-surfaces/)

### ***Addressing overplay***

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

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



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Table 5.2: Capacity of pitches

| Sport       | Pitch type                 | No. of matches |                  |               |
|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
|             |                            | Good quality   | Standard quality | Poor quality  |
| Football    | Adult pitches              | 3 per week     | 2 per week       | 1 per week    |
|             | Youth pitches              | 4 per week     | 2 per week       | 1 per week    |
|             | Mini pitches               | 6 per week     | 4 per week       | 2 per week    |
| Rugby union | Natural Inadequate (D0)    | 2 per week     | 1.5 per week     | 0.5 per week  |
|             | Natural Adequate (D1)      | 3 per week     | 2 per week       | 1.5 per week  |
|             | Pipe Drained (D2)          | 3.25 per week  | 2.5 per week     | 1.75 per week |
|             | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 3.5 per week   | 3 per week       | 2 per week    |
| Cricket     | One grass wicket           | 5 per season   | 4 per season     | 0 per season  |
|             | One synthetic wicket       | 60 per season  |                  |               |
| Hockey      | Full size AGP              | 4 per day      | 4 per day        | 4 per day     |

For non-pitch sports, capacity is not linked to the number of matches taking place but rather the number of members (and other users) attracted to a site. For example, for tennis, a floodlit hard court is said to have capacity for 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit has court has capacity for 40 members (this varies for grass courts). For bowls, a green is considered at capacity if it has over 80 members, whilst a membership of under 20 could be unsustainable.

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.

For cricket, an increase in the usage of NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting can mitigate some of the overplay as it allows training demand to be spread across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative, as is the installation of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch (albeit there is no identified need for such provision in Wolverhampton)

## Improving changing provision

There is a need to address changing provision at some sites in the City, these are generally centred at either club or council managed sites.

Sites which predominantly accommodate adult and/or older junior age group sports should be prioritised for improvements, whilst there is a trend for younger junior age groups (particularly for football) not to require use of changing provision, with suitable male and female toilet provision for players and spectators considered to be of greater importance. For example:

- ◆ Bilston Town FC
- ◆ Cottage Ground
- ◆ East Park
- ◆ Dixon Street
- ◆ Tettenhall Upper Green
- ◆ Fowlers Playing Field
- ◆ Heath Town Park
- ◆ Old Wulfrunians CC
- ◆ Wolverhampton United FC (NPV FC)

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed on a phased basis the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of outdoor sport 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 outdoor sport provision and accompanying ancillary facilities.

To address community need, target priority areas and reduce provision duplication, a coordinated approach to strategic investment is required. In delivering this recommendation, the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners through the PPS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group directs and leads a co-ordinated approach to facility development whether made at/by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to ensure that the extent to which it addresses community need is optimised and duplication is avoided.

One of sport's key contributions is its positive impact on public health. 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.

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

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

For playing pitches, it is recommended the Council use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for helping to determine the additional demand for pitches and to estimate the likely developer contribution required linking to sites within the locality. This should form part of the Council working with Sport England to develop a process and guidance for obtaining developer contributions.

The calculator uses the current number of teams by sports pitch type contained within the Assessment Report and calculates the percentage within each age group that play that sport. That percentage is then applied to the population growth. The additional teams likely to be generated are then converted into match equivalent sessions and associated pitch requirements in the peak period, with the associated costs (both for providing the pitch/facility and for its life cycle) then given. The calculator splits the requirement into peak time demand for natural turf pitches, training demand for artificial grass pitches, and the number of new changing rooms required.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.

Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine what supply of provision is provided, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and unused. The preference is for multi-pitch and potentially multi-sport sites to be developed, which consider the potential for future AGP development. Such sites should be supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities and be accessible by public transport and active travel modes. Such sites are preferred over single-pitch facilities which are more likely to become under-used (or unused), unviable and unsustainable.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings, which should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

Guidance from the PPS Steering Group, alongside the PPOSS, should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions. These should cover provision, enhancement and/ or maintenance of playing pitches and supporting infrastructure such as changing rooms. S106 contributions could also be used to improve the condition of the pitches, in order to increase pitch capacity to accommodate more matches

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ✦ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a S106 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 (lifecycle costs), the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator. 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 facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ✦ Where new provision is 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.

For further information, please see Part 7 of this report.

## AIM 3

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

### Recommendations:

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

### Recommendation (h) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current 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 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

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

- ✦ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ✦ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused pitch (or pitch type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ✦ Securing community use at school sites including those currently unavailable.
- ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

The PPOSS identifies priority sites that should be focused upon, including those that are presently overplayed and/or poor quality, or unused sites that are particularly large. It also advises how issues can be overcome.

### Recommendation (i) - 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. The Action Plan lists recommendations for each site, focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements, which if delivered will lessen the need for new provision.

Linked to the above and as evidenced in Part 4, 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 are presently used minimally or that are currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except for 3G pitches, the shortfall for which cannot be reduced without new stock.

Large scale housing developments and the establishment of new schools may also necessitate the need for new provision. Where new schools are developed, there is an opportunity to combine the building of the School with the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to the school as well as the wider community.

For housing developments, as outlined in Recommendation (g), Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator can be used as a guide to inform requirements. See Part 7 for further information.

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## 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 is separated by analysis area and includes information pertaining to the sub sections below.

### *Site hierarchy*

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 an authority-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 authority. Priority sites for NGBs. Accessible by public transport.  | Strategically located within the analysis area. Accessible by public transport.  | Serves the local community.  |
| Site layout          | Accommodates three or more grass pitches, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).  | Accommodates two or more grass pitches.  | Accommodates one or two pitches.   |
| Type of sport        | Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.   | Single or multi-sport provision.   | Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.                                |
| Management           | Management control allows for wide community use, i.e., through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.   | Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.                        | Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers. |
| Maintenance regime   | Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.   | Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.  | Standard maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.                       |
| Ancillary facilities | Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms, car parking and bike storage facilities to serve the number of pitches; may include wider social/function facilities. | Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms car parking and bike storage facilities to serve the number of pitches. | Limited or no changing room access on site.  |

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

**Key centres** are more community focused, although 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.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g., a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e., single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch/facility or a low number of pitches/facilities that service just one or two sports (e.g., bowling green sites).

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

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

### **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 the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to assist.

As all sites sit within the local authority area, the Council is considered to be a partner for each identified action (as the column indicates partners for the Council) and is therefore not included. However, it is acknowledged that it will take on more of a leading role for some specific sites and some specific actions (e.g., at council venues).

### **Priority**

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

The majority of key centres have **medium** priority actions. These have analysis area importance and are identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment, although not to the same extent as high priority actions.



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The **low** priority actions tend to be for single pitch or single sport sites and often club or education sites with local specific importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g., through S106 funding.

### **Costs**

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

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

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

### **Timescales**

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

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

### **Aim**

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

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## BILSTON

### Summary

| Sport                    | Analysis area | Current demand      |  | Future demand (2039)   |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
|                          |               | Pitch type          | Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions                                      | Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions   |
| Football (grass pitches) | Bilston       | Adult               | Spare capacity of 1  | Spare capacity of 0.5  |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 1  | Spare capacity of 0.5  |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 1  | Spare capacity of 1  |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Adult               | Shortfall of 1.5   | Shortfall of 4   |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Shortfall of 3   |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 11.5   | Spare capacity of 11.5   |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | Spare capacity of 2  | Spare capacity of 0.2  |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Spare capacity of 2.5  |
| Football (3G pitches)    | Bilston       | Full size, floodlit | Shortfall of 0.5   | Shortfall of 0.5   |
| Football (3G pitches)    | Wolverhampton | Full size, floodlit | Shortfall of 3.5   | Shortfall of 4.5   |
| Cricket                  | Bilston       | Saturday            | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 12   | Spare capacity of 12   |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 18   | Spare capacity of 18   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Saturday            | Shortfall of 25  | Shortfall of 25  |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 59   | Spare capacity of 59   |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 81   | Spare capacity of 81   |
| Rugby union              | Bilston       | Senior              | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Senior              | Shortfall of 3   | Shortfall of 3.5   |
| Hockey (sand AGPs)       | Wolverhampton | Full size, floodlit | One pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy. Issues with changing room access for community users. | One pitch at Ormiston SWB Academy. Issues with changing room access for community users. Future need for carpet replacement. |

### Summary non-pitch sports

| Sport  | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|--------|---|---|
| Tennis | None of the six tennis clubs access any existing provision based within the Bilston analysis area. The five poor quality clay courts provided at East Park are utilised by a Local Tennis League. | Provision at East Park is outlined for the installation of LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark, Gate Access and Rally. The site has also been targeted for re-surfacing of provision. |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport               | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Netball</b>      | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.  | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.  |
| <b>Bowls</b>        | Demand is being met.  | Future demand is being met.   |
| <b>Athletics</b>    | No provision within catchment area.   | No provision within catchment area.   |
| <b>Cycling</b>      | The Bilston analysis area is home to the 95-metre East Park cycle speedway track, accessed by Wolves Cycle Speedway Club. Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.                                 | The Bilston analysis area is home to the 95-metre East Park cycle speedway track, accessed by Wolves Cycle Speedway Club. Focus is needed on ensuring that the general infrastructure in the authority is sufficient to accommodate requirements.                                 |
| <b>Golf</b>         | No provision within catchment area.   | No provision within catchment area.   |
| <b>Water sports</b> | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. |
| <b>Other sports</b> | No provision within catchment area.   | No provision within catchment area.   |

## Overarching recommendations

| Sport       | Priority recommendations  |
|-------------|---|
| Football    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Prouds Lane Playing Fields.</li> <li>Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites.</li> <li>Consider asset transfer/long term lease of sites to clubs or extension of existing leases such as Bilston Town FC whose lease is set to expire as of 2022.</li> <li>Enable use of currently unavailable sites.</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required, such as the ancillary offer provided at East Park.</li> </ul> |
| 3G pitches  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>Look to replace the current surface of provision provided at City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus) when needed in the future.</li> <li>Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.</li> </ul>  |
| Cricket     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required.</li> <li>Undertake necessary ancillary provision improvements, such as expanding the existing changing rooms provided at Springvale CC.</li> </ul>   |
| Rugby union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>   |
| Hockey      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for the need to replace current provision provided at Ormiston SWB Academy given that nine years have passed since its installation.</li> <li>Explore the possibility of improving the ancillary provision offer at Ormiston SWB as to provide Dudley Ladies HC with accompanying changing facilities.</li> </ul>  |
| Golf        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>   |
| Bowls       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> </ul>  |

## CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport        | Priority recommendations  |
|--------------|---|
| Tennis       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Seek to improve provision of courts such as East Park</li> <li>Seek to install LTA initiatives such as Rally, ClubSpark and Gate Access at East Park.</li> </ul> |
| Netball      | Protect provision and explore increased community access/activity.  |
| Cycling      | No action required.   |
| Athletics    | Protect provision.  |
| Water sports | No action required.   |
| Other sports | No action required.   |

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site   | Sport    | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                                  | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>7</sup> | Cost <sup>8</sup> | Aim                |
|---------|--|----------|-------------|---|---|---|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 8       | Bilston Church of England Primary School               | Football | School      | Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular use.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF                       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 9       | Bilston Town Football Club                             | Football | Sports Club | One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed with the current lease for the site set to expire as of 2022. The Club currently operates at a Step 6 level and aspires to develop its stadia site into a 3G pitch. | Look to secure a longer-term lease for the site as to ensure stability and open opportunities for investment. Following obtaining a lease, explore the feasibility of converting existing provision into a 3G pitch (working to alleviate known 3G shortfall in the analysis area). | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF<br>Sport England | Key site            | M        | L                       | H                 | Protect<br>Provide |
| 11      | City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus) | 3G       | School      | One standard quality FIFA/FA approved 100x65 metre pitch which is floodlit and available to the community. Pitch has exceeded its lifespan but remains a satisfactory quality.  | Ensure pitch is resurfaced in the future, when required.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF<br>Sport England      | Local               | M        | M                       | H                 | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 22      | East Park  | Football | Council     | Three standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Changing facilities were condemned recently by the council.   | Utilise actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions. Explore the possibility of re-introducing ancillary provision at the site following its recent condemnation.  | CFA<br>FF                                 | Key Centre          | M        | M                       | L                 | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |  | Cricket  |             | The site has one standalone NTP that was installed in 2018.   | Protect existing provision.   | SCB<br>ECB                                |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                    |
|         |  | Tennis   |             | Five poor quality, non-floodlit clay tennis courts that are open to community use. Courts are used in a local tennis league.  | Explore the possibility of re-surfacing existing poor-quality courts. Courts should be prioritised given their park location making them highly accessible to the community.  | LTA                                       |                     | M        | M                       | M                 |                    |
|         |  | Cycling  |             | One 95-metre cycle speedway tracks used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.  | Protect existing provision.   | British Cycling                           |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                    |
| 23      | East Park Academy                                      | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF                       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 24      | Eastfield Primary School (Wolverhampton)               | Football | School      | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF                       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 27      | Field View Primary School                              | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF                       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 37      | Holy Rosary Catholic Primary Academy                   | Football | School      | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF                       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 38      | Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School (Bilston)         | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF                       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect<br>Enhance |

<sup>7</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>8</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site                              | Sport    | Management | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                    | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>7</sup> | Cost <sup>8</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|---|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 40      | John Harpers Playing Fields       | Football | Council    | Lapsed site that has space to accommodate for an adult football pitch.  | The site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF  | FA<br>Sport<br>England      | -                   | -        | -                       | -                 | -                             |
| 41      | Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton      | 3G       | School     | One 45x32 metre, non-floodlit 3G pitch with no community use.   | Protect existing provision as to service curricular demand. Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights and opening the surface to community use.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF<br>SE   | Local               | M        | M                       | L                 | Protect<br>Provide            |
| 46      | Loxdale Primary School            | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.  | Retain for curricular demand  | School<br>CFA<br>FF         | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 50      | Moseley Park School Sports Centre | Football | School     | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF         | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |                                   | Tennis   |            | Four standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use.   | Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.   |                             |                     |          |                         |                   |                               |
|         |                                   | Netball  |            | Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use.  | Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.   |                             |                     |          |                         |                   |                               |
| 57      | Ormiston SWB Academy              | Football | School     | Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are of a standard quality and have actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the site already takes lettings and that it holds three pitches, explore the possibility of utilising spare capacity.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF         | Key Centre          | H        | S                       | H                 | Enhance<br>Protect<br>Provide |
|         |                                   | Cricket  |            | One standalone NTP that is available for community use.   | Protect existing provision for curricular use.  | School<br>SCB<br>ECB        |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                               |
|         |                                   | AGP      |            | One standard quality 91x55 metre, floodlit sand filled AGP that is accessed by Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC from 10:00-15:00 and Dudley Ladies from 15:00 onwards. The pitch is nearing the end of its lifespan after being installed in 2013. Dudley Ladies HC report issues of not being able to access the on-site changing rooms and stressed desires to relocate back to Dudley if provision were to be provided. | Given its lifespan, explore the possibility of replacing existing provision with a new hockey surface. If additional suitable AGP provision were to be provided within Dudley, Dudley Ladies HC could return back to its home region, thus freeing up greater pitch access for Wolverhampton and Tettenhall HC. Explore opportunities to access changing offer on site. | School<br>England<br>Hockey |                     | M        | L                       | L                 |                               |
|         |                                   | Tennis   |            | One good quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis court that is serviced by good quality ancillary provision and open to community use.   | Protect existing provision as to service curricular and community use.  | School<br>LTA               |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                               |
|         |                                   | Netball  |            | Two good quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts that are open to community use.   | Protect existing provision as to service curricular and community use.  | School<br>EN                |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                               |



**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
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| Site ID | Site                          | Sport      | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners                  | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>7</sup> | Cost <sup>8</sup> | Aim                |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|-------------|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 66      | Prouds Lane Playing Fields    | Football   | Council     | One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 74      | Springvale Sports             | Football   | Sports Club | One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and have actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.  | Utilise actual spare capacity of 1 match equivalent session. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF  | Key Centre          | H        | M                       | L                 | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                               | Cricket    |             | One standard quality square used by Springvale CC, who have a lease for the site until 2046. Site has actual spare capacity of 22 sessions per season for Sunday and Midweek use. Club report the need to expand the changing rooms | Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play. Explore the means of expanding the existing changing rooms.                                 | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>ECB |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                    |
|         |                               | Lawn Bowls |             | One standard bowling green that is accessed by Springvale BC who have a long-term lease agreement of 50-years. Green is operating within recommended capacity range.  | Improve green quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support club demand.   | Sports Club<br>BCGBA      |                     | L        | L                       | L                 |                    |
| 79      | St Martin's CE Primary School | Football   | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch which is unavailable for community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 81      | St Matthias School            | Football   | School      | One adult, one youth 9v9 and two mini 7v7 pitches, all of which are of a standard quality. Site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Given its number of pitches, explore the feasibility of opening site to community use as to service Club demand.                                       | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 88      | Stow Heath Primary School     | Football   | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 89      | Stowlawn Primary School       | Cricket    | School      | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 101     | Villiers Primary School       | Football   | School      | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is unavailable for community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |
| 134     | Bilston Town BC               | Lawn Bowls | Sports Club | One good quality bowling green accessed by Bilston Town BC who have no capacity issues.   | Sustain current maintenance regimes is to keep green quality to a good standard.   | Sports Club<br>BCGBA      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                 | Protect            |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## CENTRAL AND SOUTH

### Summary

| Sport                    | Analysis area     | Current demand      |  | Future demand (2039)  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|---|
|                          |                   | Pitch type          | Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions  | Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions  |
| Football (grass pitches) | Central and South | Adult               | Shortfall of 0.5   | Shortfall of 0.5  |
|                          |                   | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 0.5  | Shortfall of 1  |
|                          |                   | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 0.5  | Spare capacity of 0.5   |
|                          |                   | Mini 7v7            | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          |                   | Mini 5v5            | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          | Wolverhampton     | Adult               | Shortfall of 1.5   | Shortfall of 4  |
|                          |                   | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Shortfall of 3  |
|                          |                   | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 11.5   | Spare capacity of 11.5  |
|                          |                   | Mini 7v7            | Spare capacity of 2  | Spare capacity of 0.2   |
|                          |                   | Mini 5v5            | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Spare capacity of 2.5   |
| Football (3G pitches)    | Central and South | Full size, floodlit | Shortfall of 1   | Shortfall of 1  |
|                          | Wolverhampton     |                     | Shortfall of 3.5   | Shortfall of 4.5  |
| Cricket                  | Central and South | Saturday            | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          |                   | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 36   | Spare capacity of 36  |
|                          |                   | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 54   | Spare capacity of 54  |
|                          | Wolverhampton     | Saturday            | Shortfall of 25  | Shortfall of 25   |
|                          |                   | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 59   | Spare capacity of 59  |
|                          |                   | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 81   | Spare capacity of 81  |
| Rugby Union              | Central and South | Senior              | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          | Wolverhampton     | Senior              | Shortfall of 3   | Shortfall of 3.5  |
| Hockey (sand AGPs)       | Wolverhampton     | Full size, floodlit | Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. Quality improvements are required at WV Active Aldersley. | Supply provided at WV Active Aldersley should see pitch improvements in order to accommodate for future demand. |

### Summary non-pitch sports

| Sport  | Current picture  | Future picture   |
|--------|--|--|
| Tennis | Home to Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club and Linden Tea TC. Wolverhampton TC is in need of ancillary facility development, with a focus on improved disabled access. Recreational offer broadly poor to standard quality. | Future club-based demand can be met. West Park has been outlined for court improvements as well as the installation of LTA initiatives such as ClubSpark, Gate Access and Rally. |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport               | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Netball</b>      | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.  | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.  |
| <b>Bowls</b>        | Five greens with no quality or capacity issues identified. Stile BC needs renewing its lease for the site with Marston's Brewery. The Club also report parking being an issue at the site.  | Five greens with no quality or capacity issues identified. Stile BC needs renewing its lease for the site with Marston's Brewery. The Club also report parking being an issue at the site.  |
| <b>Athletics</b>    | Adequate provision within catchment which requires protection.  | Protect existing provision at WV Aldersley and seek community use at The King's School to meet potential future increase in demand.   |
| <b>Cycling</b>      | BMX pump track at Hilton Roads Playing Fields and is accessed by Hilton Hall Community association. This requires protection.   | BMX pump track at Hilton Roads Playing Fields and is accessed by Hilton Hall Community association. This requires protection.   |
| <b>Golf</b>         | Relatively high demand and provision within catchment, although four of seven courses serving the City are outside city boundary.   | Existing provision within city boundary requires protection.  |
| <b>Water sports</b> | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. |
| <b>Other sports</b> | No provision within catchment.  | No provision within catchment.  |

## Overarching recommendations

| Sport      | Priority recommendations   |
|------------|--|
| Football   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Colton Hills Community School and Springvale Park.</li> <li>Formalise community use agreements for clubs utilising unsecure sites such as Colton Hills Community School.</li> <li>Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs if appropriate.</li> <li>Improve changing the quality of ancillary provision at key sites such as Dixon Street Playing Field and Springvale Park,.</li> </ul> |
| 3G pitches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.</li> </ul>   |
| Cricket    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve existing provision at to enhance square quality and reduce overplay.</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required.</li> <li>Look to address drainage issues at Newbridge Playing Fields, accessed by Whitmore Rains CC.</li> </ul>   |

## CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport        | Priority recommendations   |
|--------------|--|
| Rugby union  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect existing provision.</li> <li>Improve quality of existing provision.</li> </ul>  |
| Hockey       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect existing provision</li> <li>Ensure the additional Saturday pitch allocation at the Royal Wolverhampton School is preserved for the future demand of Finchfield HC.</li> </ul>   |
| Golf         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Bowls        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore the means of improving the parking at Stile BC.</li> </ul>  |
| Tennis       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Seek to improve park courts such as West Park that are utilised in a local league</li> <li>Improve ancillary provision at Wolverhampton TC, specifically regarding its disabled accessibility.</li> </ul> |
| Netball      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision and explore increased community access/activity.</li> </ul>   |
| Cycling      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Athletics    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> </ul>   |
| Water sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Other sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site                          | Sport              | Management | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners              | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>9</sup> | Cost <sup>10</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 15      | Colton Hills Community School | Football           | School     | Two poor quality youth 11v11 pitches open to community use and overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to alleviate overplay.  | School CFA FF         | Key site            | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect<br>Provide<br>Enhance |
|         |                               | Cricket            |            | One standalone NTP with no community use.   | Protect existing provision.  | School SCB ECB        |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                               |
|         |                               | AGP                |            | One 39x24 metre sand filled, floodlit AGP that is open to community use.  | Protect existing provision and ensure allocation is maximised wherever possible as to service football training demand.  | School England Hockey |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                               |
|         |                               | Tennis             |            | Eight standard quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by netball  | Consider long term opportunities to provide floodlighting aligned to LTA/England Netball participation programmes. Need to secure access for the community.  | School LTA            |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                               |
|         |                               | Netball            |            | Eight standard quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts with no community use. Overmarked by tennis.  |  | School EN             |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                               |
|         |                               | Baseball/ Softball |            | One diamond that is used by Wolverhampton Baseball Club and Stourbridge Titans Baseball Club for match and training purposes.   | Protect existing provision as to service Wolverhampton and Stourbridge Titans Baseball Clubs.  | School                |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                               |
| 20      | Dixon Street Playing Field    | Football           | Council    | One poor quality adult pitch that has minimal spare capacity discounted due to it being poor quality. The pitch is available for community use but has no accompanying ancillary provision, following its condemnation by the Council.                    | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support community demand. Seek the possibility of bringing back the condemned ancillary provision, as to service adult football, on the basis demand warrants this investment. | CFA FF                | Local               | M        | S                       | H                  | Enhance<br>Provide            |
| 30      | Goldthorn Park Primary School | Football           | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch and one standard quality 5v5 pitch, both unavailable for community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF         | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 36      | Hilton Road Playing Fields    | Football           | Council    | One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with an overmarked mini 7v7, all of which are available for community use. Adult pitch is overplayed whilst the 9v9 has actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions. | Sustain current maintenance regime and try and maximise use of the site.   | CFA FF                | Local               | M        | M                       | L                  | Protect                       |
|         |                               | Cycling            |            | One BMX pump track used by Hilton Hall Community Association.   | Protect existing provision.  | British Cycling       |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                               |
| 44      | Lanesfield Primary School     | Football           | School     | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF         | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                       |
| 45      | Lawnswood Campus              | Football           | School     | One standard quality adult pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF         | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                       |
| 47      | Manor Primary School          | Football           | School     | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF         | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                       |

<sup>9</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>10</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Site ID | Site   | Sport    | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                 | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>9</sup> | Cost <sup>10</sup> | Aim                |
|---------|--|----------|-------------|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 51      | Newbridge Playing Fields                               | Football | Council     | One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality.  | Maximise use of the site.   | CFA<br>FF                | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |  | Cricket  |             | One standard quality cricket square with accompanying NTP accessed by Whitmore Rains CC on a rolling annual agreement. Club report drainage issues on the square and outfield. Site has spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play.                     | Explore the possibility of improving the reported drainage issues on site. Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek.                                  | SCB<br>ECB               |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                    |
| 60      | Former Bilston United Sports Ground                    | Football | Council     | One poor quality adult pitch with no community use.   | Retain for future demand. Potential site to accommodate a new football club.  | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 61      | Penn Cricket Club                                      | Cricket  | Sports Club | One good quality square with accompanying NTP that is accessed by Penn CC who have tenure of the site until 2039. Site has actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play.   | Utilise actual spare capacity for Sunday and Midweek play. Sustain quality of provision.  | Sports Club<br>ECB       | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Enhance<br>Protect |
| 68      | Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground                       | Football | Sports Club | Three adult, four youth 11v11 and three mini 7v7 pitches all of which are of a good quality and have no community use.  | Continue current maintenance as to ensure quality.  | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF | Hub site            | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
|         |  | 3G       |             | One good quality full-size 3G pitch which services the use of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC and has no community use. Highest performing team in Wolverhampton, currently playing in the Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers, own and manage the site. | Protect existing provision for elite sport purposes.  |                          |                     |          |                         |                    |                    |
| 70      | Southside Sports                                       | 3G       | Sports Club | Three small-sized (38x18 metre), floodlit 3G open to community use.   | Ensure capacity is maximised as to service training demand. Financially prepare for a sinking fund to replace existing provision once it has passed its lifespan. | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF | Local               | M        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
| 71      | Spring Vale Primary School                             | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
| 73      | Springvale Park  | Football | Council     | One poor quality adult pitch open to community use. Site has no accompanying ancillary provision, making it unfit for adult match play.   | Consider pitch reconfiguration to youth formats to enable it for match play (without requiring changing facilities)   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
| 75      | SS Peter And Paul Catholic Primary Academy And Nursery | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
| 77      | St Judes C Of E Academy                                | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 11v11 with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
| 78      | St Lukes C Of E Primary School (Wolverhampton)         | Football | School      | Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |
| 85      | St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy                   | Football | School      | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect            |



**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site                           | Sport       | Management            | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners       | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>9</sup> | Cost <sup>10</sup> | Aim                     |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---|---|----------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 86      | St. Edmund's Catholic Academy  | Football    | School                | Two adult, two youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of which are of a poor quality and open to community use. Actual spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand. Given the quantity of provision available, explore the means of opening site to community use.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | M        | M                       | M                  | Protect Enhance Provide |
|         |                                | Tennis      |                       | Three good quality, floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use.   | Ensure maintenance of courts remains to a good level as to sustain current quality for as long as possible. Seek possibility of opening courts to community use.  | School LTA     |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
| 87      | St. Peter's Collegiate School  | Cricket     | School                | One standalone NTP with no community use.   | Protect existing provision for curricular demand.   | School SCB ECB | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                 |
|         |                                | Tennis      |                       | Eight standard quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts, four of which are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.  | Sustain for curricular demand.  | School LTA     |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |                                | Netball     |                       | Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts, three of which are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.   | Sustain for curricular demand.  | School EN      |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
| 95      | The Royal Wolverhampton School | Football    | School                | One standard quality adult pitch and four poor quality mini 7v7 pitches all of which are open to community use. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to support curricular demand.  | School CFA FF  | Key Centre          | M        | L                       | L                  | Protect Enhance         |
|         |                                | Cricket     |                       | One standalone NTP that is open to community use.   | Protect existing provision for community use.   | School SCB ECB |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |                                | AGP         |                       | One good quality 90x60 metre, floodlit AGP that is open to community use. Site is accessed by Finchfield HC for training and match play purposes. Club access the site for free having provided financial support in its resurfacing in 2019. Site has spare capacity for one additional team on Saturdays. | Protect existing provision. Ensure that training allocation is utilised as much as possible as to service hockey training purposes. Seek the means of utilising the additional available Saturday match slot for hockey purposes. | School EH      |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |                                | Rugby Union |                       | One poor quality junior pitch which is available for community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School RFU     |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |                                | Tennis      |                       | Four standard quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School LTA     |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |                                | Netball     |                       | One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School EN      |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
| 96      | The Way Youth Zone             | 3G          | Charitable Enterprise | One small-sized (36x18 metre), floodlit pitch that is open community use. Pitch is FA approved and can host mini football matches. Site is open for community use from 16:00-22:00 Monday-Friday.   | Protect existing provision. Given its FA accreditation maximise usage for mini fixtures as to alleviate the strain on grass pitches.  | CFA FF         | Local               | M        | L                       | L                  | Protect                 |

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site  | Sport      | Management  | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners           | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>9</sup> | Cost <sup>10</sup> | Aim                     |
|---------|---|------------|-------------|--|---|--------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 105     | West Park Primary School                      | Football   | School      | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF      | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                 |
| 111     | Wolverhampton Girls' High School              | Cricket    | School      | One standalone NTP with no community use.  | Protect existing provision.   | School SCB FF      | Local site          | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |   | Tennis     |             | Four good quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular demand.   | School LTA         |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |   | Netball    |             | Four good quality, non-floodlit macadam netball courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.   | Sustain court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.   | School EN          |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
| 113     | Wolverhampton Wanderers FC (Molineux Stadium) | Football   | Sports Club | One good quality adult pitch which is unavailable for community use. Highest performing team in Wolverhampton, currently playing in the Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers, own and manage the site.  | Protect existing provision for Premier League Wolverhampton Wanderers use.  | Sports Club CFA FF | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                 |
| 115     | Woodcross Park                                | Football   | Council     | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is open to community use and has with actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session.   | Utilise actual spare capacity and sustain quality.  | CFA FF             | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                 |
| 125     | West Park                                     | Tennis     | Council     | Six poor quality, non-floodlit macadam tennis courts that are open to community use. Site is used in a local tennis league and has been prioritised by the LTA for the installation of ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access as well as resurfacing existing surfaces.  | Seek the means of resurfacing sites existing provision given its importance within Wolverhampton.   | LTA BCGBA          | Local site          | H        | M                       | M                  | Protect Enhance         |
|         |   | Lawn Bowls |             | One good quality bowling green accessed by West Park BC.   | Sustain quality.  | Sports Club BCGBA  | BCGBA               | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
| 126     | Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club       | Tennis     | Sports Club | Site has five macadam, three clay, one artificial turf and three grass courts, all of which are floodlit and open to community use. The three clay courts are of a poor quality, whilst the remaining provision is all of a good quality. Club have freehold ownership of the site and report having available capacity to accommodate for future demand. Club has ambitions to develop its ancillary provision, with a focus on improved disabled access. | Explore the means of improving the quality of existing clay courts. Improve ancillary provision where required, specifically regarding disabled access of the site. | Sports Club LTA    | Key Centre          | M        | M                       | H                  | Protect Enhance Provide |
|         |   | Netball    |             | One non-floodlit good quality netball court that is open to community use.   | Explore the feasibility of installing floodlights for existing provision.   | Sports club EN     |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
|         |   | Lawn Bowls |             | One floodlit bowling green with no known capacity issues.  | Protect existing provision.   | Sports Club BCGBA  |                     | L        | L                       | L                  |                         |
| 128     | 44 Bowls Club                                 | Lawn Bowls | Sports Club | One good quality bowling green accessed by 44 Bowls Club who are operating within the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.   | Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.  | Sports Club BCGBA  | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect                 |

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site  | Sport      | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners          | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>9</sup> | Cost <sup>10</sup> | Aim             |
|---------|---|------------|-------------|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 129     | Stile Bowls Club                              | Lawn Bowls | Sports Club | One standard quality floodlit bowling green accessed by Stile BC. The Club have an intermediate length of time left on its lease for the site with Marston's Brewery. There is reportedly an insufficient amount of parking for site. | Improve current maintenance for the green as to enhance quality.   | Sports Club BCGBA | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect         |
| 133     | Penn Bowls Club                               | Lawn Bowls | Sports Club | One good quality floodlit bowling green accessed by Penn BC who have freehold ownership of the site. The club is currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold.  | Sustain current maintenance for the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.<br>Ensure club demand can continue to be accommodated.  | Sports Club BCGBA | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect         |
| 146     | Linden Lea Tennis Club                        | Tennis     | Sports Club | Three good quality, floodlit macadam tennis courts that are available for community use.  | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service community demand.   | Sports Club LTA   | Local               | L        | L                       | L                  | Protect         |
| 152     | Phoenix Park                                  | Cricket    | Council     | One poor quality standalone non-turf wicket which is available for community.   | Seek the means of replacing current provision with a new surface as to improve quality.  | ECB               | Local               | M        | L                       | M                  | Protect Enhance |
| -       | Former St Luke's Primary School Playing Field | *          | -           | Lapsed playing field .  | This facility has been replaced at the new St Luke's Primary School and its loss may therefore be acceptable if there is no alternative demand identified.   | Sport England     | -                   | -        | -                       | -                  | -               |
| -       | Rolls Royce Sports Ground                     | -          | -           | Lapsed playing field (cricket pitch and bowling green). Planning permission has been granted for development of the site subject to compensatory payment for the loss of the playing field.   | Should the development not proceed, and payment not be received, the site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF. | Sport England     | -                   | -        | -                       | -                  | -               |
| -       | Newhampton Inn Bowling Club                   | -          | -           | Disused site. Club folded.  | The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.  | Sport England     | -                   | -        | -                       | -                  | -               |
| -       | Oaklands Bowling Club                         | -          | -           | Disused site. Club folded recently.   | The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.  | Sport England     | -                   | -        | -                       | -                  | -               |
| -       | Summer Public House                           | -          | -           | Lapsed bowling green to the back of the pub.  | The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.  | Sport England     | -                   | -        | -                       | -                  | -               |
| -       | City of Wolverhampton College                 | -          | -           | Disused education playing field which is no longer used for formal sport and has fallen out of use.   | The site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.  | Sport England     | -                   | -        | -                       | -                  | -               |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## NORTH

### Summary

| Sport                    | Analysis area | Current demand      |  | Future demand (2039)  |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|---|
|                          |               | Pitch type          | Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions  | Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions  |
| Football (grass pitches) | North         | Adult               | Spare capacity of 3.5  | Spare capacity of 3   |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Shortfall of 1   | Shortfall of 2.5  |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 8  | Spare capacity of 8   |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Spare capacity of 2.5   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Adult               | Shortfall of 1.5   | Shortfall of 4  |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Shortfall of 3  |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 11.5   | Spare capacity of 11.5  |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | Spare capacity of 2  | Spare capacity of 0.2   |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Spare capacity of 2.5   |
| Football (3G pitches)    | North         | Full size, floodlit | Shortfall of 0.5   | Shortfall of 0.75   |
|                          | Wolverhampton |                     | Shortfall of 3.5   | Shortfall of 4.5  |
| Cricket                  | North         | Saturday            | Shortfall of 5   | Shortfall of 5  |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 7  | Spare capacity of 7   |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 7  | Spare capacity of 7   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Saturday            | Shortfall of 25  | Shortfall of 25   |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 59   | Spare capacity of 59  |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 81   | Spare capacity of 81  |
| Rugby Union              | North         | Senior              | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Senior              | Shortfall of 3   | Shortfall of 3.5  |
| Hockey (sand AGPs)       | Wolverhampton | Full size, floodlit | Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. Quality improvements are required at WV Active Aldersley. | Supply provided at WV Active Aldersley should see pitch improvements in order to accommodate for future demand. |

### Summary non-pitch sports

| Sport   | Current picture  | Future picture  |
|---------|--|---|
| Tennis  | No club-based demand and limited recreational activity identified.               | Sites such as Goodyear Neighbourhood Park could be prioritised for recreational tennis given the standard quality of provision and community use agreement. |
| Netball | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use. | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.  |

## CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport               | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Bowls</b>        | There are three bowling greens, two with accompanying clubs but with no capacity issues. The Green at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses CC) is poor quality.   | Future demand can be met.   |
| <b>Athletics</b>    | No provision within catchment.  | No provision within catchment.  |
| <b>Cycling</b>      | No provision within catchment.  | No provision within catchment.  |
| <b>Golf</b>         | An 18-hole course at Oxley Park golf club and a 9-hole course at Greenfield Golf Club which requires protection as well as a par 3 course with accompanying driving range provided at 3 Hammers in South Staffordshire (adjacent to Wolverhampton boundary).                      | An 18-hole course at Oxley Park golf club and a 9-hole course at Greenfield Golf Club, as well as a par 3 course with accompanying driving range provided at 3 Hammers in South Staffordshire.  |
| <b>Water sports</b> | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. |
| <b>Other sports</b> | St Mary's Gaelic Football Club accesses a youth 11v11 football pitch at Aldersley High School Sports Centre but require dedicated provision.  | St Mary's Gaelic Football Club accesses a youth 11v11 football pitch at Aldersley High School Sports Centre but require dedicated provision, unless its current position changes.   |

### Overarching Recommendations

| Sport       | Priority recommendations  |
|-------------|---|
| Football    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as The Pavilion.</li> <li>Consider re-configuring layout at overplayed sites such as Bilbrook Junior Football Club.</li> <li>Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs where appropriate.</li> <li>Enable use of currently unavailable sites.</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required, such as Bee Lane Playing Field and Northwood Park .</li> </ul> |
| 3G pitches  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.</li> <li>Replace existing provision provided at Ormiston NEW Academy that has long since passed its lifespan.</li> </ul>  |
| Cricket     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve quality of practice nets provided at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground (Fordhouses CC).</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul>   |
| Rugby union | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>   |

## CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport        | Priority recommendations   |
|--------------|--|
| Hockey       | ◀ No action required.  |
| Golf         | ◀ Protect provision at Oxley Park and Greenfield Golf Clubs  |
| Bowls        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Improve quality of the green at Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground which represents the only poor-quality provision within Wolverhampton.</li> </ul>  |
| Tennis       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Protect provision.</li> <li>◀ Seek to improve park courts such as provision provided at Goodyear Neighbourhood Park.</li> </ul>   |
| Netball      | ◀ Protect provision and explore increased community access/activity.   |
| Cycling      | ◀ No action required.  |
| Athletics    | ◀ Protect provision.   |
| Water sports | ◀ No action required.  |
| Other sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Seek the possibility of creating a purpose-built Gaelic Football pitch for St Mary's Gaelic Football Club.</li> <li>◀ Explore the feasibility of granting tenure of a site to St Mary's Gaelic Football Club</li> </ul> |



| Site ID | Site                                | Sport           | Management  | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                       | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>11</sup> | Cost <sup>12</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1       | Aldersley High School Sports Centre | Football        | School      | Two youth 11v11 and two youth 9v9 pitches all of which are of a poor quality an unavailable for community use. Site has spare capacity discontinued due to unsecure tenure.  | Improve pitch quality offer if community access of pitches can be achieved,  | School CFA FF                  | Key centre          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                                     | Tennis          |             | Four standard quality floodlit tennis courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School LTA                     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                                     | Netball         |             | Four standard quality floodlit netball courts with no community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School EN                      |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                                     | Gaelic Football |             | Site is accessed by St Mary's Gaelic Football Club which play on an overmarked youth 11v11 football pitch. The club are limited in ability to operate at the site given the available provision and desire a long-term lease for some suitable land.   | Work with the Club with the relevant partners to explore its aspirations for site acquisition and long term developmental aspirations.     | School Sports Club Britain GAA |                     | M        | M                        | L                  |                               |
| 4       | Bee Lane Playing Field              | Football        | Council     | One poor quality adult pitch with no accompanying ancillary provision. Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality. The pitch and overall site over is set to be improved due to the loss of provision at Northcote School.  | Improve quality of offer for adult football. Ensure mitigation work for the loss of Northcote School is undertaken to a suitable standard. | CFA FF                         | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 6       | Berrybrook Primary School           | Football        | School      | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF                  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 7       | Bilbrook Junior Football Club       | Football        | Sports Club | Two adult pitches, one of which is overmarked by a youth 9v9. Site also has two mini 7v7 pitches and two mini 5v5 pitches. The non-overmarked adult pitch is of a standard quality, whilst remaining provision is poor quality. Site is overplayed by seven match equivalent sessions on the adult and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst the mini pitches have spare capacity. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.   | Sports Club CFA FF             | Local               | M        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 21      | Dovecotes Primary School            | Football        | School      | One standard quality adult pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF                  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 26      | Fallings Park Primary School        | Football        | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF                  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |

<sup>11</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>12</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

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| Site ID | Site                           | Sport      | Management  | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners                   | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>11</sup> | Cost <sup>12</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 39      | Jack Threlfall Memorial Ground | Football   | Sports Club | Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.  | Utilise actual spare capacity.  | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF   | Key Centre          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |                                | Cricket    |             | Two good quality squares, one of which has an accompanying NTP. One of the squares has spare capacity for additional Sunday and midweek play, whilst the other square has overplay of five match equivalent sessions. Site is accessed by Fordhouses CC who aspire to refurbish the outdoor practice nets. | Explore the possibility of refurbishing the outdoor practice nets.<br>Re-distribute usage of the two squares if possible, as to alleviate overplay.   | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>EC B |                     | M        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                                | Lawn Bowls |             | One poor quality green accessed by Fordhouses BC who are at risk of operating below the BCGBA recommended guidelines of sustainability.  | Improve current maintenance for the green as to enhance quality.  | Sports Club<br>BCGBA       |                     | M        | S                        | L                  |                               |
| 43      | Kingston Centre                | Football   | Council     | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.  | CFA<br>FF                  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Enhance<br>Protect            |
| 49      | Moreton School                 | Football   | School      | One youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, both of which are of a poor quality and unavailable for community use.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF        | Local site          | M        | L                        | M                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                                | Tennis     |             | Six poor quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.   | Explore the possibility of resurfacing existing provision.  | School<br>LTA              |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                                | Netball    |             | Three poor quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.   | Following this, given the courts have accompanying floodlights, explore the feasibility of opening to community use.  | School<br>EN               |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
| 52      | Northcote School               | Football   | -           | The school closed in 2014, was demolished in 2018 and formerly accommodate one adult pitch. It now has permission granted for the development of 178 dwellings subject to funding to improve the pitches at Bee Lane as mitigation for the loss of this playing field                                      | Ensure mitigation works are appropriate undertaken. Should the development not proceed, and payment not be received, the site should continue be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF. | CFA<br>FF                  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Enhance<br>Protect            |
| 53      | Northwood Park                 | Football   | Council     | Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions. Site has no accompanying ancillary provision meaning it is not suitable for adult match play.  | Utilise actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.<br>Seek the possibility of installing accompanying ancillary provision on site as to enable adult match play.   | CFA<br>FF                  | Local               | L        | L                        | H                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
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| Site ID | Site   | Sport    | Management | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners      | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>11</sup> | Cost <sup>12</sup> | Aim             |
|---------|--|----------|------------|--|--|---------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|         |  |          |            |  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.   |               |                     |          |                          |                    |                 |
| 54      | Northwood Park Primary School                    | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 56      | Ormiston NEW Academy                             | Football | School     | Three adult and four youth 9v9 pitches all of which are of a good quality. Site has spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.                    | Sustain current maintenance of the site as to maintain good quality. Given the quantity and quality of provision, seek the possibility of granting tenure as to enable more match play.                  | School CFA FF | Key Centre          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect Enhance |
|         |  | 3G       |            | One 65x33 metre floodlit 3G that is open to community use. Provision was installed in 1999 meaning it has long since exceeded its lifespan.              | Consider short term opportunities to secure sufficient funding to replace pitch surface.   | School CFA FF |                     | H        | S                        | M                  |                 |
|         |  | Tennis   |            | Three good quality floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.  | School LTA    |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |  | Netball  |            | Two good quality floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.  | School EN     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 58      | Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy            | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with actual spare capacity.   | Utilise actual spare capacity. Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.   | School CFA FF | Key Centre          | M        | L                        | L                  | Protect Enhance |
|         |  | 3G       |            | One good quality full size, floodlit 3G pitch with FIFA/FA certification.  | Sustain current maintenance of the surface as to prolong good quality for as long as possible. Ensure pitch availability is maximised as to maximise revenue and service the need for training demand. . | School CFA FF |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |  | Tennis   |            | Four good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by netball.   | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.  | School LTA    |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |  | Netball  |            | Four good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Courts are overmarked by tennis.  | Sustain court quality through current maintenance regime as to service curricular and community demand.  | School EN     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 65      | Pine Green Academy                               | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use. .  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
|         |  | Netball  |            | Four standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. One of two sites within Wolverhampton with standalone netball courts. | Explore options for an increase in netball use.  | School EN     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 67      | Rakegate Primary School                          | Football | School     | Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 84      | St Paul's Church of England Aided Primary School | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |

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| Site ID | Site                            | Sport      | Management        | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                       | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>11</sup> | Cost <sup>12</sup> | Aim                |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 94      | The Pavilion                    | Football   | Sports Club       | One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.  | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF       | Key Centre          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                 | Cricket    |                   | One standalone NTP.   | Protect existing provision  | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>ECB      |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
|         |                                 | Lawn Bowls |                   | One good quality, floodlit bowling green accessed by Pavilion CES who have freehold ownership of the site. The Club report the accompanying toilets are of a poor quality and in need of refurbishment. | Sustain current maintenance of the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate. Explore options to improve ancillary offer for users.   | Sports Club<br>BCGBA           |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
| 100     | UTC Collins Sports Ground       | -          | Collins Aerospace | Disused stadia football pitch and training pitch plus bowling green due to Collins operating a secure site  | The site should be protected from development unless it is demonstrated, through a robust and up-to-date assessment, that the loss of the site would accord with relevant Local Plan policy, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy exceptions and paragraph 99 of the NPPF. | Collins Aerospace<br>CFA<br>FF | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |
| 106     | Whigreave Primary School        | Football   | School            | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF            | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |
| 120     | Oxley Park Golf club            | Golf       | Members           | One 18-hole members golf course that has circa 480 members. Good quality offer and only one of two 18 hole courses in the City.   | Protect existing provision. Explore the current situation regarding membership figures.   | England Golf                   | Local               | M        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 139     | E.C.C Bowls Club                | Lawn Bowls | Sports Club       | One good quality bowling green accessed by ECC Bowls Club.  | Sustain current maintenance of the green as to ensure quality does not deteriorate.   | Sports Club<br>BCGBA           | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |
| 140     | Goodyear Neighbourhood Park     | Cricket    | Council           | One standalone NTP that was installed in 2018 with a joint scheme between the ECB and the Council.  | Protect existing provision.   | ECB                            | Local site          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                                 | Tennis     |                   | Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.   | Protect existing provision.   | LTA                            |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
| 147     | Barnhurst Lane Football Pitches | Football   | Council           | Eight good quality pitches comprising of three adult, one youth 11v11, three youth 9v9 and one mini pitch. Spare capacity on most pitch types. Ancillary offer accompanying the site is good quality.   | Sustain good quality pitch and ancillary offer.   | CFA<br>FF                      | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |
| 159     | Greenfield Golf Club            | Golf       | Proprietary       | Site is an 9 hole golf course.  | Protect existing provision.   | England Golf                   | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## TETTENHALL

### Summary

| Sport                    | Analysis area | Current demand      |  | Future demand (2039)  |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|---|
|                          |               | Pitch type          | Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions  | Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions  |
| Football (grass pitches) | Tettenhall    | Adult               | Shortfall of 4   | Shortfall of 4.5  |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 1  | At capacity   |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Adult               | Shortfall of 1.5   | Shortfall of 4  |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Shortfall of 3  |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 11.5   | Spare capacity of 11.5  |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | Spare capacity of 2  | Spare capacity of 0.2   |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Spare capacity of 2.5   |
| Football (3G pitches)    | Tettenhall    | Full size, floodlit | Shortfall of 0.75  | Shortfall of 1.25   |
|                          | Wolverhampton |                     | Shortfall of 3.5   | Shortfall of 4.5  |
| Cricket                  | Tettenhall    | Saturday            | Spare capacity of 24   | Spare capacity of 24  |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 48   | Spare capacity of 48  |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 84   | Spare capacity of 84  |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Saturday            | Shortfall of 25  | Shortfall of 25   |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 59   | Spare capacity of 59  |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 81   | Spare capacity of 81  |
| Rugby Union              | Tettenhall    | Senior              | At capacity  | At capacity   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Senior              | Shortfall of 3   | Shortfall of 3.5  |
| Hockey (sand AGPs)       | Wolverhampton | Full size, floodlit | Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. Quality improvements are required at WV Active Aldersley. | Supply provided at WV Active Aldersley should see pitch improvements in order to accommodate for future demand. |

### Summary non-pitch sports

| Sport  | Current picture  | Future picture  |
|--------|--|---|
| Tennis | Four clubs (Tettenhall TC, Hanbury TC, Albert TC and Woodfield Sports and Social TC) with no capacity issues. The courts provided at Claregate Park are accessed by a Local Tennis League. | Future club-based demand can be met. The three poor quality courts at Claregate Park have been outlined for re-surfacing as well as the installation of Gate Access, Rally and ClubSpark. |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport               | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Netball</b>      | The six courts provided at WV Active Aldersley in Tettenhall service the Wolverhampton Netball League as well as hosting Back to Netball sessions.  | Courts at WV Active Aldersley require protection to ensure continued utilisation for league/club-based netball and the various initiatives.   |
| <b>Bowls</b>        | There are six lawn bowling greens across four sites, with demand being met. All provision is assessed as of a good quality. These require protection.   | There are six lawn bowling greens across four sites, with demand being met. All provision is assessed as of a good quality. These require protection.   |
| <b>Athletics</b>    | WV Active Aldersley hosts a 400-metre, floodlit athletics track that is open to community use, whilst the Kings C of E School provides a 200-metre non-floodlit track that is not open to community use. Demand is being met.   | Future demand can be met; track at WV Active Aldersley requires protection, whilst community use could be explored at Kings C of E School.  |
| <b>Cycling</b>      | Within Tettenhall, WV Active Aldersley provides an asphalt cycle track with a 22.5° banking that is accessed by Wolverhampton Wheelers, which has 287 members. British Cycling recommends the facility would benefit from the development of a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet competition and training needs. | Expected to be a moderate increase in demand due to local initiatives.  |
| <b>Golf</b>         | South Staffs Golf Club provides an 18-hole courses and operates under a membership management model. Wergs Golf Club and Perton Park Golf Club, outside but close to the city boundary, provide the same facilities. All three clubs have over 380 members meaning there are no capacity issues.  | Future demand can met; South Staffs Golf Club requires protection.  |
| <b>Water sports</b> | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members.   | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. |
| <b>Other sports</b> | No provision in catchment.  | No provision in catchment   |

## Overarching recommendations

| Sport    | Priority recommendations  |
|----------|---|
| Football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Protect provision.</li> <li>◆ Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Bantock Park, Claregate Park and Windsor Avenue Playing Fields.</li> <li>◆ Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand.</li> <li>◆ Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Highfields School.</li> <li>◆ Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs.</li> <li>◆ Enable use of currently unavailable sites.</li> <li>◆ Improve changing facilities where required.</li> </ul> |



# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport        | Priority recommendations   |
|--------------|--|
| 3G pitches   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.</li> </ul>   |
| Cricket      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Protect NTP at Gamesfield Green Playing Fields utilised as a secondary site by Penn CC.</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required.</li> <li>Utilise spare Saturday capacity at Tettenhall College.</li> </ul>   |
| Rugby union  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Explore the feasibility of increasing floodlighting at the sites as and when needed.</li> </ul>   |
| Hockey       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resurfacing of the sand dressed pitch at WV Active Aldersley following its recent condemnation.</li> <li>Protect existing provision provided at Wolverhampton Grammar School and WV Active Aldersley.</li> <li>Explore the possibility of improving the Sunday offering at Wolverhampton Grammar School as to better service Old Wulfrunians HC.</li> </ul> |
| Golf         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Bowls        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> </ul>   |
| Tennis       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Seek to improve park courts such as Claregate Park that are utilised in a local league.</li> </ul>  |
| Netball      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision at WV Active Aldersley and explore increased community use of other sites.</li> </ul>   |
| Cycling      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Athletics    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Undertake minor track maintenance as to address reports of wear and tear on the surface.</li> <li>Explore community use at the Kings C of E School</li> </ul>   |
| Water sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Other sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |

| Site ID | Site                           | Sport      | Management | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners             | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>13</sup> | Cost <sup>14</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|---|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3       | Bantock Park                   | Football   | Council    | Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay.  | CFA<br>FF            | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 10      | Castlecroft Primary School     | Football   | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 12      | Claregate Park                 | Football   | Council    | One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.   | CFA<br>FF            | Key Centre          | M        | L                        | M                  | Enhance<br>Protect            |
|         |                                | Cricket    |            | One poor quality square with an accompanying NTP. Square has no spare capacity for additional play.   | Improve current maintenance the square receives as to improve quality. Utilise on site NTP for training purposes wherever possible as to reduce demand on the grass wickets. | SCB<br>ECB           |                     | M        | M                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                                | Tennis     |            | Three poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site has been prioritised for the installation of ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access  | Seek the possibility of resurfacing existing provision and installing ClubSpark, Rally and Gate Access.  | LTA                  |                     | M        | M                        | M                  |                               |
| 13      | Claregate Primary School       | Football   | School     | One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 19      | Danescourt                     | Football   | Commercial | One youth 11v11 and one mini 7v7 pitch both of which are of a poor quality. Spare capacity has been discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.   | CFA<br>FF<br>BCGBA   | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                                | Lawn Bowls |            | One good quality bowling green accessed by Express and Star BC who are currently operating marginally above the BCGBA recommended capacity guidelines.  | Sustain current green maintenance as to ensure quality does not deteriorate, especially considering the high demand the green sees.  | Sports Club<br>BCGBA |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
| 29      | Gamesfield Green Playing Field | Football   | Council    | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with actual spare capacity.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.   | CFA<br>FF            | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
|         |                                | Cricket    |            | One standalone NTP accessed by Penn CC as a secondary ground.   | Protect existing provision as to service Penn CC.  | SCB<br>ECB           |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
| 34      | Highfields School              | Football   | School     | Three poor quality adult pitches, one of which are open to community use. Community use pitch is overplayed by six match equivalent sessions. Site is outlined in the LFFP for the potential installation of a 3G facility. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.  | School<br>CFA<br>FF  | Key Centre          | M        | M                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |                                | Cricket    |            | One standard quality standalone NTP.  | Protect for curricular demand.   | School<br>SCB<br>ECB |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |

<sup>13</sup> (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years)

<sup>14</sup> (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL  
STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

| Site ID | Site  | Sport       | Management | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners       | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>13</sup> | Cost <sup>14</sup> | Aim             |
|---------|---|-------------|------------|---|---|----------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|         |   | Rugby Union |            | One poor quality, non-floodlit senior pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School RFU     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Tennis      |            | Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School LTA     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Netball     |            | Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School EN      |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 48      | Merridale Primary School                          | Football    | School     | One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 59      | Palmers Cross Primary School                      | Football    | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 62      | Penn Fields School                                | Football    | School     | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 69      | Smestow School                                    | Football    | School     | Two youth 11v11 pitches and one youth 9v9 pitch that are all overmarked by a grass athletics track in easter, open to community use and of a poor quality.                                  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.   | School CFA FF  | Key Centre          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect Enhance |
|         |   | Rugby Union |            | One poor quality, non-floodlit senior pitch that is open to community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School RFU     |                     |          |                          |                    |                 |
|         |   | Tennis      |            | Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School LTA     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Netball     |            | Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School EN      |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 72      | Springdale Primary School                         | Football    | School     | Two standard quality youth 11v11 with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 82      | St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy And Nursery | Football    | School     | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 83      | St Michaels CE Aided Primary School               | Football    | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School CFA FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 90      | Tettenhall College                                | Football    | School     | Two standard quality youth 11v11 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand  | School CFA FF  | Local               | M        | L                        | L                  | Enhance Protect |
|         |   | 3G          |            | One 53x33 metre, floodlit 3G that is open to community use. Site is only open to community use on weekends.   | Ensure site is used as near to capacity as possible as to service training demand across Wolverhampton. Financially prepare for a sinking fund as to ensure long term stability is secured. | School CFA FF  |                     | M        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Cricket     |            | Two standard quality squares accessed by Wolverhampton CC with spare capacity for additional Saturday, Sunday and Midweek play. This represents the only Cricket site in Wolverhampton with | Sustain current maintenance of each square as to improve quality.   | School SCB ECB |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |

| Site ID | Site                         | Sport       | Management | Current status   | Recommended actions  | Partners                 | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>13</sup> | Cost <sup>14</sup> | Aim                |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------|------------|--|--|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|         |                              |             |            | spare capacity for Saturday play for which it can accommodate an additional three teams.   | If possible utilise the spare capacity identified, particularly that shown on a Saturday.  |                          |                     |          |                          |                    |                    |
|         |                              | Netball     |            | Four standard quality floodlit courts that are open to community use.  | Sustain for curricular demand.   | School EN                |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
| 91      | Tettenhall Upper Green       | Football    | Council    | One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity.   | Utilise actual spare capacity.   | CFA FF                   | Local site          | L        | L                        | L                  | Enhance<br>Protect |
|         |                              | Cricket     |            | One standard quality square accessed by Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC. The site has spare capacity for midweek play.   | If feasible utilise spare capacity for midweek play.   | SCB ECB                  |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
| 93      | The King's CE School         | Football    | School     | One adult and two youth 11v11 all of which is of a standard quality. Spare capacity is discounted due to unsecure tenure.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand. Given the quantity and quality of provision, seek the possibility of opening to community use for match play purposes.   | School CFA FF            | Key Centre          | M        | M                        | M                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                              | Tennis      |            | Four non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use. Three courts are of a standard quality, whilst one is assessed as good.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School LTA               |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
|         |                              | Netball     |            | Three non-floodlit macadam courts with no community use. Two courts are of a standard quality, whilst one is assessed as good.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School EN                |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
|         |                              | Athletics   |            | One non-floodlit, 200-metre track with no community use. Track was re-surfaced in 2012 and has been assessed as standard.  | Explore the means of opening provision to general public use aligned to any increases for formal demand for athletics and/or participation programmes.   | School England Athletics |                     | M        | M                        | L                  |                    |
| 97      | Wolverhampton Grammar School | Football    | School     | Two adult and one youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are of a standard quality, open to community use and overmarked by a grass athletics track as well as a junior and senior cricket square.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.  | School CFA FF            | Key Centre          | M        | M                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |                              | Cricket     |            | Two standard quality squares with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School SCB ECB           |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
|         |                              | Rugby Union |            | One poor quality, non-floodlit senior pitch that is open community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School RFU               |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
|         |                              | AGP         |            | One good quality full sized floodlit AGP that is open to community use. Site is accessed by Old Wulfrunians HC for both training and matchday purposes. The site does not open to community use on Sundays, forcing the Club to access The Royal School Wolverhampton as a secondary site. | Protect existing provision. Ensure allocation is maximised as to service hockey and football demand. Ensure a sinking fund is in place as to guarantee the long-term sustainability of the site. Seek the possibility of opening the site for Sunday usage as to service Old Wulfrunians HC. | School EH                |                     | H        | S                        | L                  |                    |

| Site ID | Site                          | Sport    | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                  | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>13</sup> | Cost <sup>14</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------|-------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 99      | Uplands Junior School         | Football | School      | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 102     | Warstones Primary School      | Football | School      | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 107     | Windsor Avenue Playing Fields | Football | Council     | Six adult pitches, one of which is standard, and the remaining are poor quality Site has actual spare capacity of 3.5 match equivalent sessions.  | Work to improve overall quality of natural turf pitches on site and maximise use.   | CFA<br>FF                 | Local               | H        | S                        | L                  | Enhance<br>Protect            |
| 110     | Wolverhampton Cricket Club    | Football | Sports Club | One adult and two 9v9 pitches, all of which are of a poor quality and overmarked by senior cricket squares. Adult pitch is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and alleviate overplay.<br>If feasible, seek the means of reconfiguring layout as to reduce overplay. | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF  | Key Centre          | M        | L                        | L                  | Enhance<br>Protect            |
|         |                               | Cricket  |             | Two good quality cricket squares both of which have an accompanying NTP. Club have freehold ownership of the site and have spare capacity for two additional Sunday teams on one of the squares.  | Utilise spare capacity identified on the site. Ensure on site NTP's are used for training purposes as to reduce demand on the grass wickets.  | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>ECB |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                               | Tennis   |             | Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts accessed by Tettenhall TC who have a long term lease with Wolverhampton CC for the site. The Club state the ancillary provision needs modernisation.  | Seek the possibility of improving the outdated on-site ancillary provision as part of a multi partner/sport development.  | Sports Club<br>LTA        |                     | M        | L                        | M                  |                               |
| 116     | Woodfield Primary School      | Football | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF       | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 117     | WV Active Aldersley           | Football | Council     | Three poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed by 1.5 match equivalent sessions.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand and reduce overplay.  | CFA<br>FF                 | Hub Site            | M        | M                        | L                  | Protect<br>Provide<br>Enhance |
|         |                               | AGP      |             | One full size sand-dressed AGP and a full size sand-filled AGP, both of which are floodlit and of a standard quality. Opportunity exists to increase hockey participation on sand filled pitch. Notts Sport has produced a technical report (provided to the Council) with specific recommendations about keeping the surfaces fit for use. | Ensure provision remains fit for the long term benefit of local hockey. Explore options to increase hockey demand on sand filled pitch.   | EH                        |                     | H        | S                        | H                  |                               |
|         |                               | Tennis   |             | Six good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use.   | Sustain current maintenance levels of to ensure quality remains of a good standard for as long as possible.   | LTA                       |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |                               | Netball  |             | Six good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site has been used previously for back to netball sessions and is a central venue for the Wolverhampton City Netball League   | Sustain quality and protected for continued community demand.<br>Ensure a sinking fund is put in place as to ensure long term sustainability of the courts.   | EN                        |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |

| Site ID | Site                           | Sport      | Management  | Current status   | Recommended actions   | Partners          | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>13</sup> | Cost <sup>14</sup> | Aim             |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
|         |                                | Athletics  |             | One floodlit 400-metre athletics track that is open to community use. The site is TrackMark accredited, was installed in 2005 and is deemed satisfactory with some wear and tear issues.   | Ensure good maintenance of the provision takes place as to prolong its lifespan for as long as possible. Address any identified wear and tear issues as required.   | England Athletics |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |                                | Cycling    |             | One 400-metre asphalt cycling track utilised by Wolverhampton Wheelers. British Cycling recommends the facility would benefit from the development of a simple canopy structure to reduce the impact of bad weather on track conditions and help extend track usage and capacity to meet competition and training needs. | Protect existing provision. Support any development work which aligns to existing recommendation from British Cycling.  | British Cycling   |                     | M        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 118     | Bradmore Recreation Ground     | Tennis     | Council     | Three poor quality non floodlit macadam courts that are open to community use. Site does not have ClubSpark, Gate Access or Rally in place   | Seek the possibility of re-surfacing existing provision as to better service curricular demand, something the LTA has outlined as a priority given its accessibility and park location. Seek the possibility to add ClubSpark, Gate Access and Rally to the site. | LTA               | Local               | M        | M                        | M                  | Protect Enhance |
|         |                                | Lawn Bowls |             | One good quality bowling green accessed by Bradmore BC who are operating within the BCGBA recommended guidelines.  | Continue current maintenance levels as to ensure green quality does not deteriorate.  | BCGBA             |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 119     | Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club       | Tennis     | Sports Club | Two good quality, non-floodlit artificial turf tennis courts that are accessed by Hanbury TC who have freehold ownership of the site and no known capacity issues.   | If possible, explore the feasibility of installing floodlights on site as to improve the offering of the site.  | Sports Club LTA   | Local               | M        | L                        | M                  | Protect Provide |
| 122     | The Albert Lawn Tennis Club    | Tennis     | Sports Club | Six good quality floodlit tennis courts, four of which are a macadam surface with the remaining two being an artificial surface. Club have freehold ownership of the site.   | Ensure demand of the site is distributed evenly given that they Club are operating above LTA membership guidelines.   | Sports Club LTA   | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 123     | South Staffs Golf Club         | Golf       | Members     | One 18 hole golf course with no accompanying driving range.  | Protect existing provision.   | England Golf      | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 127     | Woodfield Social & Sports Club | Tennis     | Sports Club | Four good quality, floodlit artificial courts that are open to community use.  | Protect existing provision and ensure maintenance is robust as to keep quality to a good standard for as long as possible.  | Sports Club LTA   | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
|         |                                | Lawn Bowls |             | Two good quality bowling greens accessed by Woodfield Social BC.   | Protect existing provision and ensure maintenance is robust as to keep quality to a good standard for as long as possible.  | Sports Club BCGBA |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 132     | Pennfields Bowls Club          | Lawn Bowls | Sports Club | Site has two good quality bowling greens that are accessed by Pennfields BC.   | Sustain quality.  | Sports Club       | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |



# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## WEDNESFIELD

### Summary

| Sport                    | Analysis area | Current demand      |  | Future demand (2039)   |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
|                          |               | Pitch type          | Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions                        | Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions                         |
| Football (grass pitches) | Wednesfield   | Adult               | Shortfall of 4.5   | Shortfall of 5.5   |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | At capacity  | Shortfall of 1   |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 2  | Spare capacity of 0.5  |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | At capacity  | Shortfall of 0.5   |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | At capacity  | Shortfall of 3   |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Adult               | Shortfall of 1.5   | Shortfall of 4   |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11         | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Shortfall of 3   |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9           | Spare capacity of 11.5   | Spare capacity of 11.5   |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7            | Spare capacity of 2  | Spare capacity of 0.2  |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5            | Spare capacity of 2.5  | Spare capacity of 2.5  |
| Football (3G pitches)    | Wednesfield   | Full size, floodlit | Shortfall of 0.75  | Shortfall of 1.25  |
|                          | Wolverhampton |                     | Shortfall of 3.5   | Shortfall of 4.5   |
| Cricket                  | Wednesfield   | Saturday            | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          |               | Sunday              | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          |               | Midweek             | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Saturday            | Shortfall of 25  | Shortfall of 25  |
|                          |               | Sunday              | Spare capacity of 59   | Spare capacity of 59   |
|                          |               | Midweek             | Spare capacity of 81   | Spare capacity of 81   |
| Rugby Union              | Wednesfield   | Senior              | At capacity  | At capacity  |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Senior              | Shortfall of 3   | Shortfall of 3.5   |
| Hockey (sand AGPs)       | Wolverhampton | Full size, floodlit | Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. | Sufficient supply across four sites currently available for community use. |

### Summary non-pitch sports

| Sport            | Current picture  | Future picture   |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>Tennis</b>    | No club-based demand and minimal recreational activity identified.   | Sites required to host recreational tennis.                                      |
| <b>Netball</b>   | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use.   | Large supply of provision which broadly only contributes towards curricular use. |
| <b>Bowls</b>     | There are four lawn bowling greens across three sites identified within Wednesfield, all of good quality and all meeting demand. | Future demand can be met.  |
| <b>Athletics</b> | No provision within catchment.   | No provision within catchment.   |



# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

| Sport               | Current picture   | Future picture  |
|---------------------|---|---|
| <b>Cycling</b>      | Ashmore Park hosts a floodlit cycle speedway track accessed by Wednesfield Aces.  | Ashmore Park hosts a floodlit cycle speedway track accessed by Wednesfield Aces.  |
| <b>Golf</b>         | No provision in area.   | No provision in area.   |
| <b>Water sports</b> | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. | Outdoor water sports within Wolverhampton are fairly well catered for through accessing the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal. This seemingly adequately caters for demand, with all associated clubs such as Wolverhampton Canoe Club openly advertising to attract new members. |
| <b>Other sports</b> | No provision in area.   | No provision in area.   |

## Overarching recommendations

| Sport        | Priority recommendations   |
|--------------|--|
| Football     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Improve pitch quality at key sites to alleviate overplay, especially at key, poor quality and/or overplayed sites such as Ashmore Park, Fowlers Playing Fields and Bellamy Lane Playing Fields.</li> <li>Where pitches remain overplayed, seek the transfer of demand.</li> <li>Improve security of tenure at key sites such as Wednesfield High Academy.</li> <li>Consider asset transfer of sites to clubs.</li> <li>Improve changing facilities where required, such as the Cottage Ground accessed by Wednesfield Town FC.</li> </ul> |
| 3G pitches   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches have a sinking fund in place, such as that provided at Heath Park School.</li> <li>Ensure all existing pitches remain on the FA register to host competitive matches.</li> <li>Look to provide an increase of provision locally to alleviate known shortfall at sites suggested in Part 4.</li> <li>Explore the possibility of replacing the current surface at Coppice Performing Arts School that has now passed its lifespan.</li> </ul>   |
| Cricket      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required</li> </ul>   |
| Rugby union  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> </ul>   |
| Hockey       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Golf         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Bowls        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> </ul>   |
| Tennis       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Identify sites for increase of recreational demand.</li> </ul>  |
| Netball      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision and explore increased community use of sites.</li> </ul>  |
| Cycling      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> </ul>   |
| Athletics    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Water sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Other sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |

| Site ID | Site                                    | Sport      | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                 | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>15</sup> | Cost <sup>16</sup> | Aim                |
|---------|---|------------|-------------|---|---|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2       | Ashmore Park                            | Football   | Council     | Two poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality.   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.  | CFA<br>FF                | Key Centre          | M        | M                        | M                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |   | Lawn Bowls |             | Two good quality bowling green accessed by Ashmore Park BC. Club report the clubhouse is extremely dated and not fit for purpose.   | Explore the means of improving the poor-quality ancillary provision.  | BCGBA                    |                     | M        | M                        | M                  |                    |
|         |   | Cycling    |             | Site has one of the two cycle speedways within Wolverhampton and is accessed by Wednesfield Aces.   | Protect existing provision.   | British Cycling          |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
| 5       | Bellamy Lane Playing Fields             | Football   | Council     | One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch that is played to capacity.  | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.  | CFA<br>FF                | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 14      | Colman Avenue Neighbourhood Park        | Football   | Council     | Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches with actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions.   | Utilise actual spare capacity.<br>Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.  | CFA<br>FF                | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
| 16      | Coppice Performing Arts School          | Football   | School      | One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and have spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.                                   | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance |
|         |   | 3G         |             | One floodlit 62x42 metre 3G pitch that is open to community use that has exceeded its recommended lifespan.   | Protect provision and ensure the carpet on the pitch is replaced when required.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
|         |   | Cricket    |             | One poor quality standalone NTP that has no community use.  | Protect existing provision.   | School<br>SCB<br>ECB     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                    |
| 17      | Corpus Christi Catholic Primary Academy | Football   | School      | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |
| 18      | Cottage Ground                          | Football   | Sports Club | One adult and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are of a standard quality and accessed by Wednesfield Town FC. Accompanying ancillary provision in need of renovation. | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.<br>Improve on site ancillary provision as changing rooms currently receive high volume of demand from the large scale of the Club. | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF | Local               | M        | M                        | M                  | Provide<br>Enhance |
| 25      | Edward The Elder Primary School         | Football   | School      | One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF      | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect            |

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

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

| Site ID | Site                                       | Sport    | Management | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                         | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>15</sup> | Cost <sup>16</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|--|----------|------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 28      | Fowlers Playing Fields                     | Football | Council    | Four poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to quality.                        | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand.  | CFA<br>FF                        | Local site          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |  | Cricket  |            | One standalone NTP that was provided in 2018 by a joint scheme between the council and the ECB.       | Protect existing provision.   | SCB<br>ECB                       |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
| 31      | Heath Park School                          | 3G       | School     | One good quality full size floodlit 3G that was installed in 2016 and has no community use.           | Protect existing provision and ensure a sinking fund is in place to financially prepare for a replacement surface. Explore the possibility of opening the site to community use as to serve training demand and act as a revenue stream for the school. | School<br>CFA<br>FF<br>LTA<br>EN | Key Centre          | H        | S                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
|         |  | Tennis   |            | Four standard quality non floodlit macadam courts that have no community use.                         | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>LTA                    |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
|         |  | Netball  |            | Three standard quality non floodlit macadam courts that have no community use.                        | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>EN                     |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
| 33      | Heath Town Park                            | Football | Council    | One poor quality adult pitch with no accompanying ancillary provision making it unfit for match play. | Consider reconfiguration to a junior pitch offer as to then allow match play opportunities.   | CFA<br>FF                        | Local               | M        | M                        | M                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
| 42      | King George V Playing Fields (Wednesfield) | Football | Council    | Three poor quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality.                 | Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service community demand. Following this, utilise available spare capacity.  | CFA<br>FF                        | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
|         |  | Cricket  |            | One standalone NTP.   | Protect existing provision.   | SCB<br>ECB                       |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                               |
| 55      | Oak Meadow Primary School                  | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has no community use.                                       | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 64      | Perry Hall Primary School                  | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has no community use.                                       | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 76      | St Albans CE Academy (Wolverhampton)       | Football | School     | One standard quality mini 5v5 pitch with no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 80      | St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy         | Football | School     | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that has no community use.                                       | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 98      | Trinity Church Of England Primary School   | Football | School     | One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that has no community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.   | School<br>CFA<br>FF              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |

| Site ID | Site  | Sport       | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions  | Partners                  | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>15</sup> | Cost <sup>16</sup> | Aim             |
|---------|---|-------------|-------------|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 103     | Wednesfield High Academy                      | Football    | School      | One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch all of which are overmarked by a grass athletics track and of a poor quality. Youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches have spare capacity discounted due to pitch quality. | Explore opportunities to improve pitch quality to accommodate curricular demand.   | School CFA FF             | Key Centre          | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect Enhance |
|         |   | Cricket     |             | One standalone NTP with no community use.   | Protect existing provision.  | School SCB ECB            |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Rugby Union |             | One poor quality senior pitch that is open to community use.  | Retain for curricular demand.  | School RFU                |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Tennis      |             | Four standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open for community use.   | Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.  | School LTA                |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
|         |   | Netball     |             | Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are open for community use.  | Improve court quality through enhanced maintenance regime as to better service curricular and community demand.  | School EN                 |                     | L        | L                        | L                  |                 |
| 104     | Wednesfield High School Sports Centre         | Football    | School      | One adult and two youth 11v11 pitches all of which are to a standard quality.   | Sustain existing quality.  | School CFA FF             | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect Enhance |
| 108     | Woden Primary School                          | Football    | School      | One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF             | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 109     | Wodensfield Primary School                    | Football    | School      | One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF             | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 112     | Wolverhampton United FC (Prestwood Road West) | Football    | Council     | Two adult football pitches which are currently disused. NPV FC is expected to take the site on as an asset transfer from the Council. It aspires to develop a 3G pitch on the site as part of ground improvements.  | Ensure NPV FC has the suitable support structure in place to suitably manage the site. Development of a 3G pitch would work to alleviate known local shortfalls. | CFA FF                    | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect Enhance |
| 114     | Wood End Primary School                       | Football    | School      | One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with no community use.   | Retain for curricular demand.  | School CFA FF             | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 136     | Wednesfield Conservative Club                 | Lawn Bowls  | Sports Club | One good quality floodlit bowling green accessed by Wednesfield Cons BC who are operating within BCGBA recommended membership guidelines  | Continue current maintenance levels as to ensure green quality does not deteriorate.   | Sports Club BCGBA         | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| 137     | Wednesfield Park                              | Lawn Bowls  | Sports Club | One good quality bowling green accessed by Wednesfield Sons of Rest BC King who are operating within BCGBA recommended membership guidelines.   | Continue current maintenance levels as to ensure green quality does not deteriorate.   | Sports Club BCGBA         | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect         |
| -       | Chubb, Woden Road                             | Lawn Bowls  | Sports Club | Disused bowling green. Club folded.   | The green should be protected from development unless an exception can be made in line with Local Plan policy, and paragraph 99 of the NPPF.                     | Sports Club Sport England | -                   | -        | -                        | -                  | -               |

# CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

## OUTSIDE

### Summary

| Sport                    | Analysis area | Current demand |   | Future demand (2039)                               |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|---|--|
|                          |               | Pitch type     | Current capacity total in match equivalent sessions | Future capacity total in match equivalent sessions |
| Football (grass pitches) | Outside       | Adult          | Spare capacity of 3                                 | Spare capacity of 3                                |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11    | Spare capacity of 1                                 | Spare capacity of 1                                |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9      | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7       | Spare capacity of 2                                 | Spare capacity of 2                                |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5       | At capacity   | At capacity  |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Adult          | Shortfall of 1.5                                    | Shortfall of 4                                     |
|                          |               | Youth 11v11    | Spare capacity of 2.5                               | Shortfall of 3                                     |
|                          |               | Youth 9v9      | Spare capacity of 11.5                              | Spare capacity of 11.5                             |
|                          |               | Mini 7v7       | Spare capacity of 2                                 | Spare capacity of 0.2                              |
|                          |               | Mini 5v5       | Spare capacity of 2.5                               | Spare capacity of 2.5                              |
| Cricket                  | Outside       | Saturday       | Shortfall of 44                                     | Shortfall of 44                                    |
|                          |               | Sunday         | Shortfall of 44                                     | Shortfall of 44                                    |
|                          |               | Midweek        | Shortfall of 44                                     | Shortfall of 44                                    |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Saturday       | Shortfall of 25                                     | Shortfall of 25                                    |
|                          |               | Sunday         | Spare capacity of 59                                | Spare capacity of 59                               |
|                          |               | Midweek        | Spare capacity of 81                                | Spare capacity of 81                               |
| Rugby Union              | Outside       | Senior         | Shortfall of 3                                      | Shortfall of 3                                     |
|                          | Wolverhampton | Senior         | Shortfall of 3                                      | Shortfall of 3                                     |

### Overarching recommendations

| Sport            | Priority recommendations   |
|------------------|--|
| Football         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect provision.</li> <li>Sustain quality of existing provision.</li> <li>Explore long term opportunities to improve ancillary offer at Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club</li> </ul>   |
| Cricket          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve quality of squares and outfielders at Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club, Wightwick &amp; Finchfield CC and Springhill CC.</li> <li>Consider installation of NTPs at above sites to reduce and alleviate overplay through a transfer of demand off natural turf wickets.</li> </ul> |
| Rugby union      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pitch quality and explore opportunities to provide additional floodlighting at Wolverhampton RUFC</li> </ul>  |
| Lawn green bowls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required.</li> </ul>  |
| Golf             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No action required (provision privately owned and located in adjacent authorities)</li> </ul>   |

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| Site ID | Site                                   | Sport       | Management  | Current status  | Recommended actions   | Partners                  | Site hierarchy tier | Priority | Timescales <sup>17</sup> | Cost <sup>18</sup> | Aim                           |
|---------|--|-------------|-------------|---|---|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 135     | Nordley Liberals BC                    | Lawn Bowls  | Sports Club | Home to Willenhall Nordley BC. The green is good quality, and no issues identified with ancillary facilities.   | Sustain quality of green for existing and future use.   | Sports Club<br>BGGGA      | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 142     | Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club | Cricket     | Sports Club | A 12 wicket natural turf square which is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions per season. Club house is adequate but requires modernisation.  | Quality improvements to the square will alleviate all site overplay.  | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>ECB | Local               | M        | M                        | L                  | Protect<br>Enhance            |
| 143     | Wightwick & Finchfield Cricket Club    | Cricket     | Sports Club | A 12 wicket natural turf square which is overplayed by 28 match equivalent sessions per season. Ancillary provision standard quality.   | Quality improvements to the square will reduce overplay by 12 match equivalent sessions. Remaining overplay can be alleviated through installation and usage of an NTP.   | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>ECB | Local               | M        | M                        | L                  | Protect<br>Provide<br>Enhance |
| 144     | Springhill Cricket Club                | Cricket     | Sports Club | An eight wicket natural turf square which is overplayed by 12 sessions per season. Ancillary provision standard quality.  | Quality improvements will broadly reduce most overplay. Utilisation of an NTP will alleviate all remaining overplay.  | Sports Club<br>SCB<br>ECB | Local               | M        | M                        | L                  | Protect<br>Provide<br>Enhance |
| 147     | Old Wulfrunians Sports & Social Club   | Football    | Sports Club | Two adult, one youth 11v11 and two mini pitches which are all standard quality. Spare capacity on all pitch types.  | Sustain pitch quality and maximise use.   | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 153     | Wergs Golf Club                        | Golf        | Members     | One 18 hole members golf club with an accompanying driving range.   | Protect existing provision. Seek methods to maximise usage of driving range as to increase club revenue.  | England Golf              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 154     | Perton Park Golf Club                  | Golf        | Members     | One 18 hole members golf club with an accompanying driving range.   | Protect existing provision. Seek methods to maximise usage of driving range as to increase club revenue.  | England Golf              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 155     | Penn Golf Club                         | Golf        | Members     | One 18-hole golf course with a total of 418 members.  | Protect existing provision.   | England Golf              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 156     | 3 Hammers                              | Golf        | Proprietary | Site is an 18-hole par 3 course with accompanying driving range.  | Protect existing provision.   | England Golf              | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |
| 157     | Wolverhampton Rugby Club               | Rugby Union | Sports Club | Three senior pitches on site. First team pitch minimal spare capacity which is protected for 1 <sup>st</sup> xv fixtures. Remaining two floodlit pitches are cumulatively overplayed by 4.5 match sessions per week. Ancillary provision is good quality. | Pitch improvements are required through an enhanced maintenance regime. Drainage solutions should also be explored as an option for further alleviating shortfalls. Additional floodlighting on the site will also aid a transfer of training demand of currently overplayed pitches. | Sports Club<br>RFU        | Local               | M        | M                        | M                  | Protect<br>Enhance<br>Provide |
| 158     | The CKW Stadium                        | Football    | Sports Club | One good quality stadia pitch. Home venue of AFC Wulfrunians which play at Step 5 within the NLS. Ground currently meets appropriate FA Ground Grading requirements.  | Sustain pitch quality and ensure future ground grading requirements can be met if the Club gains promotions in the future.  | Sports Club<br>CFA<br>FF  | Local               | L        | L                        | L                  | Protect                       |

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

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



## PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sports based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2039 (in line with the previously proposed Black Country Plan, although four separate local plans are now to be produced). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. The Sport England Playing Pitch 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 team generation rates in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth and gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

Experience shows that housing sites with 600 dwellings or more are likely to generate demand for new provision to be created. For such large scale developments, consideration should be given to providing multi-pitch sites with suitable ancillary provision, including appropriate clubhouse/changing facilities and car parking. Single pitch sites which have been provided traditionally by developers are not considered to provide long term sustainable provision for the relevant sports.

Where demand does not warrant new pitch provision, the Action Plan in this document should be consulted to determine whether the additional demand can be accommodated via existing provision (in which case no further action is required). If this is not the case, contributions should be sought to enhance existing provision in the locality to accommodate the increased demand. This can be through, for example, improving quality, or providing new or improved ancillary provision. Consultation with appropriate NGBs should also be used to assist in the selection of suitable sites and suitable enhancements.

The scenarios below are provided as a guide to show the potential additional demand for pitch sports that could be generated from housing growth in Wolverhampton, thus showing how the calculator works and what it provides. The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches (rugby).

The scenarios are based on two individual developments that are already planned in Wolverhampton. These are as follows:

- ◀ **Scenario One** – WOH259 – 532 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA1
- ◀ **Scenario Two** – WOH263 – 303 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA2
- ◀ **Scenario Three** - Accumulative demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the total anticipated housing growth across the Black Country.
- ◀

For reference, the indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.3<sup>19</sup> per dwelling.

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<sup>19</sup> The occupancy rate of 2.3 is in line with figures used in the 2011 Census.



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## Scenario One – WOH259 – 532 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA1

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 532 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 1,223 people. This population increase equates to 0.61 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.05 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 2.52 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 1.16 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.17 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 532 dwellings

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport for 532 dwellings |                                |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand per week <sup>20</sup>         | Training demand <sup>21</sup>  |
| Adult football        | 0.20  | 1.16 hours                     |
| Youth football        | 0.26  |                                |
| Mini soccer           | 0.13  |                                |
| Rugby union           | 0.03  | 0.03 match equivalent sessions |
| Rugby league          | 0.00  | 0.00 match equivalent sessions |
| Adult hockey          | 0.05  | 0.15 hours                     |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.00  | 0.02 hours                     |
| Cricket               | 2.52  | -                              |

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

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  | Changing rooms |              |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>22</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>23</sup> | Number         | Capital cost |
| Adult football  | 0.20                                       | £18,665                    | £3,938                                   | 0.39           | £64,393      |
| Youth football  | 0.26                                       | £19,447                    | £4,084                                   | 0.34           | £55,413      |
| Mini soccer     | 0.13                                       | £2,984                     | £627                                     | 0.00           | £0           |
| Rugby union     | 0.03                                       | £3,798                     | £813                                     | 0.06           | £9,359       |
| Rugby league    | 0.00                                       | £0                         | £0                                       | 0.00           | £0           |
| Cricket         | 0.06                                       | £15,550                    | £3,141                                   | 0.11           | £18,185      |
| Sand based AGPs | 0.01                                       | £9,909                     | £307                                     | 0.03           | £4,119       |
| 3G              | 0.03                                       | £28,756                    | £1,120                                   | 0.06           | £9,971       |

Overall, an additional 0.62 grass football pitches, 0.06 cricket squares, 0.01 sand based AGPs and 0.03 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the allocation CSA1. This would require an expected capital cost of £99,109 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £14,030. To facilitate the increased provision, 0.99 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £161,440.

<sup>20</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>21</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>22</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>23</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

### **Scenario Two – WOH263 – 303 dwellings which form strategic allocation CSA2**

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth from 303 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household is 696 people. This population increase equates to 0.35 match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 0.03 match equivalent sessions on a hockey suitable AGP and 1.44 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket. Training demand equates to 0.66 hours of use per week for football on 3G pitches and 0.10 hours on a hockey suitable AGP.

*Table 7.3: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from 303 dwellings*

| Pitch sport           | Estimated demand by sport for 303 dwellings |                               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand per week <sup>24</sup>         | Training demand <sup>25</sup> |
| Adult football        | 0.11  | 0.66 hours                    |
| Youth football        | 0.15  |                               |
| Mini soccer           | 0.07  |                               |
| Rugby union           | 0.02  | 0.02                          |
| Rugby league          | 0.00  | 0.00                          |
| Adult hockey          | 0.03  | 0.09                          |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.00  | 0.01                          |
| Cricket               | 1.44  | -                             |

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

*Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision*

| Pitch type      | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  | Changing rooms |              |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|
|                 | Number of pitches to meet demand           | Capital cost <sup>26</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>27</sup> | Number         | Capital cost |
| Adult football  | 0.11                                       | £10,622                    | £2,241                                   | 0.22           | £36,647      |
| Youth football  | 0.15                                       | £11,070                    | £2,325                                   | 0.19           | £31,550      |
| Mini soccer     | 0.07                                       | £1,698                     | £357                                     | 0.00           | £0           |
| Rugby union     | 0.02                                       | £2,162                     | £463                                     | 0.03           | £5,327       |
| Rugby league    | 0.00                                       | £0                         | £0                                       | 0.00           | £0           |
| Cricket         | 0.03                                       | £8,850                     | £1,788                                   | 0.06           | £10,350      |
| Sand based AGPs | 0.01                                       | £5,639                     | £175                                     | 0.01           | £2,344       |
| 3G              | 0.02                                       | £16,367                    | £637                                     | 0.03           | £5,675       |

Overall, an additional 0.35 grass football pitches, 0.03 cricket squares, 0.01 sand based AGPs and 0.02 full-size 3G pitches will be required to accommodate increased demand from the allocation CSA1.

<sup>24</sup> As per the PPS Guidance, demand for cricket is considered in terms of match equivalent sessions per season rather than per week.

<sup>25</sup> Hours equate to access to a full size floodlit 3G pitch or hockey suitable AGP

<sup>26</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2021 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

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

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This would require an expected capital cost of £56,408 and a lifecycle cost per annum of £7,986. To facilitate the increased provision, 0.54 changing rooms would need to be provided at a capital cost of £161,440.

As none of these figures represent full pitch or changing room developments, contributions to improve existing facilities within the vicinity of the development should be sought.

**Scenario Three – Accumulative demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth from the total anticipated housing growth across the Black Country.**

The estimated additional population from housing growth from all the scenarios is 19,687 dwellings with an occupancy rate of 2.3 per household this equates to 45,280 people. This equates to 13,235 dwellings in Dudley (30,441 people), 9,158 dwellings in Sandwell (21,064 people), 14,760 dwellings in Walsall (33,948 people) and 12,100 dwellings in Wolverhampton (27,830 people).

This population increase equates to 72.43 (19.35 Dudley, 11.11 Sandwell, 28.17 Walsall and 13.80 Wolverhampton) match equivalent sessions of demand per week for grass pitch sports, 2.62 match equivalent sessions of demand per week on AGPs for hockey (0.28 Sandwell, 1.82 Walsall and 1.24 Wolverhampton) and 201.62 match equivalent sessions of demand per season for cricket (64.60 Dudley, 22.85 Sandwell, 56.78 Walsall and 57.39 Wolverhampton).

Training demand equates to 139.31 hours (38.69 Dudley, 21.97 Sandwell, 52.34 Walsall and 26.31 Wolverhampton) of use per week for football on 3G pitches and hockey equates to 9.27 hours of use per week on AGPs (0.62 Sandwell, 4.83 Walsall and 3.82 Wolverhampton). There are also 3.03 match equivalent sessions per week of training for rugby on a floodlit grass pitch (0.13 Sandwell, 2.17 Walsall, 0.73 Wolverhampton).

*Table 7.5: Likely demand for grass pitch sports generated from all housing demand across the Black Country*

| Pitch sport           | Dudley                      |                                | Sandwell                    |                                | Walsall                     |                                | Wolverhampton               |                                | Black Country               |                                |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                       | Match demand (MES) per week | Training demand                | Match demand (MES) per week | Training demand                | Match demand (MES) per week | Training demand                | Match demand (MES) per week | Training demand                | Match demand (MES) per week | Training demand                |
| Adult football        | 4.17                        | 38.69 hours                    | 3.44                        | 21.97 hours                    | 7.10                        | 52.34 hours                    | 4.47                        | 26.31 hours                    | 19.18                       | 139.31 hours                   |
| Youth football        | 8.72                        |                                | 5.27                        |                                | 12.51                       |                                | 5.82                        |                                | 32.32                       |                                |
| Mini soccer           | 6.46                        |                                | 2.27                        |                                | 6.57                        |                                | 2.86                        |                                | 18.16                       |                                |
| Rugby union           | 0.00                        | 0.00 match equivalent sessions | 0.13                        | 0.13 match equivalent sessions | 1.99                        | 2.17 match equivalent sessions | 0.65                        | 0.73 match equivalent sessions | 2.77                        | 3.03 match equivalent sessions |
| Rugby league          | 0.00                        | 0.00 match equivalent sessions | 0.00                        | 0.00 match equivalent sessions | 0.00                        | 0.00 match equivalent sessions | 0.00                        | 0.00 match equivalent sessions | 0                           | 0.00 match equivalent sessions |
| Adult hockey          | 0.00                        | 0.00 hours                     | 0.19                        | 0.57 hours                     | 1.29                        | 3.87 hours                     | 1.14                        | 3.43 hours                     | 2.62                        | 7.87 hours                     |
| Junior & mixed hockey | 0.00                        | 0.00 hours                     | 0.09                        | 0.05 hours                     | 0.53                        | 0.96 hours                     | 0.10                        | 0.39 hours                     | 0.72                        | 1.40 hours                     |
| Cricket               | 64.60                       | -                              | 22.85                       | -                              | 56.78                       | -                              | 57.39                       | -                              | 201.62                      | -                              |

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

*Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision from all housing demand across the Black Country*

| Pitch type      | Dudley                                     |                            |  |                |                   | Sandwell                                   |                   |                            |                |                   | Walsall                                    |                   |                            |                |                   |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                 | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  | Changing rooms |                   | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                   |                            | Changing rooms |                   | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                   |                            | Changing rooms |                   |
|                 | Pitches required to meet demand            | Capital cost <sup>28</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>29</sup> | No.            | Capital cost      | Pitches required to meet demand            | Capital cost      | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) | No.            | Capital cost      | Pitches required to meet demand            | Capital cost      | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) | No.            | Capital cost      |
| Adult football  | 4.17                                       | £395,698                   | £83,492                                  | 8.33           | £1,365,159        | 3.44                                       | £326,765          | £68,947                    | 6.88           | £1,127,339        | 7.10                                       | £674,057          | £142,226                   | 14.19          | £2,325,497        |
| Youth football  | 8.72                                       | £662,392                   | £139,102                                 | 10.87          | £1,781,410        | 5.27                                       | £400,549          | £84,115                    | 6.82           | £1,117,072        | 12.51                                      | £950,496          | £199,604                   | 15.27          | £2,501,755        |
| Mini soccer     | 6.46                                       | £153,469                   | £32,228                                  | 0.00           | £0                | 2.27                                       | £53,996           | £11,339                    | 0.00           | £0                | 6.57                                       | £155,950          | £32,749                    | 0.00           | £0                |
| Rugby union     | 0.00                                       | £0                         | £0                                       | 0.00           | £0                | 0.13                                       | £16,786           | £3,592                     | 0.25           | £41,366           | 1.99                                       | £265,247          | £56,763                    | 3.99           | £653,644          |
| Rugby league    | 0.00                                       | £0                         | £0                                       | 0.00           | £0                | 0.00                                       | £0                | £0                         | 0.00           | £0                | 0.00                                       | £0                | £0                         | 0.00           | £0                |
| Cricket         | 1.43                                       | £400,130                   | £80,826                                  | 2.86           | £467,949          | 0.50                                       | £140,902          | £28,462                    | 1.01           | £164,783          | 1.23                                       | £345,213          | £69,733                    | 2.46           | £403,723          |
| Sand based AGPs | 0.00                                       | £0                         | £0                                       | 0.00           | £0                | 0.05                                       | £37,327           | £1,157                     | 0.09           | £15,516           | 0.33                                       | £258,978          | £8,028                     | 0.66           | £107,647          |
| 3G              | 1.02                                       | £962,303                   | £37,479                                  | 2.04           | £333,663          | 0.58                                       | £546,430          | £21,282                    | 1.16           | £189,466          | 1.38                                       | £1,301,867        | £50,704                    | 2.75           | £451,401          |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>21.79</b>                               | <b>£2,573,992</b>          | <b>£373,129</b>                          | <b>24.09</b>   | <b>£3,948,180</b> | <b>12.24</b>                               | <b>£1,522,755</b> | <b>£218,895</b>            | <b>16.20</b>   | <b>£2,655,541</b> | <b>31.10</b>                               | <b>£3,951,807</b> | <b>£559,808</b>            | <b>39.32</b>   | <b>£6,443,667</b> |

<sup>28</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>29</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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| Pitch type      | Wolverhampton                              |                            |  |                |                   | Black Country                              |                    |                            |                |                    |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
|                 | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                            |  | Changing rooms |                   | Estimated demand and costs for new pitches |                    |                            | Changing rooms |                    |
|                 | Pitches required to meet demand            | Capital cost <sup>30</sup> | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>31</sup> | No.            | Capital cost      | Pitches required to meet demand            | Capital cost       | Lifecycle Cost (per annum) | No.            | Capital cost       |
| Adult football  | 4.47                                       | £424,714                   | £89,615                                  | 8.94           | £1,465,265        | 19.18                                      | £1,821,234         | £384,280                   | 38.34          | £6,283,260         |
| Youth football  | 5.82                                       | £442,590                   | £92,944                                  | 7.70           | £1,261,152        | 32.32                                      | £2,456,027         | £515,765                   | 40.66          | £6,661,389         |
| Mini soccer     | 2.86                                       | £67,898                    | £14,259                                  | 0.00           | £0                | 18.16                                      | £431,313           | £90,575                    | 0.00           | £0                 |
| Rugby union     | 0.65                                       | £86,423                    | £18,494                                  | 1.30           | £212,971          | 2.77                                       | £368,456           | £78,849                    | 5.54           | £907,981           |
| Rugby league    | 0.00                                       | £0                         | £0                                       | 0.00           | £0                | 0.00                                       | £0                 | £0                         | 0.00           | £0                 |
| Cricket         | 1.26                                       | £353,841                   | £71,476                                  | 2.53           | £413,814          | 4.42                                       | £1,240,086         | £250,497                   | 8.86           | £1,450,269         |
| Sand based AGPs | 0.29                                       | £225,481                   | £6,990                                   | 0.57           | £93,724           | 0.67                                       | £521,786           | £16,175                    | 1.32           | £216,887           |
| 3G              | 0.69                                       | £654,367                   | £25,486                                  | 1.38           | £226,891          | 3.67                                       | £3,464,967         | £134,951                   | 7.33           | £1,201,421         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>16.04</b>                               | <b>£2,255,314</b>          | <b>£319,263</b>                          | <b>22.42</b>   | <b>£3,673,816</b> | <b>81.17</b>                               | <b>£10,303,868</b> | <b>£1,471,095</b>          | <b>102.03</b>  | <b>£16,721,204</b> |

<sup>30</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>31</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)

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## Conclusion

For the scenarios above, the tables show that, through housing growth relating to the developments, demand will be generated for football, rugby union, hockey and cricket. However, the level of demand generated for each sport, for the allocations, is unlikely to require new provision to be made.

As the demand generated from the housing growth does not equate to a whole pitch for any of the sports, contributions would be better focused on improving existing sites to increase capacity to an appropriate level. The PPOSS and in particular the Action Plan, as well as future consultation with NGBs, should be used to inform this (e.g., to select suitable sites).

This is particularly the case for football, rugby union and cricket as there is a lack of supply to meet current and future demand. With housing growth in the area expected to exacerbate these shortfalls, off-site contributions should be sought to increase capacity for these sports, whether that be through pitch quality improvements or ancillary improvements to ensure underused sites can be fully utilised.

To provide the greatest impact, contributions from housing developments could be pooled together to improve key sites. The action plan identifies high priority sites which would likely provide the most benefit from investment. Key sites which would benefit from capacity and ancillary improvements are provided below, by analysis area.

*Table 7.5: Site contribution options*

| Analysis Area   | Site                                   | Potential need  |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Bilston         | Bilston Town FC                        | Changing room upgrade, pitch improvements                                   |
| Central & South | Colton Hills Community School          | Pitch improvements  |
| North           | Bilbrook JFC                           | Pitch improvements  |
|                 | WV Active Aldersley                    | Pitch improvements, cycle track cover (per British Cycling recommendation). |
| Tettenhall      | Bantock Park                           | Pitch improvements  |
|                 | Highfields School                      | Pitch improvements  |
|                 | Windsor Avenue Playing Fields          | Pitch improvements  |
| Wednesfield     | Ashmore Park                           | Ancillary upgrade for bowling club  |
|                 | Fowlers Park                           | Changing room replacement   |
|                 | King George V Playing Field            | Pitch improvements  |
|                 | Wolverhampton United (NPV FC)          | Changing room upgrade   |
| Outside         | Old Wulfrunians Sports and Social Club | Cricket square improvements   |
|                 | Springhill CC                          | Cricket square improvements, NTP  |
|                 | Wightwick & Finchfield CC              | Cricket square improvements, NTP  |
|                 | Wolverhampton RUFC                     | Pitch improvements, floodlights   |

Outside of specific site suggestions, for cricket it is known that Fordhouses CC, Penn CC, Springvale CC and Whitmore Reans CC may require additional provision for peak time cricket on Saturdays in the future. The option to pool contributions to create new, dedicated cricket provision should also be considered by all relevant partners and stakeholders to meet this need.

Note, sites for 3G pitches are not included in Table 7.5 above.

This is because the full feasibility of a site to accommodate this provision type needs to be fully determined prior to specific sites being referenced. For 3G site location options, please refer to Part 4 of this report.

Lastly, this table should be updated as part of the PPOSS Stage E process to capture changes in the local sport landscape.



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

The section below is a generalised approach on how to deliver a PPOSS whilst also keeping it robust and up to date. However, a more tailored approach should also be considered and designed for Wolverhampton based on the requirements and priorities of the Steering Group.

#### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across Wolverhampton. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of the City 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 creation of this document should be regarded as part of the planning process. The success of this Strategy and the benefits that are gained are dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sport 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 needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS 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 PPOSS 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 monitoring and review against the actions identified in the Strategy. This monitoring should continue 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 PPOSS has been applied should also form a key component of monitoring its delivery. It is possible that in the interim between reviews the Steering Group could also operate as a 'virtual' group; prepared to comment on suggestions and updates electronically when relevant.

It is agreed that the Council (potentially via consultants e.g., KKP) is responsible for keeping the database and background supply and demand information up to date in order that area-by-area action plans can be updated. This should be carried out in consultation with the NGBs, particularly around affiliation time when information is updated.

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As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOSS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year, meaning that without any form of review and update it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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 PPOSS 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.

Alongside regular steering group meetings a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These meetings 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.

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 are also able to indicate any further performance quality assessments that have been undertaken within the study area.

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## Checklists

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

| Stage D Checklist: Develop the Strategy  | Tick ✓ |                    |
|--|--------|--------------------|
|  | Yes    | Requires Attention |
| <b>Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan</b>   | ✓      |                    |
| 1. Have a number of study area specific scenarios been looked at to help explore key issues and findings along with possible recommendations and actions?                                  | ✓      |                    |
| 2. Have any recommendations and actions regarding AGP provision taken into account the guidance in the 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface' document and any NGB specific information? | ✓      |                    |
| 3. Do the recommendations reflect the drivers, vision and objectives of the work?  | ✓      |                    |
| 4. Are the recommendations precise enough to enable the development of clear individual area, sport and site specific actions to help achieve them?  | ✓      |                    |
| 5. Have all relevant parties been engaged with the development of, and are signed up to the delivery of, the recommendations and actions?  | ✓      |                    |
| 6. Are the recommendations and actions clearly presented?  | ✓      |                    |
| 7. Has particular attention been paid to the situation at priority sites and those which are being significantly overplayed?   | ✓      |                    |
| 8. Have area, sport and site specific solutions been proposed to protect, enhance, and provide playing pitch provision to meet the current and future demand?                              | ✓      |                    |
| 9. Has guidance on the future of any sites highlighted as being at risk been provided?   | ✓      |                    |
| 10. Do the recommendations and actions seek to make the best use of existing pitches?  | ✓      |                    |
| 11. Has the detriment and benefit of proposals to relocate provision been presented?   | ✓      |                    |
| 12. Has the level and type of any new playing pitch provision required been presented?   | ✓      |                    |
| 13. Has the importance of providing appropriate and fit for purpose ancillary facilities been highlighted in order to maximise the potential benefit to sport of any pitches?              | ✓      |                    |
| 14. Have the recommendations sought to ensure an adequate amount of spare capacity in the provision of accessible pitches with secured community use?                                      | ✓      |                    |
| 15. Does the PPS provide a steer as to the future of any spare capacity and any provision that may be genuinely surplus to requirements (paragraphs D12 to D15)?                           | ✓      |                    |
| 16. Does the action plan cover the points listed in paragraph D17?   | ✓      |                    |
| 17. Does the action plan provide the most appropriate actions to improve provision in the study area rather than just those which the local authority can deliver?                         | ✓      |                    |
| 18. Does the action plan represent an infrastructure plan for playing pitches with deliverable area, sport and site specific actions and projects?   | ✓      |                    |
| <b>Step 8: Write and Adopt the Strategy</b>  | ✓      |                    |
| 1. Does the PPS document provide the reader with a clear understanding of the areas listed in paragraph D20?   |        |                    |

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|    |  |   |  |
|----|--|---|--|
| 2. | Is it clear from the PPS document why the recommendations and actions have been included, how they are to be delivered and what they will achieve?                   | ✓ |  |
| 3. | Does the PPS document indicate how it should be used and applied in different areas and circumstances along with the benefits of doing so?                           | ✓ |  |
| 4. | Has the PPS document been subject to appropriate consultation?   | ✓ |  |
| 5. | Do all members of the steering group and other relevant parties endorse the PPS and recognise its lead role in guiding the improvement of pitches in the study area? | ✓ |  |
| 6. | Has the PPS document been formally adopted by the local authority and is its status recognised across all relevant departments?                                      | ✓ |  |

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

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

For more information, see: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>