

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

OCTOBER 2015 (UPDATED JUNE 2018)

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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**WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION 2

PART 2: VISION 8

PART 3: AIMS 9

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATION 10

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS 23

PART 6: ACTION PLAN 35

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIO 61

PART 8: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE 63

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT 67

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN 75

APPENDIX THREE: TERMS OF REFERENCE 79

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BCFA	Birmingham County Football Association
CAT	Community Asset Transfer
CC	Cricket Club
CFA	County Football Association
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
ET	England Touch
FA	Football Association
FC	Football club
FE	Further Education
FIT	Fields in Trust
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
SCFA	Staffordshire County Football Association
SCB	Staffordshire Cricket Board
MES	Match Equivalent Session
NGSA	National Games Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non-turf pitch (cricket)
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby union football club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team generation rate
TC	Tennis Club
CWC	City of Wolverhampton Council
WR	World Rugby

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for Wolverhampton City Council (CWC). Building upon the preceding Assessment Report (September 2015 Updated March 2018) it provides a strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities up to 2020. The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor sports:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby league pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Cycle facilities
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Golf courses

The Strategy was originally delivered in October 2015 and has been updated (as part of the Stage E process) building on the updated Assessment Report. The Assessment was updated through a combination of desk-based research as well as consultation with the Council, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs). It was carried out in order to update the supply and demand data whilst validating and adding new context to reflect key changes since the initial data was recorded. Further to this a golf section has also been added as a new section in 2018.

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

The Strategy is capable of:

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

1.1: Structure

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

- ✦ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of playing pitches
- ✦ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance and development of the playing pitch stock.
- ✦ A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ✦ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.

The Strategy and Action Plan recommends a number of priority projects for Wolverhampton, which should be implemented up to 2020. It is outlined to provide a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, potential partners and possible sources of external funding may be identified.

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

There is a need to build key partnerships between the Council, National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Sport England, schools, further/higher education providers, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve playing pitch provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead is more limited (except in terms of Section 106 Agreements). This document will provide clarity about the way forward, and allow key organisations to focus on the key issues that they can directly influence and achieve.

Monitoring and updating

A project team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time. This applies to both the original PPS in 2015 and this update.

Although there was a Steering Group in place at the time of the 2015 Wolverhampton PPS (made up of representatives from the City of Wolverhampton Council, Sport England the County Sports Partnership (CSP) and NGBs this is now not the case in 2018.

Although NGBs have been consulted as part of this update and have provided data and commented on reports, Sport England is working with the CSP to set up a Black Country wide PPS Steering Group covering all four local authorities as NGBs are unable to support four individual groups.

The original steering group should be responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking, and challenging the work of the project team. It will be important for a Steering Group to continue for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ✦ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ✦ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.

WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

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

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

1.2 Context

The rationale for undertaking the study is to identify current levels of provision in the area, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and to compare this with current, and likely future levels of demand.

Concern at national government level over the loss of playing fields prompted the development of localised Playing Pitch Assessments and Strategies which identified current and future requirements for playing fields. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of playing pitch supply and demand is necessary to:

- ◀ Protect playing pitches against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ◀ Identify pitch (natural grass and artificial) supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ◀ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer, wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ◀ Identify inequalities in supply and demand across the five areas of the City.
- ◀ Address budget pressures and public-sector cuts.

The Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy covers the overall City area and considers in certain cases the overlap of supply and demand with adjoining areas.

The outcome for the Council is to see the provision of a range of good quality and accessible facilities, services and opportunities that:

- ◀ Reflect the nature of the City.
- ◀ Maximise the strengths of the voluntary sports sector.
- ◀ Increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Contribute to an overall improvement in health and wellbeing.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA has commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. Over the course of the next two years to spring 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

1.3 Headline findings

The table below highlights the quantitative headline findings from the Wolverhampton Playing Pitch Assessment Report (September 2015 Updated March 2018):

Table 1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	City wide view	Current picture	Future demand (2036)
Football (grass pitches)	Wolverhampton	Spare capacity of 36.5 MES on adult pitches Spare capacity of 5 MES on youth 11v11 pitches Spare capacity of 8.5 MES on youth 9v9 pitches Spare capacity of 2.5 MES on mini 7v7 pitches Spare capacity of 1 MES on mini 5v5 pitches	Spare capacity of 35.5 MES on adult pitches Shortfall of 1.5 MES on youth 11v11 Spare capacity of 7 MES on youth 9v9 pitches Shortfall of 1 MES on mini 7v7 pitches Spare capacity of 1 MES on mini 5v5 pitches

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	City wide view	Current picture	Future demand (2036)
Football (3G AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches to serve the Tettenhall and Central & South for training	Shortfall of one full sized 3G pitches to serve the Tettenhall and Central & South for training.
Cricket	Wolverhampton	Current demand is being met	Shortfall of 12 MES cricket ground (0.5 cricket squares)
	Outside	Current demand is being met	Shortfall of 24 MES (one cricket square)
Rugby union	Wolverhampton	No current demand for pitches	No demand expected.
	Outside (Wolverhampton RUFC)	Shortfall of 6 match equivalent sessions.	Future demand will exacerbate current shortfalls
Rugby league	Wolverhampton	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met
Hockey (Sand AGPs)	Wolverhampton	Current demand is being met	Future demand can be met

Non-pitch sports

Current demand for athletics, tennis, netball, bowls, cycling and golf is being met by the current supply of provision. However, analysis anticipates that future demand for bowls and tennis could lead to the requirement for additional capacity.

Summary

The Assessment Report identifies that the existing position for all sports is either that demand is broadly being met or that there is a shortfall. At present, demand for natural turf football and cricket provision is being met with shortfalls identified in the future. For remaining pitch sports, there are no current or future shortfalls identified.

Future shortfalls identified for football pitches as of 2036 could largely be addressed through reconfiguration of the existing supply of provision over the intervening years. High levels of spare capacity on adult pitches can be reduced without detrimental impact on football demand and, in turn, create additional capacity on both youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitch types, thus alleviating shortfalls satisfactorily in all part of the City.

Notwithstanding the above, for 3G AGPs, there are clear shortfalls identified which cannot be alleviated unless new provision is created. Whilst securing access to the 3G pitch at Heath Park Academy will contribute to meeting training demand in Wolverhampton (in and around the Wednesfield Analysis Area) it is unlikely to meet demand where it is most needed. Given this, there is a distinct need to explore the feasibility of future provision at strategic sites to serve the Central & South or Tettenhall analysis areas. For the purposes of a PPS, a strategic site can be considered to be a pre-existing site which already provides a sport offering such as a school or leisure centre, and as such, there is not an express requirement to allocate new land to alleviate identified 3G shortfalls.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

For the remaining non-pitch sports there are no identified issues with current demand. When taking into account future demand, capacity issues may become apparent, for both tennis and bowls on the basis that this demand is realised and achieved.

PART 2: VISION

2.1 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 Strategy:

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

To achieve this strategic vision, the strategy has the following aims:

- ◀ Ensure that all valuable facilities are protected for the long-term benefit of sport.
- ◀ Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of playing pitches and management of sports clubs.
- ◀ Ensure that there are sufficient facilities in the right place to meet current and projected future demand.
- ◀ Ensure that all clubs have access to facilities of appropriate quality to meet current needs and longer term aspirations.
- ◀ Ensure that the facility stock enables residents of Wolverhampton to live a healthy, active lifestyle.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPS and Sport England planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs up to 2036.

AIM 2

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

AIM 3

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

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England 2015

PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATION

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for the playing pitch sports resulting in the sport specific recommendations. The section below highlights the summary boxes from each sports section within the assessment report:

Football summary

- ◀ In 2018, there are 208 pitches identified across Wolverhampton across 99 sites, of which, 161 are available for community use across 70 sites.
- ◀ There is an overall total increase of 36 pitches and 15 sites since 2015. Of those available for community use, there is an increase of 32 pitches and eight sites.
- ◀ Additional pitches are attributed to newly identified pitches and additional pitches being marked at pre-existing sites. There are also two new sites which have been created in Wolverhampton since the 2015 PPS; Perry Hall Park and Barnhurst Lane Playing Fields.
- ◀ Of those pitches available for community use in 2018, 53 are identified as being available but have no regular competitive club use throughout the traditional winter football season.
- ◀ Of community available pitches, 28 pitches were considered to be good quality, 113 to be standard quality and 20 to be poor quality (based on non technical assessments from 2014/15, additional or new pitches have been assigned a quality score based on maintenance information).
- ◀ Changing facilities remain a key issue at East Park and Windsor Avenue Playing Fields. Bantock Park has been improved since 2015 and additional issues are now highlighted at Fowlers Park.
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 178 football teams playing their home games on pitches within Wolverhampton for the 2017/18 season.
- ◀ Since 2015 there has been an overall decrease in participation of 52 teams in Wolverhampton which equates to a 23% fall.
- ◀ The most significant decrease can be seen in adult football (reduction of 35 teams) and it is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level.
- ◀ It is also noted that there has been growth in youth 11v11 (by 16 teams) and women's football teams, and other youth teams have generally remained stable.
- ◀ 2018 population increases, by analysis area, forecast that a total of 13 teams will be created, which equates to a need to accommodate 7.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Future demand expressed by clubs in 2015 equals 30 teams and 15 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Actual spare capacity (based on 2018 supply and demand) in Wolverhampton amounts to 56 match equivalent sessions across all pitches types.
- ◀ There are four sites which are identified as containing overplayed pitches by a combined total of 2.5 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ Based on 2018 supply and demand, the current supply of grass football pitches is sufficient to cater for current demand; however, future demand results in a shortfall of youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Scenarios

The following scenarios were tested in order to further understand the impact of particular actions within Wolverhampton:

What would be the impact if all currently used school football pitches were removed from the supply (2018)

Table 4.1: The current usage of school sites

Football pitch type	Current play (match equivalent sessions)
Adult*	15.5
Youth 11v11	2
Youth 9v9	9
Mini 7v7	2.5
Mini 5v5	1
Total	30

*Includes youth 11v11 teams accessing adult pitches.

If access to school and college sites was lost there would be a need to accommodate 30 match equivalent sessions. The above scenario highlights the importance of access to education sites and therefore there is a need to secure access when possible in the future. In addition to the above there is a total of 18 match equivalent sessions of demand associated with 3G pitches at Wolverhampton College and Our Lady & St Chads Academy.

Pitch reconfigurations (2018)

Given that there are high levels of spare capacity identified on adult pitch types and future shortfalls identified across both youth 11v11 and mini 7v7 pitches there is an opportunity to reconfigure pitch formats at the following sites which will not impact on adult football:

- ✦ Hilton Road Playing Field
- ✦ Windsor Avenue Playing Fields*
- ✦ Springvale Park
- ✦ Aldersley High School

In addition, there is an opportunity to reconfigure currently unused adult pitches (2017/2018) at the following sites:

- ✦ Bee Lane Playing Fields (one unused pitch)
- ✦ Heath Town Park (three unused pitches)
- ✦ Prouds Lane (one unused pitch)
- ✦ Northwood Park (two unused pitches)
- ✦ Dixon Street Playing Fields (two unused pitches)

Reconfiguring one or a mixture of these sites will alleviate future shortfalls in their entirety and as such, these sites should be considered starting points if reconfiguration of pitches is considered in the future.

*2017/2018 data identifies three adult teams playing competitive fixtures at Windsor Avenue Playing Fields. The site contains seven adult pitches. Reconfiguring a proportion of the site

WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

relative to localised future demand would alleviate all shortfalls.

Recommendations

- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality (first and foremost via the FA's Pitch Improvement Programme).
- ◀ Transfer play on sites which are played to capacity or overplayed to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand on sites which are not operating at capacity or are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Seek to improve quality at sites used by teams within the football pyramid to ensure sustainability.
- ◀ When feasible, look to reconfigure sites with an oversupply of adult pitches to better accommodate youth and mini teams.
- ◀ Seek to improve changing provision on key strategic sites.
- ◀ Ensure that teams are playing on the correct sized pitches.
- ◀ Work with schools to maximise access to primary/secondary schools and academies to address latent, displaced or future demand and to develop school-club links (if required in localised situations).
- ◀ Ensure all club sites have security of tenure.
- ◀ Ensure clubs in the football pyramid can progress by being compliant to FA ground grading regulations.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.

3G summary

- ◀ There are four outdoor full sized 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, all of which have floodlighting. Of these, two offer full and unrestricted availability for community use; Our Lady & St Chads Catholic Academy and City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus). Both are also on the FA register and can accommodate competitive play.
- ◀ There is no community use at Jack Hayward Training Ground (also known as Compton Park and is Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Training Ground) and at Heath Park Academy.
- ◀ There are a further seven small sized 3G pitches servicing Wolverhampton at school sites.
- ◀ There are also four full size sand AGPs in Wolverhampton, all of which, accommodate some football training demand and in particular, Ormiston SWB Academy has no hockey use and all community use is midweek football training.
- ◀ There are no identified quality issues on outdoor 3G pitches in Wolverhampton. Of the community accessible pitches, one is good quality, two are standard quality (based on 2015 assessments).
- ◀ The FA training model estimates that there is a need for four full sized 3G pitches which are fully available for community use to service affiliated football training demand in the City, both presently and in light of future demand from population change.
- ◀ There is considered to be insufficient access to full sized 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand based on the FA model for affiliated football team training in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Although the model suggests an overall shortfall of access to two 3G full size pitches, given other factors such as continued access to sand AGPs, use of small sided 3G

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

pitches and use of neighbouring authority 3G pitches, the provision of one full size 3G pitch may be considered more sustainable, in either the Tettenhall or Central & South Analysis Area.

- ◀ As a priority, secured community access to Heath Park Academy in the Wednesfield Analysis Area should be explored before the feasibility of new supply (to meet training demand) is considered.
- ◀ Further to this, should new 3G provision at Sporting Khalsa FC (in neighbouring Walsall) be successful, this will also help to meet training demand in Wolverhampton.

Scenarios

Accommodating football training demand

In order to satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 42 teams) there is a need for four full size 3G pitches in Wolverhampton, meaning that there is a current shortfall of two pitches. When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for pitches does not increase.

Although the model suggests an overall shortfall of access to two 3G full size pitches, given other factors such as continued access to sand AGPs, use of small sided 3G pitches and use of neighbouring authority 3G pitches, the provision of one full size 3G pitch is considered more sustainable, in either the Tettenhall or Central & South Analysis Area.

Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches

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

Table 4.2: Number of teams currently using Council pitches¹

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	24
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	7
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	4
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	3
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	-
Total			38

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

¹ Based on 2017/2018 football affiliation data

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand

Format	No teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y) = x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
Adult	24	12	32	384	6
11v11	7	3.5	32	112	2
9v9	4	2	10	20	1*
7v7	3	1.5	8	12	
5v5	-	-	-	-	-

* Demand for both youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 competitive football could be accommodated on one 3G pitch.

Given that peak time for all pitch types is the same, transferring all matches currently played on Council pitches would equate for the need for nine full size 3G pitches. This is calculated through adding the demand for all pitch types together.

The FA also has an aspiration to move 50% of all mini soccer and youth 9v9 matches to play on 3G pitches. A programme of play has therefore been created in Wolverhampton to determine how many 3G pitches would be required to accommodate this (not just those playing on Council pitches), given that peak time for each format is Sunday AM.

Table 4.4: Full size 3G pitches required for transfer of mini football demand

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 9v9	2/4
12.30pm – 1.30pm	2 x 9v9	2/4

Given that there is currently a total of 27 youth 9v9, 24 mini 7v7 and 13 mini 5v5 teams in Wolverhampton, there is a requirement for three 3G pitches to accommodate 50% of demand based on the above programme of play (seven mini 5v5 teams, 12 mini 7v7 teams and 14 youth 9v9 teams could be accommodated on three pitches). This being said, if there is an overlap of split games (i.e. youth 9v9/mini 7v7 played simultaneously) two full sized pitches could accommodate 50% of youth and mini demand.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ✦ Encourage all current and future providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ✦ Look to create new full sized 3G provision to reduce identified shortfalls.
- ✦ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ✦ Ensure that all current 3G pitches are FA tested and reviewed.
- ✦ Ensure that all new full size 3G pitches are built to correct size specifications.
- ✦ Consider the impact of AGPs in neighbouring authorities when considering demand for new pitches.
- ✦ Ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Cricket summary

- ◀ In 2018 there are 17 grass wicket squares across 13 sites in Wolverhampton. Of these, 10 are available for community use. There are no grass wicket squares in the Wednesfield Analysis Area.
- ◀ Four squares are unavailable for community use, located at Tettenhall College and Wolverhampton Grammar School.
- ◀ In addition, there are three squares located just outside of the Wolverhampton boundary that accommodate significant demand from the City and as such have been included for analysis.
- ◀ NTPs accompany grass wicket squares at Fordhouses, Wolverhampton CC and Penn cricket clubs (five in total) and there are also 16 standalone NTPs (including six installed in June 2018 by the ECB).
- ◀ Following the creation of the six aforementioned NTPs across Wolverhampton, there will be the loss of two natural turf squares located at Claregate Playing Fields and Newbridge Playing Fields.
- ◀ A desk based update and check of quality has been carried out in 2018. Including the squares just outside the Wolverhampton boundary, two are assessed as good quality, nine as standard and two as poor.
- ◀ Construction of Non-Turf nets will be completed in 2018 at Peace Green Open Space, Bounded Francis Street, Staveley Road, Waterloo Road and Dunstall Road.
- ◀ The only change that has occurred since 2015 is that Claregate Playing Fields is now assessed as poor quality (previously standard). This is likely to reflect that the site is also now disused.
- ◀ All ancillary provision accompanying the squares is considered to be good or adequate quality and this has not changed since 2015.
- ◀ Penn, Wightwick & Finchfield and Whitmore Reans cricket clubs all state a need for additional training facilities.
- ◀ In 2018 total, there are eight clubs servicing Wolverhampton generating 61 teams. Although the number of clubs has remained the same, there has now been a decrease of seven teams playing in Wolverhampton. This consists of a loss of five senior men's teams and two juniors.
- ◀ 2018 team generation rates forecast the creation of two junior teams by 2036, whereas future demand expressed by clubs equates to three senior and 11 junior teams.
- ◀ There are 14 grass wicket squares which show potential spare capacity; however, none are considered to have actual spare capacity.
- ◀ There are no squares with identified overplay.
- ◀ For junior cricket, overall spare capacity is considered to exist both now and in the future.
- ◀ For senior cricket, there is overall spare capacity to accommodate current demand totalling 110 match equivalent sessions, which reduces to 74 match equivalent sessions when accounting for future demand.
- ◀ Nevertheless, future shortfalls are identified in the Bilston Analysis Area as well as on the squares outside of Wolverhampton due to future demand expressed by Springhill, Springvale and Wightwick & Finchfield cricket clubs.

Scenarios

Accommodating future demand

It is considered that all clubs expressing future demand for an increase in junior teams can do so on the current facility stock. This can either be done through maximising usage of

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

grass wickets with spare capacity, on NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares, or via standalone NTPs that exist at school sites.

There are three clubs which highlight aspirations to develop additional senior teams. Of these, just one, Springvale CC, is located in Wolverhampton; in the Bilston Analysis Area. At present, there are no available cricket squares to accommodate a senior team at peak time (Saturday) in Wolverhampton.

As such, if future demand is realised it would only be able to play either midweek or on Sunday (if it was to be accommodated on the current pitch stock). It is not considered realistic to provide a whole new square to accommodate 0.5 MES per week i.e. one team.

For future senior demand expressed from Springhill CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC there is a requirement to create a new cricket square if demand is realised. Both clubs sit outside of the Wolverhampton authoritative boundary but do sit within close proximity to each other (under 2 miles apart) and as such, creating a cricket square would allow for both clubs to utilise a new square. This could also accommodate potential future demand from Springvale CC.

Recommendations

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ✦ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on pitches to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ✦ Ensure security of tenure for all clubs with lease arrangements in place by ensuring agreements have over 25 years remaining.
- ✦ Work with clubs which are identified as not having a secure lease arrangement to provide longer term security.
- ✦ Work with Springvale CC, Springhill CC and Wightwick & Finchfield CC to find solutions to identified future demand.
- ✦ Explore options to provide for casual cricket formats i.e. through LMS.

Rugby union summary

- ✦ In 2018, there is a total of four senior and one junior pitch across five sites in Wolverhampton. Of these two senior and one junior pitch is available for community use (albeit unused).
- ✦ All of the pitches are located at schools, with one senior pitch at Smestow School and one senior pitch at Wednesfield High School considered to be unavailable for community use.
- ✦ There is one change to the 2015 supply of rugby union provision with one additional senior pitch located at Smestow School.
- ✦ In addition, there are three senior pitches located at Wolverhampton Rugby Club, which is just outside of the City but caters for Wolverhampton residents.
- ✦ All pitches within Wolverhampton are considered to be poor quality, whilst pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club are standard quality. There have been no known pitch improvements to pitch quality since 2015.
- ✦ Wolverhampton RUFC has had significant investment into its ancillary provision on its home site in South Staffordshire (in 2016).
- ✦ There are no clubs playing within Wolverhampton. However, Wolverhampton RUFC consists of four senior men's teams, one senior women's team, two colts' teams, six junior teams (including a U15 girls team) and six mini teams. The Club also trains at its site for an average of six hours per week.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ When studying team generation rates on an analysis area basis, there is not considered to be enough demand to warrant the creation of an additional team. Furthermore, given that there are no rugby clubs within Wolverhampton, it is likely that any future interest will need to export to play at Wolverhampton RUFC.
- ◀ Spare capacity at all sites in Wolverhampton is discounted due to unsecure tenure at each site.
- ◀ All three pitches at Wolverhampton Rugby Club remain overplayed in 2018 by a combined total of six match equivalent sessions per week. The second pitch is the most overplayed, with overplay equalling three match equivalent sessions on the pitch. This is a consequence of it being the only floodlit pitch on the site and therefore it accommodating all midweek training activity, resulting in higher levels of overplay.
- ◀ Given identified shortfalls at Wolverhampton RUFC there is a requirement to make qualitative maintenance improvements on the three grass pitches to increase the overall capacity on the site as well as increasing the level of floodlighting which will aid in the transfer of training demand and evening match activity across the site.

Scenarios

Improving pitch quality

Wolverhampton RUFC has three standard quality (M1/D1) senior pitches. Cumulatively, these pitches are overplayed by six match equivalent sessions per week. Of these pitches, the floodlit training pitch is most overplayed (by three match equivalent sessions). If maintenance across all three pitches is increased to M2 the shortfall on the site would be reduced to a cumulative three match equivalent sessions per week. Further to this, if pipe drainage is implemented across all pitches to a D2 equivalent the shortfall would further reduce to 2.75. If pitches on site met an overall M2/D3 rating which is the highest score rugby union pitches can achieve, the shortfall would be further reduced to a cumulative 1.5 match equivalent sessions on the site.

Increasing floodlighting on grass pitches

There is only one floodlit pitch available to Wolverhampton RUFC and there is a requirement to utilise it consistently midweek to undertake training for both senior and junior teams. As such, training demand is concentrated onto the pitch and this cannot be transferred elsewhere, partly resulting in identified overplay. If additional floodlighting was provided on the site, although not helping to reduce overplay, it would benefit the Club by transferring concentrated demand onto alternate onsite pitches and therefore improving the overall playability of pitches. In addition, it will enhance opportunities to cater for evening rugby matches.

Off site pitches

Overplay cannot be eradicated (in its entirety) at Wolverhampton RUFC with both maintenance and drainage improvements. Therefore, alternative options need to be explored to alleviate identified overplay.

Smestow School is located 0.8 miles from Wolverhampton RUFC and has a senior rugby union pitch. Similarly, there is a senior rugby union pitch at Wolverhampton Grammar School which is 2.5 miles from the Wolverhampton RUFC. The transfer of demand to these sites may help in reducing overplay on site at Wolverhampton RUFC. Pitches at these sites are identified as being poor quality and would require some levels of pitch improvements before accommodating additional demand. The levels of demand transferred to these sites (if

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

considered a realistic opportunity) should be dependent on the level of pitch improvements undertaken at Wolverhampton RUFC.

WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches.
- ◀ Improve the quality and maintenance of pitches at Wolverhampton RUFC to help address overplay.
- ◀ Seek access to additional pitches to accommodate shortfalls
- ◀ Improve poor quality ancillary facilities

Rugby league summary

- ◀ There is one dedicated rugby league pitch in Wolverhampton located at Moreton Community High School.
- ◀ The pitch was utilised by Moreton Dragons RLFC but the Club no longer fields a competitive team.
- ◀ Given limited demand for rugby league, this pitch adequately accommodates identified curricular demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Look to support (where possible) Moreton Dragons RLFC to develop demand.
- ◀ Protect existing rugby league pitch at Moreton Community High School to enable potential growth.

Hockey summary

- ◀ There are five full size hockey suitable AGPs in Wolverhampton, with WV-Active Aldersley accommodating two adjacent to each other. This includes the AGP at Royal Wolverhampton School which is slightly under sized for hockey but remains used to accommodate competitive senior fixtures.
- ◀ Of full size AGPs in operation in Wolverhampton, two are managed and operated by WV-Active Aldersley, whilst the remaining are at school sites and are managed in house by each respective provider. All are also available for community use.
- ◀ All full size AGPs in Wolverhampton were assessed as good quality in 2015 and remain as such in 2018 with the exception of Royal Wolverhampton School which remains as overall poor quality. No new non-technical assessments have been carried out in 2018.
- ◀ The AGP at Wolverhampton Grammar School is poor quality but it is, however, due to be resurfaced prior to the 2018/2019 hockey season commencing.
- ◀ In 2018, there are 25 hockey teams playing in Wolverhampton operating across three clubs. This is an overall increase of three teams since 2015 when there were 22 teams playing.
- ◀ Although the number of clubs has remained the same, Dudley Ladies HC has amalgamated with Finchfield HC and the Club now operates an additional five teams.
- ◀ In 2015 all three clubs reported future demand equating to four senior and one junior team.
- ◀ The AGP located at Ormiston SWB Academy is the only full size AGP unused for hockey. However, all full size AGPs also accommodate some football training demand.
- ◀ Those pitches accommodating hockey are considered to be operating close to capacity for weekend matches but can accommodate additional peak time growth.
- ◀ Bloxwich HC may look to import demand into Wolverhampton as its demand cannot be accommodated in Walsall.
- ◀ Based on 23 senior teams (including future demand) from Wolverhampton requiring a pitch at peak time (Saturday) there is a requirement for three (rounded up from 2.88) full size AGPs.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- As there are currently four AGPs used for accommodating competitive senior hockey (including Royal Wolverhampton School), existing supply is considered sufficient to meet senior demand.

Recommendations

- Protect existing sand based pitches that have community use (WV-Active Aldersley, Wolverhampton Grammar and Royal Wolverhampton School).
- Further explore demand for hockey at Ormiston SWB Academy
- Ensure that current and future providers have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure pitches can improve when required and to guarantee long-term sustainability.
- Pursue long-term security of tenure for all clubs through community use agreements.
- Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey.

Bowls summary

- There are 22 crown green bowling greens in Wolverhampton across 20 sites.
- Of the greens, 14 are assessed as good quality and the remaining eight are assessed as standard quality.
- There are 19 clubs using bowling greens in Wolverhampton providing a total of 655 members across the consulted clubs, consisting of 512 men, 113 women and 30 juniors.
- Of the clubs, 12 have plans to increase the number of members in the future equating to a combined growth of 87 senior members and 39 junior members.
- Ten clubs are operating below the average membership for bowling greens in Wolverhampton (46 members) and as such are likely to have capacity to increase use of their home green.
- Despite operating above the average, ECC Bowling Club (49 members) and Express & Star Bowling Club (50 members) report no additional demand for more greens to be provided.
- In contrast, Fordhouses Bowling Club (73 members) and Penn Bowling Club (107 members) report demand for an additional green in order to sustain and increase membership.
- Additionally, the Bilston Bowling League reports that Springvale Bowling Club is almost at saturation with its two greens.

Recommendations

- Where possible ensure clubs provide pay and play opportunities at greens located in public parks.
- Support and encourage junior bowls development in order to grow and sustain future participation levels in the sport.
- Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality of greens assessed as good.
- Further investigate future demand for additional greens on a site by site basis.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Tennis summary

- There is a total of 122 tennis courts across 26 sites provided in Wolverhampton, 72 of which are available for community use across 16 sites.
- Of provision that is available for community use, 34 courts are assessed as good quality, 33 are deemed standard and five are rated as poor.
- There are 55 floodlit courts, which is a relatively high number when compared to other local authorities.
- The large majority of courts have a macadam surface.
- The seven clubs servicing Wolverhampton collectively provide a total of 1,178 senior members and 461 junior members.
- When asked to quantify potential growth, four clubs report plans to increase membership by a combined 170 senior members and 180 junior members.
- Use of park courts in Wolverhampton is more common than in other local authorities, in part due to the Wolverhampton Parks Tennis League.
- No clubs readily allow for casual use of their courts by the community and no education sites which are available to the community report any regular community demand.
- Priority should be placed on improving current facilities as well as helping Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis & Squash Club develop its facility in order to allow for the clubs planned growth.

Recommendations

- Improve court quality where sites are assessed as poor.
- Ensure clubs can access the appropriate standard of courts to allow LTA competitions to be played.
- Where demand exists seek to increase court capacity through installation of floodlighting, and link to indoor provision.
- Ensure that parks courts are of appropriate quality to accommodate recreational usage.

Golf summary

- There are three golf courses within Wolverhampton and two within South Staffordshire that are nearby and cater for residents of the City.
- All five clubs provide standard 18-hole courses and are managed privately, meaning no municipal facilities are available.
- South Staffordshire and Wergs golf clubs/courses are located next to each other with the clubhouses located three minutes apart. Further to this, Oxley Park is also located close by and is only three miles from South Staffordshire Golf Course.
- All five courses are considered to be good quality. Further to this, South Staffordshire Golf Club is of a particularly high standard given its championship course status.
- Each club offers pay and play green fees; however, each club is primarily a membership club.
- In total, 1,970 members are catered for across the clubs, although each club is operating below the national average according to England Golf 2016 affiliation figures (and 2018 membership from two clubs consulted).
- Although all five clubs are operating below the national average membership, it would appear that clubs are currently operating sustainably.
- There is significant identified demand for golf within Wolverhampton and the demand cuts across all nine golfing profiles as set out by England Golf with an average of 79,966 people are identified as current or potential users of golf courses within Wolverhampton.
- Demand is likely to be highest for Oxley Park Golf Club, which has 111,323 potential users, and lowest for Perton Golf Club, which has 42,393 potential users.

WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ For club-based segments, current supply is considered sufficient to meet demand as all five clubs are tailored to meet such needs; for independent segments, it is clear that demand is not currently being catered for.
- ◀ In conclusion, there is adequate supply of golf courses servicing Wolverhampton and although there is capacity to increase membership at each course, this is not considered to represent a surplus of golf provision.

Recommendations

- ◀ Protect current provision of golf courses in Wolverhampton.
- ◀ Sustain quality and seek improvements where necessary and possible.
- ◀ Support clubs in retaining current members and explore opportunities for growth.

Other sport summaries

Athletics

- ◀ Demand for athletics is satisfied via the track located at WV-Active Aldersley.
- ◀ There are two unused (by the community) cinder tracks located at St. Edmunds Catholic Academy and the King's Church of England School.

Cycling

- ◀ There is one outdoor velodrome in Wolverhampton located at WV-Active Aldersley.
- ◀ There are two cycle speedway tracks located at East Park and Ashmore Park.
- ◀ Supply of provision is deemed adequate to accommodate demand.

Netball

- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball provision in Wolverhampton. In the main, these are located at school sites and are overmarked on tennis provision.
- ◀ There are multiple courts located at WV-Active Aldersley and these are used to accommodate a central venue netball league.
- ◀ Supply of netball courts in Wolverhampton can sufficiently accommodate all expressed demand.

Recommendations

- ◀ Ensure that both athletics and cycling facilities are sustained and quality protected to allow current and future continuation of sport.
- ◀ Ensure provision at WV- Active Aldersley is protected to allow continuation of the central venue netball league current operated at the site.

PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The 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.

Implementation must be considered in the context of financial implications and the need for some proposals to also meet planning considerations. Provision for disability sport should also be considered and acknowledged in the decision making process.

OBJECTIVE 1

To protect the existing supply of outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs up to 2036.

Recommendations:

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

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

The PPS Assessment shows that all currently used outdoor sports sites require protection or replacement and therefore cannot be deemed surplus to requirements because of shortfalls identified in the future. Lapsed, disused, underused and poor quality sites should normally be protected by planning policy in accordance with the findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment Report to meet current demand and to provide strategic reserve sites to meet future shortfalls. However, where there is evidence of significant levels of spare capacity in certain analysis areas, circumstances may arise where selective lapsed or disused sites can be deemed surplus to requirements in accordance with NPPF paragraph 74.

If it is the case that provision is required for mitigation, replacement provision of an equal or better quantity and quality, where this is in accordance with the Playing Pitch Strategy should be provided. For provision catering for sports such as football, cricket and bowls, where shortfalls are identified, this should come in the form of a direct replacement. For other sports, such as hockey, where current demand is being met, the replacement should instead focus on sports that have shortfalls.

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

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

- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

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

Should outdoor sports facilities be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints) and a current or future need is identified, it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not normally be altered (except to improve play or reconfigure pitches where this is in line with the PPS) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by an annual review of the PPS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality.

Although there are some identified future shortfalls of match equivalent sessions, particularly for example, in youth and mini football pitches, there is also some capacity in other pitch types, for example adult football pitches. Therefore, most demand can be met through pitch reconfiguration or qualitative improvements. Including the need for additional facilities in the Local Plan is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches where there is a discrete need for additional provision, or where there is significant housing growth.

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

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

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

Policy Exception E1:

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

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

Policy Exception E4:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Local sports clubs should be supported by partners including the Council and NGBs to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, support club development and encourage clubs to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities. All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)². They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally – such as volunteer support agencies or local businesses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

² <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

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

Community asset transfer

The Council should adopt a policy that supports community management and ownership of assets to local clubs, community groups and trusts. This presents sports clubs and NGBs with opportunities to take ownership of facilities and it may also provide non-asset owning sports clubs with their first chance to take on a building. The Sport England Community Sport Asset Transfer Toolkit provides a step-by-step guide through each stage of the asset transfer process:

Recommendation (c) Maximise community use of outdoor sports facilities

To maximise community use, a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train.

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

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

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

OBJECTIVE 2

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

Recommendations:

- d. Improve pitch quality on poor quality sites.
- 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 pitch quality on poor quality sites.

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to increase pitch quality, including for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that most councils are operating under reducing budgets it is currently advisable to look at improving only poor quality pitches as a priority. However, given such pressures on budgets any direct investment into pitch quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset transfer as highlighted in Objective 1, for example for cricket, the Club could maintain the square and the Council the outfield. Other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

The FA, ECB and RFL are all part of the Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP) which has been developed in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) to develop a Grass Pitch Maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs with the aim of improving the quality of grass pitches. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the clubs' playing surface. Where quality issues are identified the Pitch Improvement Programme should be accessed to help support improvements.

Addressing quality issues

Pitch quality in Wolverhampton is variable but on the whole pitches are assessed as standard quality, with a small proportion of both poor and good quality pitches. Currently used sites that are of poor quality and require pitch improvements are listed in the table below. Improving pitch quality increases the carrying capacity of pitches and can help to reduce overplay and/or shortfalls.

For the purposes of the Quality Assessments, the Strategy will refer to pitches and ancillary facilities separately as Good, Standard or Poor quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements i.e. changing rooms or a specific pitch.

Good quality refers to pitches that have, for example, good grass cover, an even surface, are free from vandalism, litter etc. In terms of ancillary facilities, good quality refers to access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate provision of showers, toilets and car parking.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Poor quality refers to pitches that have, for example, inadequate grass cover, uneven surface and damage. Please refer to the Sport England/NGB quality assessments. Sites played beyond capacity may require remedial action to help reduce this.

In order to prioritise investment into key sites **it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to the Area, to provide a steer on future investment.**

For improvement/replacement of AGPs refer to Sport England and the NGBs 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' document for a guide as to suitable AGP surfaces:

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

Addressing overplay

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

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week
Rugby union*	Pipe and Slit Drained and a good level of maintenance (D3/M2)	3.5 per week
	Pipe drained and a good level of maintenance (D2/M2)	3.25 per week
	Natural (adequate) drainage and a good level of maintenance (D1/M2)	3 per week
Rugby league	Adult pitches	3 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season

There are also sites that are poor quality but are not overplayed. These sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than other sites but demand could increase if the quality was to increase. Improving pitch quality should not be considered in isolation from maintenance regimes.

Whilst it works both ways, in so much as, poor pitch condition is a symptom of pitches being over played, potential improvements may make sites more attractive and, therefore, more popular; which in the long run can lead again to poor quality pitches if they are not maintained properly.

There is also a need to balance pitch improvements alongside the transfer of play to alternative pitch sites. Therefore, work with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity and encourage play, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues which are not operating at capacity.

Increasing pitch maintenance

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

For example, NGBs have introduced a Pitch Advisor Scheme and has been working in partnership with Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG). The key principles behind the scheme are to provide clubs with advice/practical solutions on a number of areas, with the simple aim of improving the club's playing surface.

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

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 7: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.

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

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision are directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitch facilities. Priorities should be identified from the NGBs that can also feed into the overall priorities of Wolverhampton.

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

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

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.

However, one of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health. It is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as health through, for example, the CCG.

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.

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

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's new Playing Pitch Demand Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates (TGRs) from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. This is then converted into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs.

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

A number of planning policy objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

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

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Recommendations:

- h. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch 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 pitch stock

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the Assessment Report and the sport by sport specific recommendations (Part 4).

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

- ◆ Improving pitch quality in order to improve the capacity of pitches to accommodate more matches.
- ◆ The re-designation of pitches (where capacity allows, for example, adult football pitches).
- ◆ Securing long term community use at school sites.
- ◆ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

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

Furthermore, retaining some spare capacity allows some pitches to be rested to protect overall pitch quality in the long term. Therefore, whilst in some instances it may be appropriate to re-designate an adult pitch where there is low demand identified a holistic approach should be taken to re-designation for the reasons cited.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Football	Demand for adult football is likely to be sustained with the FA focusing on retention. There is also likely to be some continued movement towards small sided football for adults as well as mid-week 11 aside matches and hub sites for mini and youth football.	Additional need for 3G pitches.
	Demand for mini and youth football is likely to increase based on TGRs and The FA has a key objective to deliver 50% of mini and youth football on 3G AGP's.	Where possible utilise new or existing 3G pitches to accommodate this demand.
Cricket	Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years.	Support clubs to ensure access to segregated changing and toilet provision and access to good quality cricket pitches to support growth.
Rugby union	The Rugby Football Union work towards achieving the stated outcomes of the Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017), the Rugby Football Union National Women and Girls Strategy and the Rugby Football Union National Male XV-a-side Strategy. Locally the RFU want to ensure access to pitches in Wolverhampton that satisfies the existing demand and predicted growth particularly in light of the Rugby World Cup 2015. Further, that the RFU is aiming to protect and improve pitch quality plus that of ancillary facilities including changing rooms and floodlights as current and future demand requires.	Work with the clubs to maintain the current pitch stock and to support facility development where appropriate improving pitch quality to accommodate demand. Access to additional pitches is likely to be required to accommodate shortfalls.
Rugby league	Demand likely to remain static. Growth opportunities may arise at Moreton Dragons RLFC.	Sustain current levels of access to grass pitches and improve pitch quality/capacity.
AGPs	Demand for 3G pitches for football is high and will continue to increase as currently there is a shortfall of full size pitches in the City. It is likely that future demand for the use of 3G pitches, especially for training, will increase.	Requirement for new 3G pitches to be provided and a need for community use agreements to be in place for any new pitches as well as sinking funds. Utilise Sport England/NGB guidance on choosing the correct surface: http://www.sportengland.org/media/30651/Selecting-the-right-artificial-surface-Rev2-2010.pdf
Hockey	Potential increase of adult and junior teams.	Sinking funds in place and resurface in the future.
Bowls	No expected increase in memberships.	Likely that any future increase could be accommodated on existing greens. Investigate sites which are overplayed as potentially requiring additional provision.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Sport	Future sports development trend	Strategy impact
Tennis	Demand likely to stay static.	It is likely that any increase in participation can be accommodated at existing courts. This could be achieved through floodlighting courts to provide additional hours and the re-surfacing of courts.
Netball	EN aim to increase netball participation by 10,000 per year, through a range of programmes and initiatives.	Potential for access to additional netball courts.
Cycling	Potential to increase participation in track cycling through initiatives.	Improvements to current facilities and ongoing maintenance to accommodate any additional use.
Athletics	Demand likely to remain static.	Sustain current level of provision.
Golf	Demand likely to remain static.	Sustain current level of provision.

PART 6: ACTION PLAN

Introduction

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

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

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to compile a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding.

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

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities.

Wolverhampton has a number of 'key sites', which are sites that are considered to be the most popular and therefore need to be of a high standard in order that they can accommodate a sufficient number of matches per week. This applies mostly to football pitch hire. However, the Council should extend this provision model to recognise the supply and demand issues identified throughout the Assessment Report (i.e. current levels of overplay) and the investment necessary to improve sites based on current levels of usage. The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a City-wide context (i.e. they accommodate the majority of play). In addition to this, there are a number of sites which have been identified as accommodating both senior and junior matches, sometimes concurrently. Not only could such sites require a mixture of mini, youth and senior pitches, but they also require split-level ancillary facilities, in order to maximise their usage at all times.

Proposed tiered site criteria

Criteria	Strategic sites	Key sites	Local club or education sites	Reserve sites
Site location	Strategically located in the City. Priority sites for NGB.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches, including provision of an AGP.	Accommodates two or more grass pitches.	Accommodates more than one pitch.	Likely to be single-pitch site.
Type of sport	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Supports informal demand and/ or training etc.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Criteria	Strategic sites	Key sites	Local club or education sites	Reserve sites
Management	Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains within the local authority or with an appropriate club on a lease arrangement.	Club either has long-term lease/hires the pitch for the entire season or owns the site. Management control remains within the local authority/other provider or with an appropriate lease arrangement through a committee or education owned.	Management control remains with the Council or existing management body.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns with NGB guidelines.	Standard maintenance regime either by the club or in house maintenance contract.	Basic level of maintenance i.e. grass cutting and line marking as required.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Good quality ancillary facility on site, with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Appropriate access changing to accommodate both senior and junior use concurrently (if required).	No requirement for access changing to accommodation.

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

The financial, social and sporting benefits which can be achieved through development of strategic sites (also known as hub sites) are significant. Sport England provides further guidance on the development of community sports hubs at:

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

Management and development

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

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

Action plan columns

Partners

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

Site hierarchy tier and priority level

Strategic sites have a **high** priority level as they have City wide importance and have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the key issues identified in the assessment.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Low priority sites are club or education sites with local specific importance and have been identified on a site by site basis as issues appertaining to individual sites but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified in the assessment

Costs

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

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

Timescales

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

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

Site recommendation

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

It is imperative therefore to **keep the action plan up to date and review regularly** as developments take place. With pitch improvements and/or facility developments the status of sites could therefore change, as could any site-specific recommendations.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

BILSTON AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2036) ³
Football (grass pitches)	Spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches. Spare capacity of one match session per week on youth 11v11 Spare capacity of one match session per week on youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity of three match session per week on adult pitches Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches. Youth 9v9 pitches at capacity. Shortfall of one match session on mini 7v7 pitches Shortfall of one match session on mini 5v5 pitches
Football (3G pitches) ⁴	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Rugby union (senior pitches)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Cricket	No current shortfall	Shortfall of 12 match sessions (0.5 pitches) per season due to future demand expressed by Springvale CC.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Tennis	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Bowls	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Golf	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing provision.

³ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

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

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁵	Cost ⁶	Aim
8	Bilston Town Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
9	Bilston C of E Primary School	Football	School	Two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches which are used by community teams and will be subject to relocation as part of housing development.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained to allow continuation of current use. Explore opportunities to secure long term use of the site through a CUA following relocation.	School FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect
11	Bilston Town Football Ground, Queen Street	Football	Club	Stadia adult pitch assessed as good quality. Leased by Bilston Town FC, which plays at Step 6 of the football pyramid. There are 19 years remaining on the lease. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains.	Extend lease arrangement to provide greater security of tenure. Ensure club can advance through the football pyramid. Retain spare capacity to protect pitch quality.	Club Council FA	Local site	S	S	L	Protect
29	East Park	Football	Council	Three adult pitches assessed as standard quality with no actual spare capacity.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate for levels of use.	Council FA	Key site	M	M	L	Protect Provide
				Ancillary provision outdated and as such, considered to be poor quality.	Explore potential funding opportunities						
		Cycling		A cycle speedway track used by East Park Wolves Cycle Speedway Club.	Sustain track in order to ensure continued club use.	Council		M	M	L	
		Cricket		Good quality NTP created in 2018. Created to promote recreational and informal cricket.	Ensure that the NTP is well maintained to ensure long term use.	Council ECB		S	S	L	
30	East Park Primary School	Football	School	One 9v9 and one 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Both pitches are available to the community however are unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
31	Eastfield Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
45	Holy Rosary Catholic School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
46	Holy Trinity Catholic Primary	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
52	Loxdale Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch unavailable for community use. School will be relocated to Bilston Urban Village site.	Explore community use options for the new site in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
56	Moseley Park School	Football	School	A standard quality adult and youth 11v11 pitch available to the community but unused.	Ensure maintenance is appropriate for levels of use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Four poor quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain and improve court quality for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	

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

⁶ (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁵	Cost ⁶	Aim
66	Ormiston SWB Academy (Prosser Street)	Football	School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. All pitches are available to the community, however, the 9v9 pitch is unused. Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalents remains on the adult pitches.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect Provide
		Sand AGP		A full size, floodlit, sand based AGP which was provided in 2013. Not currently used for hockey.	Consider value in its current state. Ensure sinking fund is in place. If feasible, consider for conversion to 3G.	School EH		M	M	H	
		Cricket		An artificial wicket pitch assessed as standard quality. Available to the community and used.	Retain for continued school and community use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		One good quality macadam court. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
73	Prouds Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	An unused adult and youth 9v9 pitch which is standard quality.	Explore options to maximise use of the site, including quality improvements and transfer of youth teams currently playing on adult pitches. Look to reconfigure adult pitch to youth 11v11 to better accommodate any future demand.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
86	St Martin's CE Primary School	Football	School	A 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. No community use is allowed.	Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
92	Stowlawn Primary School	Football	School	Two 5v5 pitches available to the community but unused. Both pitches assessed as standard quality.	Explore options to maximise use of the site.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
121	Nordley Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
129	Springvale Sports & Social Club	Football	Club	An adult and a youth 11v11 pitch managed by Springvale Steelers FC and assessed as standard quality. Site is currently unavailable for community use whilst site improvements are undertaken.	Ensure site improvements are undertaken to a good standard. Look to sustain quality in the future.	Club FA	Key site	S	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		A standard quality pitch with 11 grass wickets. Site is currently unavailable for community use whilst site improvements are undertaken. The site is expected to be back online by 2020. Springvale CC has future demand of one senior adult team which cannot be accommodated on the site if realised.	Ensure site improvements are undertaken to a good standard. Look to sustain quality in the future. Explore opportunities to accommodate any future growth in the Springvale CC's senior section. Look to support Springvale CC whilst its site gets developed, ensuring it is able to compete in competitive fixtures.	Club ECB		S	S	L	
		Bowls		Two good quality greens. Reported to be close to saturation by the Bilston Bowling League.	Sustain green quality. Explore clubs needs in relation to green requirements.	Club Council		S	S	L	

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁵	Cost ⁶	Aim
133	City of Wolverhampton College (Wellington Road Campus)	3G	College	A full size, floodlit, 3G AGP which is standard quality. Available to the community and nearing full capacity. Pitch on the FA register.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained as to ensure it can remain on the FA register.	College FA	Key site	M	M	L	Protect
		Football		Standard quality mini 7v7 pitch. Available for community use but unused.	Ensure quality is sustained for college use.						
153	East Park Tennis Courts	Tennis	Council	Five poor quality macadam courts.	Improve quality in order to better accommodate recreational use.	Council LTA	Education	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
181	Villers Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	L	L	L	Protect
222	Field View Primary	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options in order to reduce shortfalls.	School FA	Education	L	L	L	Protect

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

CENTRAL & SOUTH AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2036) ⁷
Football (grass pitches)	<p>Spare capacity of 3.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of one match session per week on youth 11v11</p> <p>Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches</p> <p>Spare capacity of one match session per week on mini 7v7 pitches</p> <p>Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</p>	<p>Spare capacity of 3.5 match session per week on adult pitches</p> <p>Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches</p> <p>Spare capacity of one match session per week on mini 7v7 pitches</p> <p>Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</p>
Football (3G pitches) ⁸	Need for one 3G pitch in either Central & South or the Tettenhall Analysis Area	Need for one 3G pitch in either Central & South or the Tettenhall Analysis Area
Rugby union (senior pitches)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Cricket	No current shortfalls.	No future shortfalls.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Tennis	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Bowls	No current shortfall	No future shortfall

⁷ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

⁸ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
20	Colton Hills High School	Football	School	Two adult pitches assessed as poor quality.	Improve pitch quality for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Sand AGP		A half size, sand based, floodlit AGP which is poor quality. Available to the community.	Look to improve quality for curricular use. No external demand.	School EH		L	L	L/M	
		Cricket		A poor quality artificial wick pitch which is not available to the community.	No current demand. Improve quality and retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Eight poor quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain and improve quality for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
26	Dixon Street Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two good quality adult pitches and a standard quality youth 9v9 pitch. Site suitable for ancillary provision to accommodate more use.	Sustain pitch quality and explore options for increasing use, including reconfiguration of pitches to accommodate youth users.	Council FA	Local site	M/H	M	H	Protect Provide
40	Hanbury Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis	Club	Two good quality artificial courts.	Sustain court quality.	Club LTA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
44	Hilton Road Playing Fields	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches which are overplayed by 0.5 MES per week.	Look to either improve quality of the maintenance on the site to alleviate overplay or look to transfer a proportion of demand to an alternative site suitable for accommodating adult match play.	Council FA	Local site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
					Explore pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate users and reduce identified shortfalls.						
49	Lanesfield Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
50	Rooker Avenue Sports Ground	Football	Council	Standard quality adult pitch. Currently unused.	Sustain quality for future use.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
53	Manor Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 5v5 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
58	Newbridge Playing Fields	Football	Council	An adult and a 7v7 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions remains on the adult pitch, whilst the 7v7 pitch is unused.	No current demand for 7v7 pitch. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels on adult pitch.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Good quality NTP created in 2018. Created to promote recreational and informal cricket. Site previously contained a poor quality eight wicket square.	Ensure that the NTP is well maintained to ensure long term use.	Council ECB		M	M	H	

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

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

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
69	Penn Cricket Ground	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with 10 grass wickets and an artificial strip. No spare capacity during peak time. The artificial strip is in need of refurbishment.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage. Seek funding to improve artificial wicket.	Club ECB	Local site	H	S	L	Protect Provide
76	Royal Wolverhampton School (Senior School playing fields)	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch available to the community but no recorded use.	Ensure that quality of the pitch is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Sand AGP		A floodlit, sand based AGP considered marginally too short to host competitive hockey but still used by Old Wulfrunians HC. Pitch set for resurfacing prior to the 2019 season starting.	Resurface AGP to ensure continued hockey use.	School EH		H	S	H	
		Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
78	Springvale Junior School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
80	Springvale Park	Football	Council	An adult pitch assessed as standard quality. Pitch has peak time availability.	Ensure quality of the pitch is sustained for current use.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
83	St Edmunds Catholic High School	Football	School	Three adult, two youth 11v11 and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. No community use is allowed as it cannot be staffed by the School.	Ensure quality of the pitches is sustained for curricular use. Explore opportunities for future access if required in the future.	School FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts unavailable to the community. Floodlit.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
89	St Peters Collegiate High School	Tennis	School	Eight standard quality macadam courts, four of which are available to the community however are unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
90	St Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
95	The Giffard Roman Catholic Primary School	Football	School	A youth 11v11 pitch and a 9v9 pitch both assessed as standard quality. The youth 11v11 pitch is available to the community but unused. The 9v9 pitch is unavailable to the community.	No current demand for 9v9 pitch. Retain for school use. Ensure appropriate maintenance levels on youth 11v11 pitch.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
105	West Park Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
114	Wolverhampton Girls High School	Cricket	School	An artificial wicket pitch of good quality. Not available for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Two good quality and four standard quality macadam courts. No community use is allowed.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
115	Wolverhampton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Tennis	Club	Five good quality artificial turf courts, three good quality macadam courts, one good quality clay court and three standard quality grass courts. All are floodlit with the exception of the grass courts. Club reports that it requires additional court space.	Sustain good quality. Support club in order to allow for its planned growth.	Club LTA	Local site	M	M	L /M	Protect Provide
122	Newhampton Inn Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
123	Oaklands Bowling and Social Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
127	Penn Bowling & Social Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green which does not satisfy demand from Penn Bowling Club.	Sustain green quality. Support club in attaining additional green space.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
144	All Saints Games Area (pay and play)	3G pitch	Community Organisation	Three small sided 3G pitches which are available for community use. All floodlit.	Seek to sustain quality of pitches for long term community use for recreational/informal play. Ensure a sinking fund is in place.	Council	Local site	M	M	L/M	Protect
159	Royal Wolverhampton School (Junior School Playing Fields)	Football	School	Two 7v7 pitches assessed as poor quality. Available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Retain and improve quality for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		An artificial wicket pitch which is standard quality. Not available for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
160	West Park Tennis Courts	Tennis	Council	Six standard quality macadam courts.	Retain for recreational use.	Council LTA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
177	St Luke's Primary School	Football	School	Standard youth 9v9 pitch. Pitch is unavailable for community use. Site previously had two mini pitches marked.	Maintain quality for curricular use and explore community use.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
199	Stile Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
200	44 Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
211	Former Parkfields School	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch available to the community and used.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
216	Compton Park - Wolverhampton Wanderers FC Training Ground	Football	Club/School	Four adult, two youth 11v11, two 9v9, one 7v7 and two 5v5 pitches all assessed as good quality. Community use is not considered available as pitches are reserved for sole use by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC.	Retain pitches for private use. Sustain good quality.	Club FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		3G pitch		A full size, floodlit, 3G pitch considered unavailable to the community. Provided in 2013. FA certified to host competitive matches.	Retain for use by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Ensure sinking fund is put in place.	Club FA		L	L	L	

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ⁹	Cost ¹⁰	Aim
		Cricket		A standard quality artificial wicket pitch used by St Peters Collegiate High School. Not available to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School Club ECB		L	L	L	
219	Molineux Stadium	Football	Club	A stadia adult pitch owned and used solely by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. Good quality.	Retain pitch for private use. Sustain good quality.	Club FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
220	Springhill Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality natural turf cricket square with eight wickets. Site has capacity, but not in the peak period. Club has future demand of a senior team which cannot be accommodated at peak times.	Ensure quality of square is maintained to accommodate current levels of use. Work with Club to accommodate future demand. Explore opportunities to utilise newly created Non Turf Pitches in Wolverhampton if required.	Club ECB	Local site	M	M	L	Protect

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

NORTH AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2036) ¹¹
Football (grass pitches)	Spare capacity of nine match sessions per week on adult pitches. Spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions on youth 11v11 pitches. Spare capacity of six match sessions per week on youth 9v9 Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity of nine match session per week on adult pitches Spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions on 11v11 youth 11v11 pitches. Spare capacity of 5.5 match sessions per week on youth 9v9 Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.
Football (3G pitches) ¹²	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Rugby union (senior pitches)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Cricket	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Tennis	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Bowls	No current shortfall	No future shortfall

¹¹ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

¹² Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
2	Aldersley High School	Football	School	Two adult and one 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Available for community use. Site has capacity for additional play.	Sustain pitch quality. Explore options to maximise use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		A senior rugby pitch available to the community however unused. Pitch is poor quality (M0/D1).	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Two good quality and two standard quality macadam courts which are floodlit. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		BMX		A disused BMX track that cannot be staffed by the School.	Explore options to bring track back into use.	School Council		M	M	L	
6	Bee Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	A poor quality adult, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitch unused by the community.	Look to improve quality and make more attractive to potential users. Consider pitch reconfiguration to youth 11v11 to reduce future shortfalls.	Council FA	Council FA	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
14	Bushbury Hill Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality adult pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use and improve quality.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
34	Fordhouses Cricket Club	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch. Minimal spare capacity discounted due to being over marked on to cricket outfield.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels.	Club FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One good quality square with 14 grass and one artificial wicket and one standard quality square with eight grass and one artificial wicket. No spare capacity during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	Club ECB		H	S	L	
		Bowls		A standard quality green that does not satisfy demand from Fordhouses Bowling Club.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club		L	L	L	Protect
37	Goodrich Sports Ground	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches (one is a stadia pitch). No recorded competitive match use.	Look for opportunities for greater utilisation of the site and improvements to changing facilities.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Bowls		A standard quality disused green	Sustain quality.			L	L	L	
55	Moreton Community High School	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch available to the community but unused. Site has the potential to mark out more pitches.	Ensure capacity is sustained for curricular use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Six poor quality, floodlit, macadam courts. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Improve courts quality and retain for school use.	School LTA		M	M	L	

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
		Rugby League		Standard quality rugby league pitch. Formerly used by Moreton Dragons RLFC. Utilised for curricular	Sustain quality of pitch for curricular use.	School RFL		L	L	L	
59	Northwood Park	Football	Council	Two adult pitches of standard quality. No identified community use.	Consider reconfiguration of site to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams.	Council FA	Local site	H	S	L	Protect
62	Old Wulfrunians Tettenhall CC	Cricket	Club	12 wicket natural turf cricket square. Site has spare capacity but not in the peak period.	Ensure quality of square is sustained to accommodate current levels of use.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
63	Our Lady & St Chads Catholic Academy	Football	School	A standard quality youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Pitches are available for community use but receive minimal use.	Ensure quality is sustained for curricular use and any future community use.	School FA	Key site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Four floodlit, good quality macadam courts. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
		3G pitch		Full size, good quality 3G pitch	Ensure sinking fund is in place and that pitch remains FA registered.	School		H	S	L	
67	Ormiston New Academy	Football	School	Three adult pitches and four youth 9v9 pitches. Pitches available for community use but minimally used.	Ensure quality is sustained for current usage levels.	School FA	Key site	L	L	L	Protect
		3G pitch		A half size 3G pitch available to the community.	Retain given local shortfalls in 3G provision. Explore options to maximise use. Look to get FA certified.	School FA		M	M	L	
		Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts which are floodlit. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
125	The ECC Sports Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club	Local site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
132	Bilbrook Junior Football Club	Football	Club	Two adult, two 9v9, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. No pitches are identified as being overplayed and spare capacity exists on the adult and youth 9v9 pitches.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usages. Explore opportunities to undertake a PIP (Pitch Improvement Programme) at the site to improve quality.	Club FA	Local site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
154	Goodyear Sports and Social Club	Football	Private	A standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage following transfer to Council ownership as part of new park, alongside tennis court and improved changing rooms.	Private FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Bowls		A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Private		L	L	L	
		Cricket		Good quality NTP created in 2018. Created to promote recreational and informal cricket.	Ensure that the NTP is well maintained to ensure long term use.	ECB		L	L	L	

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹³	Cost ¹⁴	Aim
214	Westcroft School	Football	College	An adult and a 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. Available to the community however unused.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options.	College FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
217	St Pauls Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch. Available for community use but unused.	Sustain pitch quality.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
224	Barnhurst Lane Playing Fields	Football	Local Authority	A large multipitch site with nine pitches. All pitches are good quality. Site will soon have new ancillary provision to accommodate competitive football fixtures for adult teams.	Ensure good quality of pitches and changing facilities is sustained in the long term.	Local Authority FA	Key site	H	S	H	Protect Provide
-	Oxley Golf Club	Golf	Private	A good quality 18 hole golf course.	Ensure quality of the course is sustained.	Private England Golf	Local site	L	L	L	Protect

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

TETTENHALL

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2036) ¹⁵
Football (grass pitches)	Spare capacity of 9.5 match sessions per week on adult pitches. Youth 11v11 pitches at capacity. Shortfall of one match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches Spare capacity of equating to 1.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.	Spare capacity of nine match session per week on adult pitches. Shortfall of one match sessions per week on youth 11v11 matches. Shortfall of one match sessions per week on youth 9v9 pitches Shortfall of 0.5 match sessions per week on mini 7v7 pitches. Shortfall of one match session per week on mini 5v5 pitches.
Football (3G pitches) ¹⁶	Need for one 3G pitch in either Central & South or the Tettenhall Analysis Area	Need for one 3G pitch in either Central & South or the Tettenhall Analysis Area
Rugby union (senior pitches)	Shortfall of six match sessions per week through overplay at Wolverhampton RUFC	Shortfall of six match sessions per week through overplay at Wolverhampton RUFC
Cricket	No current shortfall	Shortfall of 12 match sessions per season due to future demand expressed by Wightwick and Finchfield CC.
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Tennis	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Bowls	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Golf	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.
Cycling	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.
Athletics	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.	Level of demand is able to be met by existing playing field provision.

¹⁵ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

¹⁶ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
3	WV- Active Aldersley Sports Pitches	Football	Council	Three adult pitches, one of which is good quality (Stadia pitch) and the remaining two are standard quality. Overall peak time capacity of 1.5 MES per week.	Sustain quality for continuation of current use. Consider pitch reconfigurations to accommodate future youth 11v11 teams.	Council FA	Hub site	L	L	L	Protect
		Sand AGP		Two, floodlit, sand based AGPs which were resurfaced in 2013. Used by Wolverhampton and Tettenhall Hockey Club.	Retain for continued hockey use. Ensure sinking fund is in place and that quality is sustained and improved through resurfacing when required in the future.	Council EH		M	M	H	
		Tennis/Netball		Six good quality macadam courts which are floodlit.	Sustain quality and look to improve when required. Ensure the continuation of the netball league.	Council LTA		M	M	L	
		Athletics		An eight lane, floodlit, synthetic track used by Wolverhampton & Bilston Athletics Club.	Sustain quality.	Council		L	L	L	
		Cycling		An outdoor velodrome which has undergone a risk assessment survey via British Cycling.	Ensure quality is sustained for long term use.	Council		L	L	L	
5	Bantock Park	Football	Council	Two standard quality adult pitches. Spare capacity of 2 MES per week. Quality of ancillary provision has improved on the site since the 2015 PPS.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
13	Bradmore Recreation Ground	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts.	Sustain court quality for recreational use.	Council LTA		L	L	L	
16	Christ Church Junior School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable to the community.	Retain for school use. Explore community use options to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
18	Claregate Playing Fields	Football	Council	A good quality adult pitch with 0.5 MES during the peak period.	Sustain pitch quality.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Good quality NTP created in 2018. Created to promote recreational and informal cricket. Site previously contained a poor quality natural turf cricket square.	Ensure that the NTP is well maintained to ensure long term use.	Council ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts.	Sustain and improve court quality for recreational use.	Council LTA		L	L	L	
19	Claregate Primary School	Football	School	A good quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site. Sustain quality.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
43	Highfields Secondary School	Football	School	An adult, a youth 9v9 and four mini pitches. All pitches are standard quality .	Ensure quality of the pitches are sustained for current curricular use. Look to greater utilise for community use. Identified as a potential 3G site in LFFP.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect

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

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

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
		Cricket		An artificial wicket pitch assessed as good quality. Available and used by the community.	Sustain good quality.	School ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
65	Palmers Cross Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site in order to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
68	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch available to the community. Pitch has 0.5 MES per week of spare capacity.	Ensure quality of the site is sustained to accommodate current level of demand.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
77	Smestow School	Football	School	Two adult and one youth 11v11 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity of one match equivalent exists on the adult pitches, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is unused.	Explore options to maximise use of the site. Ensure quality of all pitches is sustained.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		Six standard quality macadam courts, available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
93	Tettenhall College	Football	School	An adult and a 9v9 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity exists on both pitch types. Adult pitch is used solely by youth 11v11 teams.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 teams. Ensure quality of pitches is sustained for curricular and community use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Rugby union		A senior rugby pitch unavailable to the community. Drainage is natural (adequate) and maintenance is adequate.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares with 10 grass wickets and 12 grass wickets respectively. Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
		3G pitch		Small sided 3G pitch. Good quality.	Ensure quality is sustained for future use.	School FA		L	L	L	
94	Tettenhall Upper Green	Football	Council	A standard quality adult pitch. No recorded community use.	Consider reconfiguration in order to better accommodate youth 11v11 users.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
96	The Kings CE (High) School	Football	School	Two adult pitches a youth 9v9 pitch. Site has spare capacity on all pitch types. All pitches are assessed as standard quality.	Ensure quality is sustained to accommodate current curricular and community use. Consider reconfiguring one adult pitch to youth 11v11 to better accommodate community use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Tennis		One good quality macadam court and three standard quality macadam courts. Not available for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	

**WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
101	Uplands Junior School	Football	School	Poor quality 9v9 and 5v5 pitches unavailable to the community.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
102	Warstones Primary School	Football	School	Poor quality youth 11v11 pitch unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options to alleviate shortfalls.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
107	Wightwick and Finchfield Cricket Club	Cricket	Club	A standard quality natural turf cricket square with 12 wickets. Site has capacity, but not in the peak period. Club has future demand of a senior team which cannot be accommodated at peak times.	Ensure quality of square is maintained to accommodate current levels of use. Work with Club to accommodate future demand. Explore opportunities to utilise newly created NTPs in Wolverhampton if required.	Sports Club ECB	Local site	M	M	L	Protect
109	Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	Football	Council	Seven standard quality adult pitches with 4.5 MES of spare capacity. Changing rooms are considered to be poor.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage. Improve changing provision. Consider reconfiguring a proportion of the site with junior pitches to alleviate future shortfalls in youth provision.	Council FA	Local site	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
112	Wolverhampton Cricket Club	Football	Club	One adult, one 7v7 and one 5v5 pitch assessed as standard quality. Spare capacity discounted due to being over marked on cricket outfield. Adult pitch suffers from drainage issues.	Sustain pitch quality	Club FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		One good quality square with 16 grass and one artificial wicket and one standard quality with 11 grass and one artificial wicket. No spare capacity during peak time.	Sustain pitch quality. Consider undertaking a PQS on the site as a measure of sustaining overall the quality of the cricket square and make gradual improvements to maintenance as recommended.	Club ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit, macadam courts used by Tettenhall Tennis Club.	Sustain good quality.	Club LTA		L	L	L	
113	Wolverhampton Grammar School	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches available to the community but not on weekends. Currently unused.	Explore weekend community use options.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Sand AGP		A full sized, floodlit, sand based AGP which was resurfaced in 2014. Used by Finchfield HC.	Retain for continued hockey use. Ensure sinking fund is in place.	School EH		L	L	L	
		Rugby union		A senior pitch available to the community but unused. Drainage is natural (adequate) and maintenance is adequate.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
		Cricket		Two standard quality squares with 12 and eight grass wickets respectively and an onsite NTP Unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L	L	

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ¹⁷	Cost ¹⁸	Aim
116	Wolverhampton RUFC	Rugby union	Club	Site sits just outside Wolverhampton boundary but is servicing Wolverhampton residents. Three senior pitches of standard quality which are cumulatively overplayed by six match sessions per week.	There is a need for improvements to all three pitches on site which should be undertaken through improvements to both the maintenance regime and drainage systems. Work with the Club to establish if it requires additional maintenance equipment/training to undertake improvements. In addition, work to implement capital drainage across all three pitches. Seek to provide additional floodlighting on the site to allow the transfer of training demand.	Club Council	Local site	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
120	Woodfield Sports & Social Club	Bowls	Club	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
		Tennis		Four standard quality artificial courts which are floodlit. Rated as poor by users.	Improve court quality.	Club LTA		M	S	L	
173	Pennfields Bowling Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
194	Danescourt Road Sports Club	Football	Private	A 9v9 and a 7v7 pitch assessed as poor quality. The 9v9 pitch is overplayed by one match equivalents.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay. Seek transfer of play to sites with spare capacity.	Private FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
		Bowls		A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Private		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Two disused macadam courts.	No current demand for courts to be re-provided.	Private LTA		L	S	L	
207	Gamesfield Green Playing Field	Cricket	Council	A standard quality square with seven grass wickets. No spare capacity during peak time.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain current usage.	Council ECB	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
215	Castlecroft Stadium	Football	Club	Site is leased long term to the RFU who currently sublease to AFC Wulfrunians. There are five years left of the 15 year lease.	Ensure the Club has security of tenure for the long term and continue to improve site in line with league requirements for step football.	Club	Local site	H	S	L	Protect
225	The Way Youth Zone	3G pitch	Community Organisation	Small sided 3G pitch which is on the FA register.	Ensure pitch is of suitable quality to keep accreditation on the FA register.	Community Organisation FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
-	South Staffordshire Golf Club	Golf	Private	A good quality 18 hole golf course.	Ensure quality is sustained.	Private England Golf	Local site	L	L	L	Protect

WOLVERHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

WEDNESFIELD AREA

Sport	Current picture	Future picture (2036) ¹⁹
Football (grass pitches)	<p>Spare capacity of 11 match sessions per week on adult pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of one match session per week on youth 11v11 pitches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of two match session per week on youth 9v9 pitches.</p> <p>Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity.</p> <p>Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity.</p>	<p>Spare capacity of 11 match session per week on adult pitches</p> <p>Shortfall of one match session per week on youth 11v11 matches.</p> <p>Spare capacity of two match session per week on youth 9v9 pitches.</p> <p>Mini 7v7 pitches at capacity.</p> <p>Mini 5v5 pitches at capacity</p>
Football (3G pitches) ²⁰	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Rugby union (senior pitches)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Cricket	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Hockey (Sand/water AGPs)	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Tennis	No current shortfall	No future shortfall
Bowls	No current shortfall	No future shortfall

¹⁹ Future demand based on ONS calculations and club consultation which also includes any latent and displaced demand identified.

²⁰ Based on accommodating 42 teams to one full size pitch for affiliated team training.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
4	Ashmore Park Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
7	Bellamy Lane Playing Fields	Football	Council	A standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with no recorded use. Potential opportunities of future use by Wednesfield Town FC.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage. Explore conversion to an adult pitch to help alleviate over play at Wednesfield Town Football Ground. Monitor the lease agreement and support any future developments by the Club	Sports Club Council FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect Provide
17	Chubbs Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A standard quality green.	Sustain and improve green quality.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
22	Coppice Performing Arts School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch unavailable for community use. No spare capacity exists beyond school usage.	Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		3G pitch		A half size 3G pitch available for community use.	Retain given local shortfalls and explore options to maximise use.	School FA		L	L	L	
		Cricket		A poor quality artificial wicket pitch which is unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain and improve quality for school use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
35	Fowlers Park	Football	Council	Seven standard quality adult pitches with 5.5 match equivalents of spare capacity. Used by two youth 11v11 teams. Changing rooms are identified as needing a new boiler to service shower provision on site.	Consider reconfiguration of pitches to better accommodate youth 11v11 users. Replace boiler to better service shower.	Council FA	Local site	H	S	L	Protect Enhance
		Cricket		Good quality NTP created in 2018. Created to promote recreational and informal cricket.	Ensure that the NTP is well maintained to ensure long term use.	Council ECB		L	L	L	
41	Heath Town Park	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches. Available for community use but unused.	Look for greater utilisation of the site. Explore opportunities to reconfigure pitches to better suit the needs of local clubs. Consider reconfiguration to youth pitch formats to alleviate future shortfalls.	Council FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect
48	King George V Playing Field	Football	Council	Three standard quality adult pitches. No capacity available in the peak period.	Ensure appropriate maintenance levels to sustain usage.	Council FA	Local site	H	S	L	Protect
		Cricket		Good quality NTP created in 2018. Created to promote recreational and informal cricket.	Ensure that the NTP is well maintained to ensure long term use.	Council ECB		L	L	L	
51	Long Knowle Primary School	Football	School	A 9v9 and a 5v5 pitch of poor quality. Available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Improve pitch quality and retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
60	Oak Meadow Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect

²¹ Timescales: (S) -Short (1-2 years); (M) - Medium (3-5 years); (L) - Long (6+ years).

²² (L) -Low - less than £50k; (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k; (H) -High £250k and above.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
71	Perry Hall Primary School	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch unavailable for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
98	Trinity C of E (Primary) School	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch unavailable for community use.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
103	Wednesfield High School	Football	School	Two adult, a youth 11v11, four 9v9 and two 7v7 pitches assessed as good quality. Available to the community and well used. Spare capacity is available on all pitch types but this has however been discounted due to pitches being over marked.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain good quality and levels of use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
		Cricket		A good quality artificial wicket pitch available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
		Tennis		Four standard quality, floodlit macadam courts available to the community however unused.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
104	Wednesfield Town Football Ground	Football	Club	A stadia adult pitch assessed as standard quality and over played by 0.5 match equivalent. Leased by Wednesfield Town FC until 2033.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate over play and consider transfer of play to sites with spare capacity e.g. adjoining Bellamy Lane Playing Fields. Seek extension of lease in order to provide greater security of tenure and to secure investment into the Site to address quality.	Club FA	Local site	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
111	Wednesfield Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 9v9 pitch available to the community but unused.	No current demand. Improve pitch quality and retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
117	Wolverhampton United Ground	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitch and a standard quality youth 11v11 pitch. Spare capacity on all pitch times. Peak time capacity available on one adult pitch.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain usage levels on adult pitches.	Club FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
131	Wednesfield Conservative Club	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Club	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
135	Heath Park Business & Enterprise College	3G pitch	School	Full sized 3G pitch. Unavailable for community use.	Ensure pitch is provided to a good quality. Seek to gain access for the community to reduce identified shortfall.	School FA	Local site	H	S	L	Protect
		Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
145	Ashmore Park	Football	Council	Two good quality adult pitches used to capacity during peak time. Users report a need for changing provision.	Sustain good quality. Explore possibility of providing changing provision in line with LFFP recommendation	Council FA	Local site	H	M	H	Protect Provide
		Cycling		A cycle speedway track used by Wednesfield Aces Cycle Speedway Club.	Retain for continued club use.	Council			L	L	

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales ²¹	Cost ²²	Aim
182	Wednesfield Park Bowling Green	Bowls	Council	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
192	Edward the Elder Primary School	Football	School	A poor quality 7v7 pitch unavailable to the community.	No current demand. Improve pitch quality and retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
221	St Stephens CE Primary	Football	School	A standard quality 9v9 pitch available but unused by the community.	No current demand. Retain for school use.	School FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
223	Perry Hall Park	Football	Council	Two good quality youth 9v9 pitches. No identified use.	Look to better utilise pitch provision. Ensure quality is sustained through continuation of the current maintenance regime.	Council	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
-	Grosvenor Street Open Space	Football	Council	Creation of a new mini 7v7 in 2018/2019 to mitigate for the loss of playing field at the Burton Crescent site, which was allocated in the Heathfield Park Neighbourhood Plan.	Ensure pitch is of an adequate quality for use.	Council FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect Provide

PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIO

The PPS provides an estimate of demand for pitch sport based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2026²³ (in line with the Black Country Core Strategy). This future demand is translated into teams likely to be generated, rather than actual pitch provision required. Sport England's Playing Pitch Demand Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated for pitch sports based on housing increases and converts the demand into match equivalent sessions and the number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current team generation rates (TGRs) and current population from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It also gives the associated costs of supplying the increased pitch provision.

The scenarios below show the additional demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (it does not include non-pitch sports or 3G AGPs). The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for the majority of sports, with the exception of cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. The indicative figures are based on the assumption that population growth will average 2.39 persons per dwelling.

In the case of football, for example, where there are localised shortfalls of youth and mini pitches but capacity on adult pitches, there may not be a requirement to provide new pitches but use the associated funds to reconfigure and improve the quality of existing pitches. Further to this, if 3G AGPs are used in the future to accommodate competitive football fixtures, contributions should be sought in relation to this type of provision as opposed to grass pitches identified within the model.

Please note that the figures are indicative and do not provide information on where the housing is likely to be located, how many dwellings will actually be provided or which existing playing fields the additional demand is likely to migrate to.

Likely demand generated for pitch sports from housing growth requirement over the Black Country Core Strategy period (2026)

The housing requirement for Wolverhampton equates to 13,411 from the period 2011 – 2026 (in line with the Black County Core Strategy). To date, 4,483 houses have been built. The model below looks at the anticipated demand created from the remaining 8,586 houses.

Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from housing growth (2026)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport (2026)
Adult football	2.73 match equivalent sessions per week
Youth football	2.85 match equivalent sessions per week
Mini soccer	1.47 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby union	0.56 match equivalent sessions per week
Rugby league	-
Hockey	0.83 match equivalent sessions per week
Cricket	41.36 match equivalent sessions per season

²³ Housing growth is in line with the Black County Core Strategy. Information to be included in the Black County Core Strategy Review 2036

Should new pitches be required to accommodate all of this demand, the capital cost is estimated at £946, 647²⁴ and the total life cycle cost (per annum) is £166,468.²⁵ In terms of the life cycle costs, the period covered by the developer contributions vary across local authorities but generally range from 10 to 15 years. This should be decided upon in collaboration with Sport England and written into planning policy, if possible.

Conclusions

The tables above show that up to 2026, demand will be generated for each pitch sport (with the exception of rugby league) to a lesser or greater extent. That being said, the additional demand is relatively small, suggesting that demand arising from most new housing developments could likely be accommodated on existing provision provided that the recommendations of the PPS are acted upon.

As such, new developments should in the main be used to obtain contributions for the reconfiguration (where capacity allows) and improvement of priority sites, which should be informed by the preceding Action Plan and future consultation with NGBs and other relevant stakeholders. The demand calculator should be used for each new development to determine the level of contribution required.

Notwithstanding the above, experience shows that housing sites with a significant number of dwellings are likely to generate demand in their own right. Therefore, larger developments may need to be treated differently and may require new provision being provided rather than an improvement to existing provision.

²⁴ Capital cost is based on 2017 second quarter calculations.

²⁵ Sport England Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces April 2012

PART 8: KEEP THE STRATEGY ROBUST AND UP TO DATE

Delivery

The Playing Pitch Strategy 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 Wolverhampton can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

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

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

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

To help ensure the PPS is well used it should be regarded as the key document within the study area guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on how the current demand is met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand. In order for this to be achieved the steering group need to have a clear understanding of how the PPS can be applied and therefore delivered. Key uses for the PPS include evidence for supporting funding bids, guidance to inform planning decisions and planning applications and decision making for capital investment.

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

Monitoring and updating

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPS being signed off by the steering group, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider the PPS and the information on which it is based to be out of date. If the PPS is used as a 'live' document, and kept up to date, the time frame can be extended to five years.

Furthermore, the process of refreshing the PPS would be much less resource intensive if changes and updates have been made throughout the five years. If there are no updates to the document within the period the nature of the supply and in particular the demand for playing pitches is likely to have changed. Therefore, without any form of review and update within this time period it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

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

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

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

Following sign off of the PPS the role of the steering group should evolve so that it:

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

Alongside the regular steering group meetings it is recommended that the City Council holds annual sport specific meetings with the pitch sport NGBs and other relevant organisations.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

These meetings should 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. Things to consider include formation of new teams or loss of teams, any new formats of the sports that would impact on facilities, changes in quality or creation of new facilities.

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

The steering group should regularly review and refresh area by area plans taking account of any improvements in pitch quality (and hence increases in pitch capacity) and also any new negotiations for community use of education or other private sites in the future. Updating the action plans will make the task of updating the PPS much easier.


It is important that the Council maintains the data contained with the accompanying Playing Pitch Database. This will enable it to refresh and update area by area plans on a regular basis. The accompanying databases are intended to be refreshed on a season by season basis and it is important that there is cross-departmental working, including for example, grounds maintenance and sports, to ensure that this is achieved and that results are used to inform subsequent annual sports facility development plans. Results should be shared with partners via a consultative mechanism.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Checklist

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

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

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

APPENDIX ONE: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

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

National context

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

DCMS (Department for Culture Media & Sport) is currently (2015) consulting on a new strategy for sport. It will seek to address the following challenges:

- ◀ How to address the recent decline in the number of people that regularly take part in sport and deliver a long-term sustainable increase in participation;
- ◀ What type(s) of participation should be encouraged and how should they be measured;
- ◀ How to ensure that funding goes to those who can best deliver results;
- ◀ How to specifically target under-represented groups;
- ◀ Understanding the role of the private sector, and how public sector bodies, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and other sports bodies should work with the private sector to help deliver an increase in participation;
- ◀ How to best support participation in new and/or non-traditional sports and activities;
- ◀ How to maximise the potential of new technology to increase participation;
- ◀ How to use the power of sport to achieve broader positive social outcomes and whether some funding should specifically be spent for that purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

National Planning Policy Framework

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

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

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

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

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

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

The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

England Hockey Facilities Strategy 2017

Vision - Every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

Mission - More, better, happier players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities. There are three key objectives supporting the facilities strategy to help retain existing players and attract new ones to the game.

1) Protect - To safeguard existing hockey provision

We currently have around 1000 pitches that are used by hockey clubs, including University teams. We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

England Hockey aims to work closely with hockey clubs on their facility partnerships, influencing Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) and continuing to work with other National Governing Bodies on a local and national level to identify priorities

2) Improve - To improve the existing facilities stock both at grassroots and elite level

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing pitches and ancillary facilities. More support is required for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers and to receive better education about owning and maintaining an pitches

England Hockey aims to provide education around asset owning including when it is appropriate for clubs to asset own as opposed to hire facilities combined with developing stronger partnerships between hockey clubs and pitch providers, recognising that many clubs are the single user of an artificial grass pitch. Improving the administration and business planning with asset owning organisation to ensure there are appropriate finances in place for the replacement of the surface.

In addition, support clubs in the National League to achieve the facilities Elite Operating Standards requirements and working with funding partners to ensure investment into pitches that provide opportunities to deliver our player pathway.

3) Develop - To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain.

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

A clear facilities rationale has been developed and implemented through the mapping of sites that identifies where multi pitch provision should be placed. England Hockey aim to work with all stakeholders and key funding partners to strategically build new hockey facilities

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way

England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.



To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ✦ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ✦ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ✦ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.

WOLVERHAMPTON

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

2015-2018 British Tennis Strategy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

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

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

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

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

The objectives are:

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

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

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

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

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

UKA's 2014-19 Facilities Strategy key outcomes:

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

APPENDIX TWO: FUNDING PLAN

Funding opportunities²⁶

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

Awarding body	Description
Big Lottery Fund http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/	Big invests in community groups and to projects that improve health, education and the environment. For example, Awards for All which is for small Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000.
Sport England The current funding streams will change throughout 2016/17 so refer to the website for the latest information: http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/	Sport England is keen to marry funding with other organisations that provide financial support to create and strengthen the best sports projects. Applicants are encouraged to maximise the levels of other sources of funding, and projects that secure higher levels of partnership funding are more likely to be successful.
Football Foundation http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/	This trust provides financial help for football at all levels, from national stadia and FA Premier League clubs down to grass-roots local development.
Rugby Football Foundation http://www.rugbyfootballfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=113	The Grant Match Scheme in particular provides easy-to-access grant funding for playing projects that contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. Grants are available on a 'match funding' 50:50 basis to support a proposed project. Projects eligible for funding include: 1. Pitch Facilities – Playing surface improvement, pitch improvement, rugby posts, floodlights. 2. Club House Facilities – Changing rooms, shower facilities, washroom/lavatory, and measures to facilitate segregation (e.g. women, juniors). 3. Equipment – Large capital equipment, pitch maintenance capital equipment (e.g. mowers). Other loan schemes are also available.
The England and Wales Cricket Trust https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/club-support/club-funding	Interest Free Loan Scheme provides finance to clubs for capital projects and the Small Grant Scheme is also open to applications from affiliated cricket clubs.
EU Life Fund http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm	LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU.
National Hockey Foundation http://www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com/	The Foundation primarily makes grants to a wide range of organisations that meet one of the areas of focus: Young people and hockey, Enabling the development of hockey at youth or community level.

²⁶ Up to date as of April 2018.

Protecting Playing Fields

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

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

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

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

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

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

The programmes three priorities are:

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

Besides this scheme providing an important source of funding for potential voluntary and community sector sites, it may also provide opportunities for Council to access this funding particularly in relation to resurfacing the artificial sports surfaces. For further up to date information please go to: <http://funding.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/>

Strategic Facilities Fund

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

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

Key features which applications must demonstrate are:

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

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

The Strategic Facilities Fund will prioritise projects that:

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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

Funder's requirements

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

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

Indicative costs

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

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

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

APPENDIX THREE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOLVERHAMPTON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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